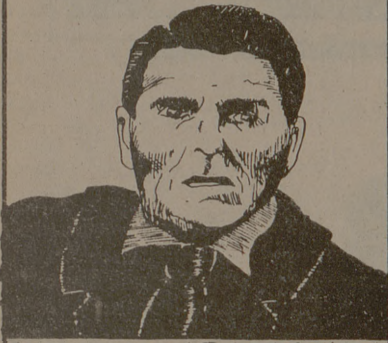


OPINION

The Texas A&M LIBERAL A BATTALION-RAG

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ANTI-REAGAN PHOTOGRAPH

ANTI-REAGAN ARTICLE TO GO WITH ANTI-REAGAN PHOTOGRAPH

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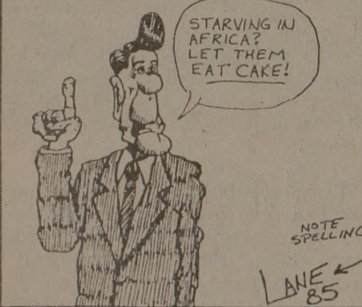
PRO GAYS ARTICLE

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PRO ZENTGRAF ARTICLE

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ANTI-REAGAN CARTOON



NOTE SPELLING NAME '85

!!!! WARNING!!!! THE TEXAS A&M REGENTS HAVE DECLARED THE BATT TO BE HAZARDOUS TO THE CLOSED MINDED ATTITUDE OF STAUNCH CONSERVATIVES AND OUT OF STEP WITH MAINSTREAM THOUGHT

Cadets will never be able to shake memory of peer

Bruce Dean Goodrich is dead. D-E-A-D. But is he? I hear or see his name almost every day in the news. Yes, Bruce is gone. But the courts are just beginning to remind us of what happened on those last two days in August.



Kevin Inda

Anthony D'Alessandro, Jason Miles, and Louis Fancher III, indicted by a Brazos County Grand Jury Sept. 28, face charges of hazing and criminally negligent homicide. The penalties for criminally negligent homicide, a class A misdemeanor, are a fine of up to \$2,000 and up to one year in jail. Hazing carries penalties of up to 10 days in jail and a fine of \$25 to \$200.

It's a truly tragic situation. A 20-year-old dies of heat stroke after a late-night exercise session and four cadets are indicted on various charges in connection with the death. The Corps of Cadets and the University receive national publicity — mostly negative.

The now former cadets no longer attend the University they once were so fond of. They no longer are a part of the camaraderie in the Corps. Life as they once knew it no longer exists — and it probably never will again. Some things you never forget. And for what? Something that has gone on in the Corps for a long time — except this time someone died. Victims of circumstance.

It's now up to the courts to decide guilt or innocence — in this situation, that can be a hard decision. Who would

want to be in the jury assigned to this case? I know I wouldn't. What if they did commit the crimes they are accused of? Will they be punished to the fullest extent of the law? From the looks of the Cuadra verdict they're not apt to get a pat on the back.

There are so many questions that have yet to be answered. Many probably never will be. Four young men are on their way to court to fight for their innocence, integrity and reputation. But, I still wonder if the right people are on trial. These former cadets aren't solely responsible for what happened, but they are taking all the blame. I admire them for that. But, it's kind of hard to accuse and convict an institution.

Bruce Dean Goodrich is dead. But justice won't let us forget. The four former cadets indicted in connection with his death haven't even been tried on the most serious charges.

Nevertheless, they have already received the most severe punishment possible. No matter whose fault it was, a fellow cadet died, and that's something they will never forget.

Kevin S. Inda is a senior journalism major and a weekly columnist for The Battalion.

Grace Commission dreaming impossible dream

Remember the dressing-down King Arthur gave Guinevere in the nunnery? It was stern, but not more so than Steven Kelman's analysis of the Grace Commission report on government "cost control."



George Will

percent of the \$424 billion (\$58 billion) was to come (in years 2001-3) from cutting federal, civilian and military pensions.

Now, in the winter issue of The Public Interest — no liberal journal — Kelman, of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, argues that the horror stories about waste "are almost always gross exaggerations." The commission specialized in such stories as: "The Pentagon has been buying screws, available in any hardware store for 3 cents, for \$91 each."

Make your blood boil? Simmer down.

Pentagon acquisition rules stipulate that "overhead" expenses be allocated to each shipment at some fixed proportion of the value of the product. If the value is \$5 million, the corporation might be entitled to add, say, 20 percent (\$1 million) for overhead. Overhead everything from legal departments to company headquarters.

The Pentagon orders many kinds of parts simultaneously. As an approved accounting convenience, many contractors allocate overhead on an "item" rather than "value" basis. Kelman illus-

trates this with an example of a \$20 million order for 10,000 parts, some of which have a direct cost of \$25,000 each and others of 4 cents each.

"Instead of apportioning the \$1 million total overhead such that the \$25,000 part gets a lot and the 4-cent part a little, the computer printout will allocate \$100 to each part. This produces a charge to the government of \$25,100 for the expensive part and \$100.04 for the cheap one."

The Grace Commission charged that, "In comparison to a private sector company, managing comparable building space, the General Services Administration employs 17 times as many people and spends about 14 times as much on total management costs." Outraged? Do not be.

The commission committed two howlers. It compared GSA to an actual insurance company managing 10,000 buildings — but the company really manages only 1,000. Also, the commission said the company employs just 200 management professionals under contract. Kelman found that the company actually has 200 management firms under contract.

The commission charged: "The Veterans Administration spends \$61,250 per bed to construct nursing homes — almost four times the \$16,000 per-bed cost of a major private-sector nursing home operator." Kelman found that the commission averaged the cost of six VA homes, and the average was radically inflated by including a West Virginia home the cost of which included a related facility that was part of a whole medical facility built adjacent to it. The costs of three of the other five homes were significantly raised because of site difficulties. The sites were dictated by the VA policy of locating homes near VA hospitals.

Furthermore, VA costs are raised by government policies of providing certain quality features (such as balconies for the rooms) and giving preference to American-made products and minority and small businesses. The wisdom of such policies is debatable; but the policies are not "waste."

Kelman demolishes several other Grace horror stories, but mere facts are no match for the desire to believe politically convenient things. The Grace report, and especially the President's love

of it, demonstrates the extraordinary things people will believe in order to avoid facing unpleasant facts, such as the fact that the deficit cannot be substantially shrunk painlessly.

Do you really believe the government is paying \$110 for a 4-cent diode, and that if it would just quit doing such things it could save \$424 billion in three years? Remember in "Through the Looking Glass," when Alice says it is impossible to believe impossible things and the Queen (who should be the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors) says: "Fiddlesticks, I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." The Queen was no slouch, but not in the league with the Grace Commission and its believers.

George Will is a columnist for the Washington Post.

LETTERS:

Purpose of editorial to express opinion

EDITOR: I direct this letter to Brian Bunt in response to a letter he wrote concerning "very liberal" editorials.

My dear sir, I am so sorry you are tired of reading those "too liberal articles." Quite frankly, I am tired of reading the type of articles that you probably appreciate. This does not mean, however, that I would like them not to appear in this newspaper or any other newspaper. To you, Brian, I ask this question: What is the purpose of an editorial? You wrote that the Battalion editorial staff was "out of step with mainstream thought." This leads me to assume that an editorial, in your opinion, should be an article that conforms to the beliefs of the populis. In this, you are quite wrong. An editorial is written to state one's own beliefs whether they correspond with the beliefs of others or not.

You attributed the editors' liberalism to their "support for homosexuals and pro-abortionists." So this is what makes a person liberal?

In addition, it is humorous to read you are "tired of being called closeminded" and that you "know in your heart" you are not prejudiced. You say this and then state "homosexuality is wrong" and you will not accept this type of "sickness," as you call it. No, this does not sound closeminded OR prejudicial to me at all! I realize you are tired of reading liberal editorials, tired of being called prejudicial and closeminded, tired of homosexuals, etc.

I also think you, along with your con-

servative, anti-gay, anti-freedom of the press cohorts, who seem to think only your "type" of letters should be printed in this editorial section, will have to endure this fatigue.

This is true, just as I will have to endure some of your rather weak arguments.

Darby Paige Syrkin

University-managed cable system proposed

EDITOR: The university is presently involved in negotiations with McCaw Cablevision. Being concerned with our future, we have found several faults with the current system.

As you are aware, the main problems are the system's rates and channel selection. Because of the significant savings inherent in a campus-wide cable network due to a greater volume, the students should expect to receive a corresponding savings in their rates. Instead, McCaw Cablevision has more than doubled its prices and intends to increase their rates next semester. At the last RHA meeting, McCaw Cablevision unveiled their plans to increase our room rates to \$49.00 for the basic package, or \$116.20 with HBO, inclusive for all on-campus students. Further, the selection of stations in the basic package is not adequate.

If McCaw Cablevision does not significantly reduce their rates and concur with the students on station selection, the following course of action is proposed: a university managed cable system. Such a system would be consistent with the university's present regulation of on-campus utilities. Over a period of

several years the system would be fully paid for by the students, and at a reasonable cost. Because of the large cost savings gained from the elimination of marketing, billing, and installation costs, the university will be able to pass on substantial savings to the students.

Bill Emshoff  
Ralph Paxon, Jr.  
Brian Wertz

Vigilante only did what he had to do

EDITOR:

After reading Steffy's editorial on the heroic efforts of Bernhard Goetz, I could not resist the opportunity to voice my opposition. Steffy's basic problem is that he is not a realist. He condemns Goetz's actions, proclaiming the Goetz acted in an irresponsible manner. Steffy contends that warning shots would have been a more appropriate form of defense by Goetz than shooting the scum that were attacking him. Obviously, Steffy has never been in a potentially fatal situation like Goetz. Goetz had no way of knowing that the attacking hoodlums were unarmed. I would like to ask Steffy if he thinks the four thieves would have fired warning shots before shooting Goetz. Hell no!! Warning shots by Goetz might have been retaliated by gunfire from the attackers. It seems obvious that Goetz acted on impulse. He did what he thought he had to do to preserve his own life. Additionally, as a result of his justified rage he attempted to rid society of four hoodlums. I can only think that Darrell Cabey (the 19 year old assailant paralyzed by Goetz's bullet) as a vegetable is less detrimental to society than as a hoodlum. Goetz

owes society nothing, instead we owe Goetz a hell of a lot.

Eric L. Self accompanied by 3 signatures

Poem dedicated to fish buddies of 1981

EDITOR: I want to dedicate this poem to my fish buddies of 1981:

This is an ode dedicated to only those who understand, Understand what? Understand what a boy receives after he has been in The Band.

To be as one, is an experience felt by only a select few,

Men working side by side for a common goal, to be the best in all they do,

Men sweating together, not giving up, no complaints,

Men learning discipline, comradery, and how to follow,

Men learning to present the example, make decisions, and how to lead the way.

These were Men living in unity, striving for perfection, accepting nothing less,

It was then that people took them for granted, forgetting that these Men were the best,

Men sharing with one another, every aspect of their lives,

Were soon to feel at their backs, long, cold, steely knives,

Those that did not know these Men, put them on trial,

Who were these Men? None other than the Noble Men of Kyle.

Russ S. Kotwal Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, Class of '85

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