

## When panic bug bites, bite it back

The semester is rapidly drawing to a close and for many students panic is setting in. Projects, papers and tests are piling up in preparation for Finals Week. Organizations have end-of-the-year activities.

You're probably running around from classes to activities to working on projects and panicking in the process.

Before all the pressure gets to you, slow down for a minute. Steal some time for yourself.

Lay out in the sun. Read a book for pleasure, watch a silly television show or find something else to do that you really enjoy.

Find some safety valve for all the pressure and stress that college students endure during Dead Week and Finals Week. All-nighters take a heavy toll. Too often, by the time you're

through with the semester you're a wreck — physically and emotionally.

Although many of us pull all-nighters to cram for tests, counselors have said that forcing yourself to stay awake — with coffee, No-Doze or whatever — doesn't do much good. You can only keep going for so long before you inevitably crash.

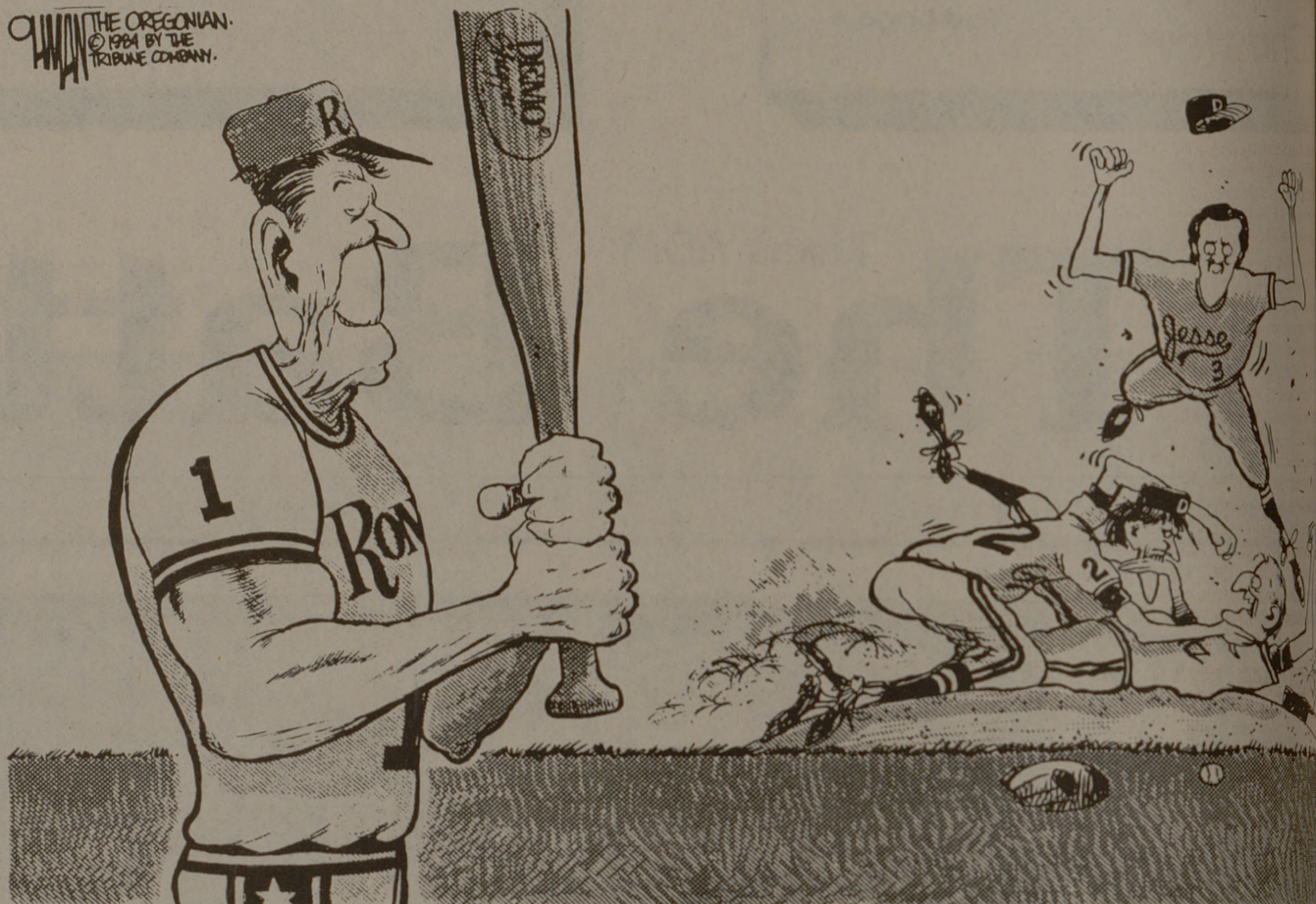
If you feel a crash coming, remember that help is around.

The Student Counseling Service can help students survive this pressure cooker called college. If things get tough, give them a call and set up an appointment with a counselor. Their offices are in the YMCA building and you can call 845-4427 or 845-1651.

College is important, but those straight As should take second place to your health and sanity.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

THE OREGONIAN  
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## A 'mellowed' Nixon makes a comeback

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

A wonderful thing happened to me last week. I turned on the set and got to see Richard Nixon on television again.

After it was over, I turned to my wife and said, "He looks great. Doesn't he look great?"

"He looked just like the old Nixon," she agreed. "He hasn't changed one bit, except possibly he's mellowed."

"He seems to have mellowed," I said. "But every once in awhile when he was talking about the people who gave him the shaft, you got the feeling the old Nixon spark was still there."

My wife took my hand in hers. "You miss him, don't you?"

"Of course I miss him. Who wouldn't miss Nixon? He was the greatest president we ever had. If it wasn't for him you wouldn't be sitting here tonight in your ermine-lined bathrobe, and I wouldn't be wearing Sulka silk pajamas and Gucci slippers."

"Watergate was good to us," my wife sighed.

"It was the best," I said. "Just seeing Nixon on the air brings back so many nostalgic memories."

"Do you think he's sorry?" she asked.

"Sure he's sorry. Didn't you hear him say he was sorry he didn't burn the tapes?"

"I mean sorry about Watergate."

"I'm sure he's sorry. He said it was a dumb thing to do in the first place and then he said it was a dumb thing to try to cover up, and then he said he was sorry the CIA didn't keep the FBI out of the inquiry, and you got the feeling he's very sorry about the people who talked when they should have kept their mouths shut. But he doesn't seem to hold any malice toward those who drove a stake in his heart. Then again Nixon was never a hater."

"I had the feeling he still holds a grudge against the media for driving him out of office."

"I didn't get that," I said. "Nixon has been a pragmatic man all his life. If there is one thing he believes, it is that your enemies are always out to get you, so you have to get them first. But as far as carrying grudges, it's just not in the man's nature."

"Will you ever forget the night he told us on television 'I am not a crook'?"

"It was the first president in our history who said it. He reassured the country in its darkest hour."

"I wonder why he'd go on television at this time?"

"I suppose he wants to get the record straight. There were so many illegal things they discussed during the cover-up that Nixon wanted the public to know how much of it he personally rejected. What I liked about him tonight is that he said he didn't reject them because they were wrong, but because they wouldn't work."

"You can't be more candid than that," my wife said.

"No one ever accused Nixon of lacking candor. But he has nothing to lose now by personally taking the blame and saying the advice he got from his lawyers was what really did him in."

"I believe him," my wife said. "Why didn't he have better lawyers?"

"They were all on the other side trying to get the goods on him."

"I think it was very moving when he told about his last night in the White House and how he and Henry Kissinger got down on their knees and prayed together."

"It would have been much more fascinating if we knew what Henry was praying for."

## Behind the scenes with Police Beat

I've taken a lot of good-natured razing since I began covering the police beat for The Battalion last January. A letter published in the March 1 edition of The Battalion sums up the most common response to the "Police Beat" column.

This person wrote that when he picked up The Battalion, he experienced a "strange desire to immediately flip to 'Police Beat.'" He said he had noticed "an odd trend among crimes committed on campus."

He mentioned various cases of indecent exposure and other offenses reported in the column, such as someone who stole liquid paper, markers and stamps, and the case of a hungry thief who entered the Zachry Engineering Center snack bar and ate a quart of tuna-fish salad.

"After an hour of uncontrollable laughter," the author wrote, "I proceeded to read 'Police Beat' and there it is in print: some guy sits next to a student and fondles himself."

"Come on Aggies, let's not make Texas A&M the laughing stock of all universities. Our reputation is funny enough already!"

His closing remark was that Police Beat contained more humor than the comic strips run in The Battalion.

Well, I understand the guy's point. Some of the crimes reported to the University Police Department are bizarre.

"Police Beat" is often funny, if only because it's hard to believe there are actually people on this campus who would do things like breaking into the Zachry Snackery to wantonly pig out on tuna-fish.

People have asked me if some of the incidents reported are the products of someone's fertile imagination and why does The Battalion publish them? In response to the former, I think the students, faculty and staff here have better things to do than invent weird crimes to report to the University Police. As for

the latter, The Battalion publishes "Police Beat" for several reasons.

One reason is that when the column was not featured in the first 10 editions of the paper this semester, the city desk received numerous complaints about its absence. When "Police Beat" returned as a regular feature, we learned the column had an avid following. Based on what people who read the column have told me, sexual deviance generates a lot of laughs.

Another reason for running the column is that students might recognize

opportunists who prey on campus. According to the University Department daily incident report, people on campus haven't gotten the same. They leave bicycles unattended, the bike racks and Hewlett-Packard calculators unattended on tabletops in library. Thus, campus thieves are having a field day.

I hope that all those fans of "Police Beat" have become more aware of how easy it is to become a victim of whether it's leaving your backpack unattended and returning to find it empty or being a witness to someone's immoral sexual behavior.

As for people who are surprised by some of the stranger incidents reported in the column, Texas A&M has a long history of outlandish crimes. For example, many people who were during the summer of 1971 reported it as the summer of the Phantom Biter, a twisted individual with a controllable fetish.

The Phantom Toe-Biter made headlines by crawling around Stearns Evans Library on his hands and feet and munching the toes of barefoot sandal-shod students. By the time the victim recovered sufficiently to get down, the Phantom was gone.

This story is good for a laugh, but it's a sobering reminder of how one hapless student whose big toe was almost completely severed by the Phantom during a fit of surreptitious

So, if the most outrageous crimes we hear about are thefts of stamps, I think we're pretty lucky.

Sarah Oates is a junior journalism major and staff writer for The Battalion.



sarah oates

stolen items and contact University Police.

But the real purpose of the column, as far as I'm concerned, is to help promote awareness of crime so that, we hope, people will be more careful.

Considering the size of this University, statistics on the rate of violent crimes here are impressively low. Maybe we should be glad that the most unpleasant crimes reported are only those involving the peccadilloes of an occasional public pervert.

However, Texas A&M has an astonishingly high rate of property theft. From September 1983 to February 1984, property theft accounted for both individual and University losses amounting to \$174,253.

Everyone has heard that thieves are

## Letters: Demonstrators defend aims

Editor:

Robin Black's article on our demonstration against Henry Kissinger was dispicable.

This article completely omitted policy discussion of any kind and was the utmost in slanted, opinionated journalism. Instead of informing your readers

of differences between our policies and Kissinger's, you insinuated that we are liberal troublemakers and Kissinger is the bastion of conservatism.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Kissinger is the chairman of the Trilateral Commission and a leading

spokesman for the eastern liberal establishment. Their policy is that of de-industrializing the U.S. to a post-industrial society.

If anyone represents the principle of fostering technological progress in agriculture, industry and commerce, it is the National Democratic Policy Committee.

I would like to state the alternatives given to an audience of over 80 people by one of the NDPL demonstrators.

"The U.S. must undertake a National Defense Emergency Mobilization. This includes a) for the short-term: rapid deployment of MX missiles and Trident submarines and continued deployment to Europe of Pershing missiles; b) for the medium-term: initiate a crash program to develop anti-missile beam weapon systems.

"To finance this we must adopt the credit policies imposed on the Federal Reserve System by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from 1939-1943, when he guaranteed long-term, low-interest credit for the productive sector of the economy. This would decrease the deficit by invigorating the non-defense sector with new technologies in the same way that NASA did during the 1960s."

Brian Wilson  
Plant Sciences student

Slouch

by Jim E...



"This is what we call 'the graduating senior taper-off.'"

### The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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Southwest Journalism Conference

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Reader's Forum columns and guest editorials also are welcome. Address all inquiries to the Editorial Page Editor.

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