

OPINION

Bright bummed out about new regents

A part of Texas A&M is gone. A legend has packed up his six-shooters and gone home to his Cowboys. No-longer-head-regent H.R. "Bum" Bright resigned from the Board of Regents Tuesday after being replaced as chairman. The board unanimously replaced Bright with Houston businessman David Eller. Houston lawyer Joe Reynolds — a "non-Aggie" and the lawyer representing A&M's fight against allowing women in the band — was elected vice chairman. Bright objected to Reynolds' nomination, saying a vice chairman who did not graduate from A&M "would be a detriment to the A&M system."

Bright also charged that Gov. Mark White insisted on Bright's support if White runs for re-election in exchange for the chairmanship. Bright said he "would not make that deal."

Mr. Pressure himself objecting to being pressured. Funny how these things come back to haunt you.

This "new era at A&M" may be the best thing to happen to the University since women were allowed to enter. Maybe now A&M will accept the obvious fact that women must be allowed to join the fightin' Texas Aggie band. Maybe now A&M will accept that controversial groups, such as the GSSO, must be recognized. Maybe now A&M will win more football games. (Maybe now the Cowboys will win more football games.) Maybe now the regents will at least pretend to care about the interests of the students and faculty. Maybe . . . Nah, that's probably too much to ask for. But we can always hope.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Electronics training necessary for future

Last year's high technology is often this year's way of life. Electronic gadgetry, only recently limited to space exploration or research labs, has made its way into everyday life in equipment such as coffee pots, telephones and traffic signals.

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ciens, skilled workers and professionals in engineering and related sciences.

To help meet the demand for electronics specialists, pre-employment training as well as on-the-job training is necessary. The demand for electronics specialists, certain to grow in the coming years, will require training programs in digital electronics, industrial motor control, industrial soldering techniques, oscilloscope measurements, microprocessor machine language, transistor circuits and applications, electronic circuits troubleshooting and special courses such as marine electronics.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service, an agency of The Texas A&M University System, offers training in many of the needed areas of the future. It also provides technical services to industries to help with new product development, installation of specialized manufacturing of test equipment, maintenance of various kinds of automated equipment and start-up of new operations.

Appropriately trained electronics specialists to build, install and service today's electronics applications will assure a smoother transition into the electronics world of tomorrow.

James R. Bradley is the director of the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

As the world increasingly depends upon electronics, so also will we become more dependent upon specialists who understand how electronic equipment works and how to repair it. The major new employment opportunities in the last decade, in fact, have been in electronic industries such as computers, telecommunications, semiconductors, aerospace and bioengineering. Now the tenth largest industry in the world, the electronics industry, is expected to be second only to energy by the year 2000.

The demand for electronics specialists brought on by the adoption of new technology presents a tremendous challenge to all educational institutions. It also requires cooperative efforts by industry and educational institutions to produce appropriately trained techni-

LETTERS:

President's rebuff of senators defended

EDITOR:

In Monday's editorial opinion, the members of the Battalion Editorial Board chose to assail President Reagan for his rebuff of several GOP senators threatening to oppose funding for the MX missile.

The Editorial Board's statement charged Mr. Reagan with blackmail and even suggested he was in violation of the law for threatening not to support the reelection campaigns of the senators in question.

If the members of the Board would have researched the subject in more detail, the reasoning behind the president's rebuff would have been apparent. The senators in question are primarily from the Farm Belt states, and

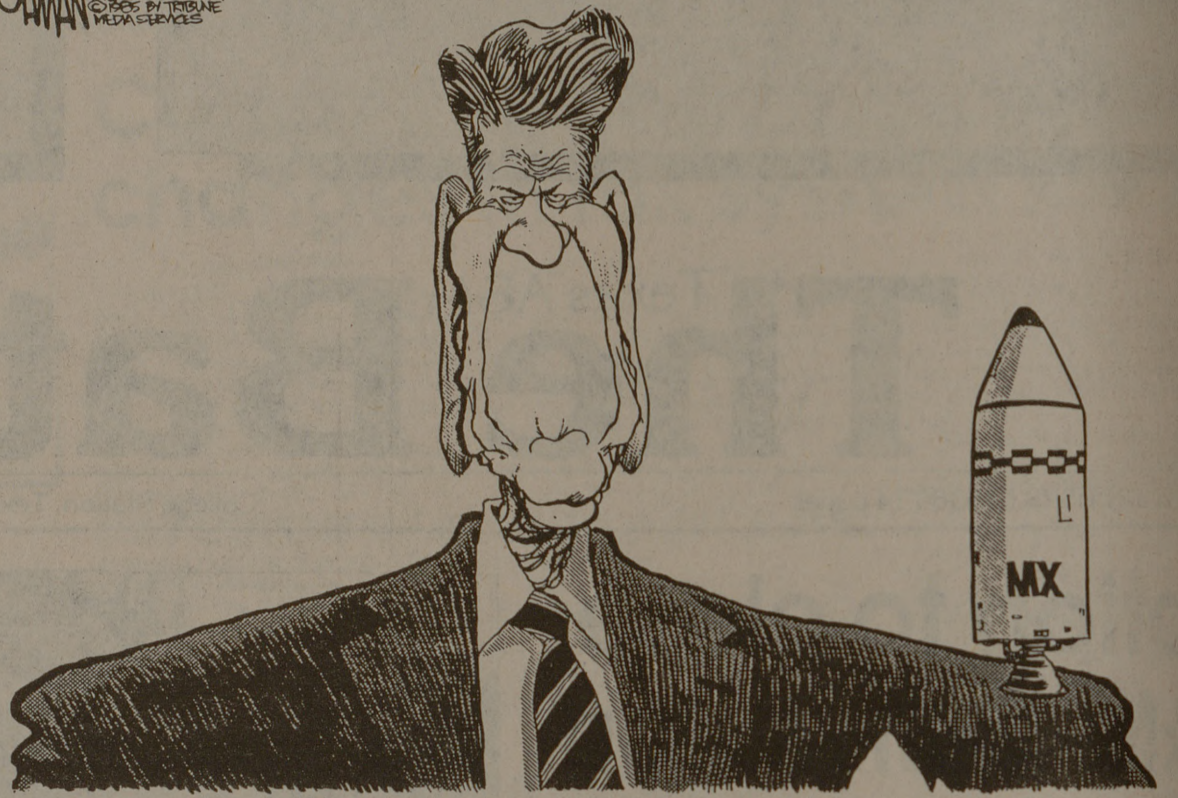
are still upset with Mr. Reagan for his veto of the recently passed farm relief bill. These senators are not philosophically opposed to the MX, rather they are seeking to gain revenge on Mr. Reagan.

As president, Mr. Reagan is the leader of the Republican Party. It is his responsibility to maintain unity and discipline within its ranks. These senators were all elected or reelected on Reagan's coattails and under the conservative banner. It's time they begin providing effective conservative leadership, along with ideas to promote good national policy, and not kneejerk reactions to a current crisis.

In retrospect the Editorial Board's attack on Mr. Reagan exhibited complete disregard for the journalistic integrity they claim to uphold.

Roy Milum
Class of '86

OWMAN THE OREGONIAN COURSE BY TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES



The "Bargaining Chip" Theory Illustrated.

Soviets not interested in deterrence

LONDON — The (London) Times is celebrating its bicentennial by re-establishing its reputation as "the thunderer." When Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary, recently delivered a long criticism of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars), the Times cleared its throat and called Howe's speech "mealy-mouthed, muddled in conception, negative, Luddite, ill-informed." Didn't like it.



George Will

Howe endorsed research into strategic defense, but expressed both doubt that it could produce a feasible system and dismay that it might. Howe favors what Reagan abhors: the policy of deterrence purely through mutual vulnerability. And he is disconcerted by the thought of an SDI success that would require retiring the 1972 treaty banning anti-ballistic missile systems. In his speech he called the ABM treaty a "keystone in the still shaky arch of security we have constructed with the East."

Howe flatly asserted that deterrence "will continue to work." His reasons for such faith were promptly subsided to withering analysis by Richard Perle, who serves Reagan as an assistant secretary of defense and was here attending a conference Howe should have attended, a conference on realism about Soviet objectives.

Perle noted that Howe's 27-page speech contained not even a phrase about the enlarging pattern of Soviet violations of that 1972 "keystone" and other arms-control agreements. Howe conceded the incontestable, that the Soviet buildup has exceeded "the reasonable requirements necessary for the defense of the Soviet Union." But he rushed to say, in extenuation, that it is reasonable for the Soviets to be unreasonable: "Historical experience has inclined them towards over-insurance."

That thought is suspiciously like the crackpot Kremlinology that a wit once called "preemptive empathetic paranoia." That is, a hard history has made

Russians neurotically concerned with security, so we should try to think like a neurotic and refrain from any policy that could seem, to a neurotic, provocative.

Howe's "over-insurance" theory is, Perle said, an unpersuasive explanation of the addition of 8,000 Soviet warheads since the arms-control process began in 1969, 4,000 since SALT II was signed in 1979. For persons unenthralled by the mirage of arms control, the explanation is that the Soviets have sought and achieved strategic superiority for the intimidation that flows therefrom.

Soviet violations of the ABM treaty have been combined with deployment of 13,000 surface-to-air launchers to defend against U.S. bombers. How does Howe see in that a Soviet commitment to mutual vulnerability?

Those and other defensive measures, combined with unprecedented expansions of Soviet offensive-weapons superior in quantity and quality to U.S. weapons, are designed to menace the U.S. retaliatory capacity, which is the U.S. deterrent. There is no reason for Howe's serene belief that Soviet policy is benign acquiescence in mutual vulnerability.

The reasonable explanation of Soviet enthusiasm for the ABM treaty is, Perle said, cause for caution in today's context of the SDI debate. In 1972 the United States began deploying an ABM system superior to the Soviet system. The Soviets agreed to ban deployments while permitting research (which at that time they admitted could not be limited because limits could not be verified). U.S. research slowed, Soviet research raced ahead, Soviet treaty violations became brazen. The Soviets have deployed twice as many phased-array radars (on which an ABM system might be based) as the United States had planned to deploy in 1972.

Today's Soviet aim in Geneva is to induce similar unilateral paralysis in U.S. strategic defense. Ten days after Reagan's March 1983 speech proposing SDI, the Soviets issued a statement deploring the devotion of scientific resources to military projects, and especially defensive systems. The signers of

the statement included the scientist running Soviet strategic-defense programs (which are larger than U.S. programs), the architect of the Moscow ABM system, the head of the military laser program and the designer of the most lethal Soviet missiles.

Howe, his ears ringing from the Times' thunder, should appreciate the civility of Perle, who did not ask, as the Times implicitly did: Why does the Iron Lady suddenly have a papier-mache foreign secretary? The Times darkly suspects that the lady has been beguiled by an idea and smitten by a person.

Prime Minister Thatcher may be, the Times says, "distancing" Britain from the United States, the better to be an independent "bridge-builder" to the East. That, says the Times, would be "one of the most ill-fated British decisions since the era of appeasement."

Well, she did say "I like Mr. Gorbachev," but she rather more than likes Mr. Reagan. And although the Times has changed a lot since the days when it was a piercing voice of appeasement, dramatic change, especially in a leftward direction, does not seem to be in Thatcher's repertoire.

George Will is a columnist for the Washington Post.

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Editorial Policy

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Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy

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.

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Is A&M becoming 'just another school?'

EDITOR:

The matter came to my attention that the residents of Davis-Gary are being criticized for their lack of "love" for fraternities. I will admit that there are quite a few "red-ass DG Fighters" left and there is a strong feeling of unity amongst us. We are being criticized for being Aggies.

The traditions of A&M never included the need for fraternities. The Spirit of Aggieland is based on a unity of all TAMU students. If students feel they need to go outside of student activities and features, then the Spirit of Aggieland is slowly falling. The reason TAMU is different from any other college or university is because of this Spirit. If fraternities become an integral part of the A&M system, we may as well call ourselves t.u. at College Station. Where's the feeling of togetherness there?

I recently attended a Former Students meeting and when I was asked what I was, I proudly replied "Class of '88." Now, I hear greek words when I ask that question even away from campus.

The point is that "The Spirit of Aggieland" should remain intact with the students, not with certain societies being at the same school. If it becomes this, TAMU becomes just another university.

Mark A. McNeill, '88