

Opinion

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)
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Southwest Journalism Conference
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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.
Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.
Our address: *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843.

United Feature Syndicate



Keep 'Animals' caged

The Texas Department of Corrections is expected to do the impossible. It is under pressure from the courts to improve living conditions, under pressure from the public to reduce the number of early releases and under pressure from the Legislature to cut spending. But a new law could help ease some of the tension in this three-way tug-of-war.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Ted Lyon, D-Mesquite, was inspired by Jerry "Animal" McFadden's early release on mandatory supervision. McFadden is a sex offender who is charged with killing three teen-agers in Wood County less than a year after his release.

McFadden's good conduct credits plus the time served equalled the length of his sentence, and even the Board of Pardons and Paroles could do nothing to prevent his release.

The McFadden incident is an eye-opening example of how TDC's "good time" program can be used to gain early release. While good time helps reduce prison overcrowding — thereby appeasing court-ordered reform requirements — it often means unleashing dangerous convicts on society before they have served their full term — before they have been properly rehabilitated.

The new law will mean that prisoners convicted of serious crimes, such as those involving the use of a deadly weapon, will not be eligible for mandatory supervision releases. Their release dates will be determined by the parole board.

Unfortunately, the law will aggravate the already grim overcrowding problem in Texas prisons. Like it or not, the Legislature is going to have to let go of its end of the rope first. Mandated reforms and the problem with early releases must take precedence over fiscal considerations.

Texans are right in demanding that justice be served. Not only do early releases mean a lack of judicial satisfaction, they destroy public confidence in the state's legal system.

The only way to solve the problems of the increased overcrowding that will result from the implementation of the bill is to build more prisons. No one likes to pay more money to accommodate people who have broken the law, but it is a price that must be paid if we want to keep these criminals where they belong.

The early release law is the first step in easing the tug of war between the federal courts, the citizens and the Legislature; appropriating more money for prisons is the second. If someone doesn't give soon, it's law and order that's going to get dragged through the mud.

U.S.-Soviet 'spy swap' fills Kremlin's order

When the Reagan administration tiptoed its way into trading a known Soviet spy for the American newsman being held hostage in Moscow, the American public was left with a huge, red hand print on its face.

Mike Sullivan
Guest Columnist

Trading Daniloff under any circumstances would have had the bear coming back for more. In fact, this time the bear already was back for more of what it got in 1978, when two Soviet U.N. employees caught in an espionage operation by the United States were swapped for an American businessman nabbed by the Soviets for smuggling.

But Daniloff wasn't a spy, and he shouldn't have been traded as one. When he was swapped, the Soviet's contempt for the basic right of freedom enjoyed by all Americans was saluted by the president himself.

The Soviets blatantly violated the United States

twice in one week. First, and more routinely, by having a spy within our borders, and secondly, by taking an innocent American hostage as a result of their spy's capture.

Why should any self-respecting nation take that kind of abuse? The United States shouldn't have. Daniloff should have been regarded strictly as a hostage, and Zakharov should have been prosecuted to the full extent of U.S. law.

But what we're left with after Reagan's secretive deal is nothing but embarrassment. We can look forward to a summit meeting where Mikhail Gorbachev might agree to some sort of arms control only if he can be convinced the United States is way ahead of the Soviets in the Star Wars game.

But lost is the greater opportunity for the United States to find out whether the Soviet Union is serious about world peace. Chances are, the Soviets are really serious only about self-preservation.

Mike Sullivan is a senior journalism major and staff writer for *The Battalion*.



By snatching up the most convenient American and throwing him in prison because a Soviet spy had been caught by the United States, the Kremlin sent a strong message to Americans everywhere. The Kremlin told us it could take away our individual freedom whenever it feels like it. And this situation proved them right.

Nicholas Daniloff was framed by the Soviets in a scheme that could have been more cleverly constructed by a 10-year-old. The motivation was equally obvious.

Only one week before Daniloff was thrown in the Moscow prison, a Soviet spy, Gennadiy Zakharov, was caught outright by the United States. Through an elaborate plan that took three years to unfold, Zakharov was arrested for spying by the FBI and put in jail. The Kremlin was outraged. As former CIA Director Stansfield Turner told *Time* magazine, "The Soviets don't like to have their spies put in jail."

They don't like it so much that even the most respected Americans aren't beyond reproach when Soviet spies are jailed. And comparing a respected American framed by the KGB to a real Soviet spy while sitting at the bargaining table was quite accommodating of President Reagan. Using Daniloff as a bargaining chip was just what the Kremlin ordered.

Society, too, reaps rewards of higher education funding

Folks back home sometimes tell me, "If you really want to learn how to bilk, beat or otherwise best your fellow man, go to college."



Cathie Anderson

They laugh and then ask me how things are going. We talk a while, but I always go away feeling like an eel — a little slimy and a lot slippery.

Lately I've wondered if the folks back home have been joking with the bureaucrats and politicians in Washington because federal officials there say students are besting Uncle Sam with some pretty slick maneuvers, including using federal money to buy stereos and sports cars.

Apparently I and my peers have one of the larger rackets in the country. (The next thing you know the Godfather may come to get a piece of the pie.) Why we probably rank right up there with people who roll the government for big bucks on studies, such as the study that establishes that you're likelier to get hurt if you have an accident in a small car than if you have an accident in a large one or the study that says the number of teen-age pregnancies would be lower if teen-agers quit having sex. But I suppose it's better for Congress to be used by college graduates rather than college students.

So officials in the U.S. Education Department have determined that too much money is being spent on federal education programs. Although Congress prevented a reduction in funding for student aid and college programs this year, Bruce M. Carnes, deputy un-

dersecretary for planning in the Education Department, said he remains undaunted.

"There is a certain amount of frustration," he said in an Oct. 1 article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. "In the sense that you haven't accomplished what you put a great deal of effort into and that you think the alternative to what you have proposed is wrong for the country."

Carnes reasons that the people who go to college are the "primary beneficiaries," so they ought to bear the expense.

On the surface, this argument isn't such a bad one. After all, I'm the one who's benefiting from the knowledge that other college-educated people have accumulated. And those college-educated professionals are benefiting because they are earning money as I one day will.

So a primary beneficiary I am — not in the sense that I am the main one to benefit but in the sense that I am the first to benefit.

In the end, American society gains just as much from funding education as the students themselves do. This society profits because the knowledge acquired can be used to formulate innovations that will increase its chance not just to survive but to live better.

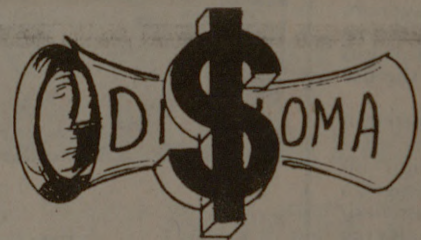
Carnes said, "If Congress were to make a cut (in funding for higher education), I don't think that the average American would even notice it."

Perhaps, but there are many cuts Congress could make that the average American would not notice. What

Americans would notice, however, are the results — in this case, a drop in quality of life and difficulty in paying for their children's education. (Potential innovators don't always have wealthy parents.)

Carnes, who taught American literature at James Madison University in the '70s, says he hasn't changed his views on the federal role in education since 10 days on the campus.

"I've always felt that federal education programs are too expensive and the role of Washington is not good for education," he said.



Luckily, Carnes can't speak for every educator in the United States. For those who do agree with spending cuts proposed by the president, he's been known to respond, "Oink, oink."

Well, "some people have minds like cash registers," he said. "You can't say anything about education without the saying, 'Gimme, gimme, gimme.'"

Carnes may be right. Perhaps the money to be gotten from the Education Department.

Unfortunately, I have yet to capitalize on this. Having worked two jobs most of my way through college, I feel cheated. Since this is my last semester, I suppose I'll never get the chance to buy a sports car.

Cathie Anderson is a senior journalism major and editor for *The Battalion*.

Mail Call

Reagan's lack of concern

EDITOR:

Once again President Reagan has showed his lack of concern for the opinion of the citizens of America and his insensitivity toward the oppression and servitude enforced upon the millions of black people by the white-minority government in South Africa.

Reagan vetoed a bill that was the first real stance, through Congress, against apartheid. He continues to repeat that the United States "must stay and build, not cut and run." Well, the United States has, through trade and investment, been partly responsible for the strong foundation of the practice of apartheid. It is now time to start dismantling it with or without the support of the South African government.

Reagan argues that the bill only will hurt South African blacks, leaving the United States responsible for "increased suffering and perhaps starvation in South Africa." There he goes again — the system of apartheid breeds a lifetime of suffering by the majority of the blacks there.

It is up to Congress to support freedom and to do what is right because our president would not do it himself. Perhaps Reagan should heed the words of the slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Don Scott '87

Ultimate act of treason

EDITOR:

Lewis Grizzard's column, "Church-state marriage forces scary offspring," (*Tuesday's Battalion*), poses a question which has been raised on the Opinion Page

before. Grizzard asks, "Aren't we intelligent enough to think for ourselves and mold our own beliefs without the Robertsons, Falwells, Swaggarts, et al. taking care of these functions for us?"

The United States is a republic, not a democracy, meaning that our unique civilization is based on a higher and more permanent standard than the whims of a popular majority. That standard stems from a set of ten commands that can be found chiseled in marble above the heads of the highest court of the land.

These standards were hewn during a period of our history in which proclaimers of the Christian faith were supported by public taxes, and individuals were denied the right to vote unless they were members in good standing of a Christian assembly.

To discredit men who attempt to communicate these truths to the public, is to perform the ultimate act of treason. To publish Grizzard's column is to apply the warped code of beliefs he condones. To agree with Grizzard is to propagate anarchy. The battle line is drawn. The war wages on. We Christians must realize that a conflict exists. I, for one, stand for the principles of right and wrong as presented by the Bible.

Markel Lee Simmons '88

EDITOR'S NOTE: Publishing Grizzard's column is part of a larger responsibility to publish a wide variety of opinion on the Opinion Page. As is clearly stated in our editorial policy, the opinions expressed in columns are those of the authors, not *The Battalion*.

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 classification, address and telephone number of the writer.