

Take the politics out of the Games

In the summer of 1980, a group of frustrated athletes from across the United States gathered in Washington, D.C. After years of training for the Olympic Games, the hopeful contenders were not allowed to compete — the United States was boycotting the Summer Games in Moscow in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Now, in 1984, it's time for the international games again. Winter events begin today in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, and the Americans will host the Summer Games in Los Angeles.

The Olympic Games bring back memories: Mark Spitz, with his seven gold medals in swimming; Bruce Jenner in the decathlon; Dorothy Hamill, starting a new trend in hairstyles; a tiny Olga Korbut, drawing ohs and ahs with her graceful moves; then another little gymnast, Nadia Comaneci, drawing perfect scores and holding a doll on the sidelines; Eric Heiden, with wings on his skates.

And who could forget the plucky U.S. hockey team that defeated the Russians in 1980 against all the odds?

But the Olympics bring back other memories, too.

Like the Israeli athletes, kidnapped and shot by terrorists at the 1972 Olympics in Munich. Or the athletes from the African nations who arrived in Montreal to find that their nations would not allow them to participate in the games because South Africa was allowed to compete. Or the disappointed faces of the American athletes in 1980, when the United States pulled out of the games to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

It seems that the Olympic Games, originally intended to promote a sense of fellowship and friendly competition among nations, are no longer immune to the political snarls of the international scene. Athletes have been used as pawns in world-wide power struggles.

It is our hope that, this year, peace will prevail at the Olympic Games, and athletes from all nations will be able to test their skills against each other in a spirit of fair competition.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Age not an issue in 1984 campaign

Few things are as useless as a dead issue. You can throw it at an opponent or kick it around as much as you like, but it still just lies there like a stinking corpse.

One issue that deserves to rest in peace this year is Ronald Reagan's age. It was killed early in the campaigns for the 1980 election, but the dead body is still being dragged out and put on display, as if it could make a difference in the public's opinion this time around.

Yes, Reagan is the oldest man to have held the office of president. And yes, the health of a presidential candidate is, and should be, an important factor in considering his suitability for office.

But there is no basis for concern about Reagan's health. All of his doctors keep insisting, over and over again,

that he is in excellent physical condition.

His only health problems have been allergies and a slight loss of hearing. Weekly shots and a small hearing aid have countered both ailments.

The most dramatic proof that the president is in good health was his quick recovery from the bullet wound he received in 1981. The treatment was successful and there were no medical complications.

So what's the big deal? The president's medical record make his opponents' claims of approaching senility sound absurd.

It's time to bury the age discussion and concentrate on the real issue: Reagan's record in office.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Do we need a sixties revival?

Remember the Sixties? Sure, maybe vaguely, but most Texas A&M students were too young to know what was really going on then.

Mention the sixties and the images that come to mind range from anti-war protests to Bob Dylan to society's changing values.

And the place where the effects of all of these influences could be found were on college campuses across the country.

One of the most introspective periods this nation has gone through, the sixties were a time when people began to question values and purposes. Americans were forced to struggle with moral issues that had not faced them at any other time in the country's history.

The country had just recovered from a major world war, was deeply embroiled in a cold war with the U.S.S.R. and was just becoming accustomed to the effects of nuclear war. More people were receiving higher-quality educations, and Americans were becoming aware of the possibility of nuclear war and its horrible consequences.

But why was social unrest so prevalent on college campuses? Simple. The exposure to new ideas and concepts that col-

leges and universities provided made them a breeding ground for introspection.

That, combined with the curiosity that comes naturally to a person striking out on his own for the first time, made a lot of

robin black

people — a lot of students — sit up and ask "why?"

Compared to most college campuses during that time, however, Texas A&M was a wasteland of apathy. In the sixties, students and faculty at Texas A&M isolated themselves from the national chaos.

Today, not much has changed. Aggies have forgotten how important it is to think and to question.

I suppose this is true because life is so much simpler when you just sit back and let the events of the day wash over you, either not caring or not daring to "get involved."

How many people keep up with national events? How many people tell you what happened yesterday in the world, other than whatever happened on campus? How many people turn on news once a day or once a week or pick up a newspaper? Not enough.

The world today is not much different than it was 20 years ago. Nuclear war still a controversial issue. Civil rights although in a different form, are still a fronting society. The government's in society is still being debated, and the Lebanon situation is frighteningly similar to that of Vietnam.

The difference, however, is that one seems to care enough to want to know why all of this is going on.

I'm not advocating the rebirth of old protests or deviation from any morals. I'm just baffled at why no one cares enough to try and change something they don't agree with. Doesn't one want to challenge their beliefs, to define a new concept of those beliefs, to simply reaffirm them?

Bob Dylan and Joan Baez, where you when we need you?

(Robin Black is a staff writer for The Battalion and a sophomore journalism major.)

Letters

A second term

Editor: I'm writing concerning the article on the renomination of President Reagan that was on the front page of The Battalion on Jan. 26.

"The world knows once more what America stands for: the freedom of mankind," Reagan said in his third State of the Union speech.

I would like to see Reagan be re-elected for a second term. Reagan has a lot going for him. He has brought down inflation, rebuilt America's Armed Forces and given approval to develop a space program.

Within the next decade, NASA will build a space program which will hold men and women in a livable atmosphere. The cost was estimated at \$8 billion in all, but the project will get \$150 million more in the new budget.

When the 72-year-old President addressed the nation, he said, "America is back — standing tall, looking to the eighties with courage, confidence and

hope." I believe this very much because I am an American and think he has done more for our nation than the past couple of presidents. Therefore, he should be in the White House for another term and make America stronger.

Mr. Reagan said his four goals to be re-elected for the next term are "steady economic growth, development in space, strong moral fiber and a meaningful peace." I feel he will fulfill these goals and many more as he has done in the past. Once President Reagan sets his goals, he tries to carry them out through the power we invest in him.

Jim Branum Business Management

Crime awareness

Editor: I commend The Battalion for printing the article by Sarah Oates on a recent rape and a harassment. Such information needs to be printed to keep the community aware of criminal activity and of the types of such activity that is occurring. By the way, what happened to the "Police

Beat" that used to be printed? Steve Mueller Class of '84

Editor's note: "Police Beat" began running again Friday as a regular feature of The Battalion.

Fix our roads

Editor: To Mayor Halter and City Planner Mayo:

Haven't we bitten off a little more than we can chew? It seems that the College Station City Council is always anxious to begin a new project without finishing the last one.

What ever happened to Holleman Street? Are those roadblock lights and the orange and white woodwork to be College Station's modern art exhibit? And what of the newly destroyed Southwest Parkway? Do your construction crew's contracts call for 70 degree temperatures and sunny skies to be able to work?

By the time they finish one side of Southwest Parkway, the other side will need to be repaired! Why not employ three more construction workers instead of those police officers? Why not designate February as "Road Month"? Let's digest what we've already bitten off.

Karl Gromelski Parkway Circle

Out of context

Editor: In response to Randy McDougal's letter citing scriptures "condemning homosexuality," we would like to cite a couple of our own.

"They shall not make baldness upon this head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh." (Lev. 21:5).

"And whatsoever hath fins and scales ye may not eat, it is unclean to you." (Deut. 14:10).

We therefore declare the Corps of Cadets, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, the Coast Guard, and all National Guard and reserve units as "sinful" and "abominable." The same holds true for patrons of Red Lobster, Long John Silver's, and any other iniquitous seafood establishment. In a world in which some scriptures are taken so literally out of context, all scriptures should be taken the same way.

And while it be far from us to dispute, or even question, the enlightening revelations scholar McDougal has presented, we do not feel that The Battalion editorial page is the proper discussion place for Bible semantics. Particularly on such an ambiguous topic.

M.A. Roberts B. Berry

Evolution gives greater faith

Editor: Three cheers to Richard Barnett, class of '85! I deeply appreciate his letter in the Jan. 30 issue of The Battalion which voiced his belief in both God and evolu-

tion. The dual belief is not as outlandish as it may seem to extremists who promote either theory.

There is simply too much evidence (yes, evidence) to support evolution to entirely discount its validity. The old and base fragments from Australopithecus and Homo genera (among others) cannot be ignored; such fossil evidence must be taken into consideration when one forms his beliefs.

My belief in evolution does not compromise my Christianity; in fact, Darwin's discoveries did not only unveil some of nature's great secrets, but also served to increase my amazement and awe and faith in God who made it possible.

Amy White

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor: Rebecca Zimmermann
Managing Editor: John Wagner
City Editor: Patrice Koranek
Assistant City Editors: Kathleen Hart, Stephanie Ross
News Editor: Tracey Taylor
Assistant News Editors: Susan Talbot
Editorial Page Editor: Kathy Wiesepape
Sports Editor: Donn Friedman
Assistant Sports Editor: Bill Robinson
Entertainment Editor: Shelley Hoekstra
Assistant Entertainment Editor: Angel Stokes
Photo Editor: John Makely
Staff Writers: Robin Black, Bridget Brockman, Bob Caster, Ronnie Crocker, Bonnie Langford, Christine Mallon, Kay Mallett, Sarah Oates, Michelle Powe, Lauri Reese, Dave Scott, Kelley Smith, Karen Wallace
Photographers: Michael Davis, Bill Hughes, Katherine Hurt, Eric Lee, Dean Saito
Cartoonists: Paul Dirmeyer, Scott McCullar

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and telephone number of the author.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (409) 845-2611.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for the day and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$50.00 full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively the use for reproduction of all news dispatches sent to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matters are reserved.

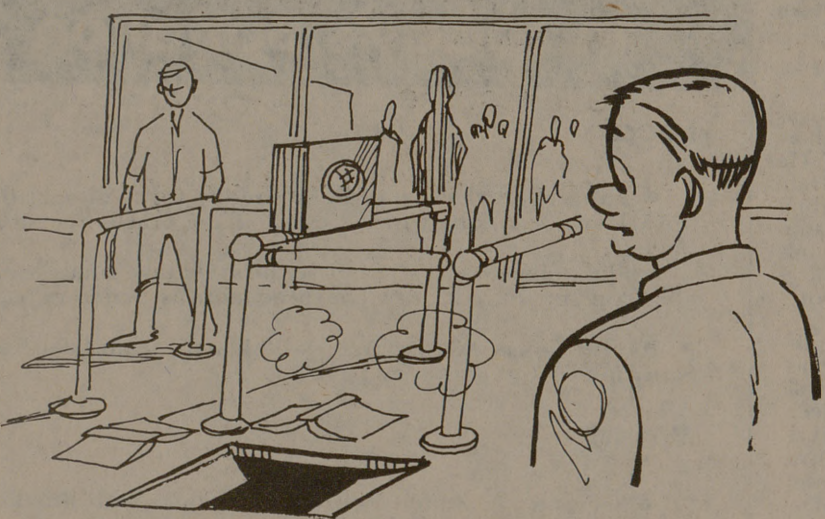
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I've often wondered what would happen at the gate if a book wasn't properly checked out."