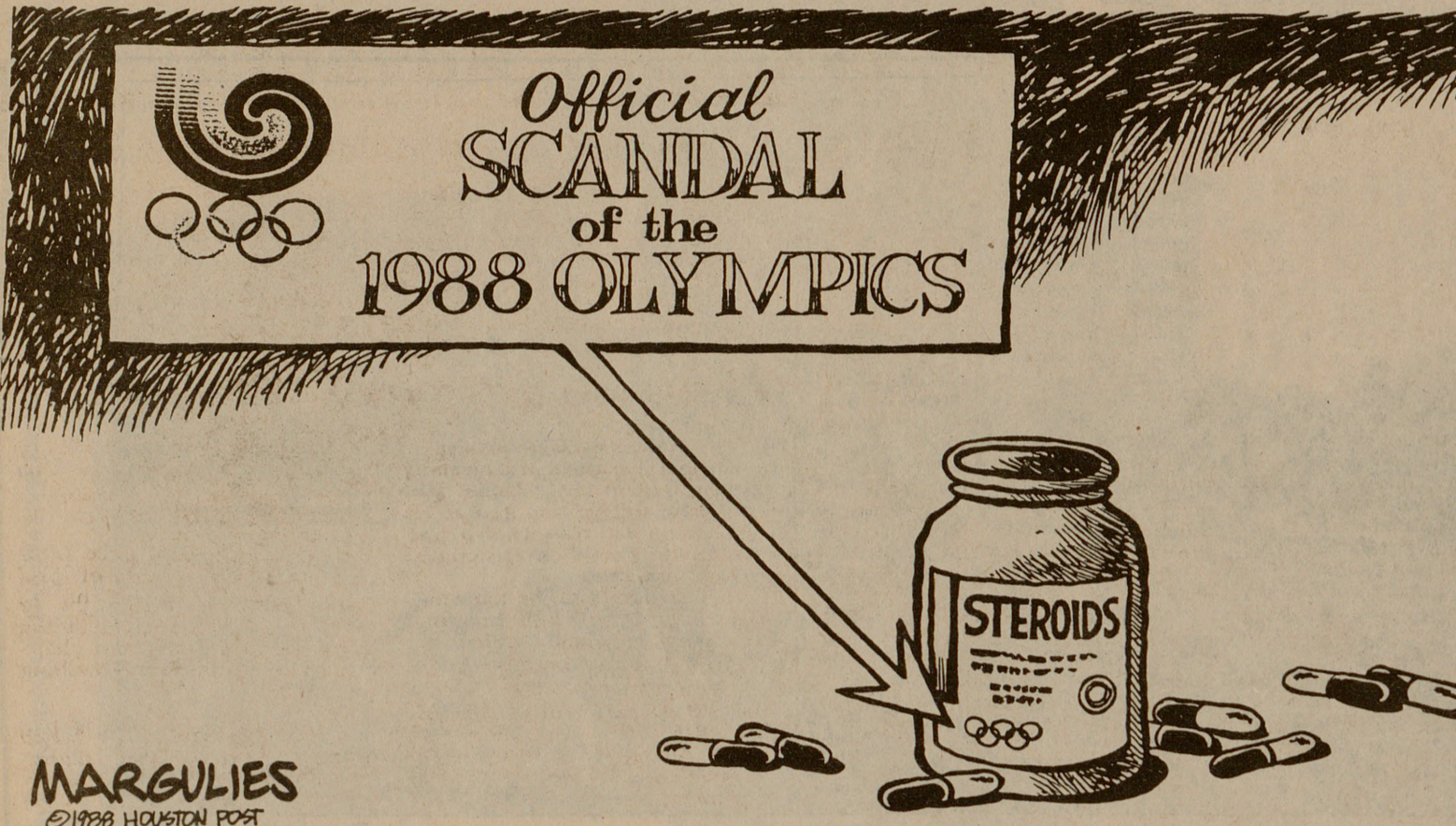


Opinion

Mail Call



New bonfire site proposed

EDITOR:

I agree with Anthony Wilson's proposal to move bonfire to a less populated area. How about staff parking lot 51 behind Zachary. It's the emptiest place on campus.

Darrell Pesek '88

Hotard exists

EDITOR:

This is a letter of sincere gratitude to all the terrific guys and the resident director, Gary Buck, in Hotard Hall. They made a stupendous effort and round up over one-third of the residents — about forty guys — to meet at fourth floor Mosher for a cross-dine we invited them to on Tuesday.

Unfortunately, I was the only one waiting at the Commons to meet them (fortunate for me because the odds in my favor were incredible!). Being the good sports that they are, they graciously invited me to eat at Sbis with them.

The guys handled the whole situation really well and I had a great time eating with them at THE TABLE! I cannot stress enough how much I appreciate the courtesy and non-apatetic attitude shown by the guys from Hotard Hall!

Thanks, guys! You're super! Definitely 100 percenters!

Kelly Vaughn '91

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

MARGULIES
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Home sweet home — where the heck are you?

There's no place like home. I always believed Dorothy's famous and oft-repeated words about her home in Kansas. Personally, I could never see what she saw in Kansas except fields and wheat, but I gave her the benefit of the doubt. If she wanted to live in Kansas, more power to her. Just give me a home in hot, humid southeast Texas and I'd be happy. I figured that would be just about the order of things for a long time.



Lydia Berzsenyi

My family had lived in Beaumont for close to twenty years. Although most of my friends were away to school, their parents were still in Beaumont, so we always had a gathering place. I always assumed that even if I went to live in Timbuktu, or even New York, I would always have my Beaumont home to fall back on.

At least, that's how I felt until that fateful day last spring when my parents called me with some good, although not completely unexpected news. My father had been offered a position at a prestigious engineering school in Indiana. He had been hoping for the opportunity to make a change of schools, and here was his chance.

I was excited for him and, in fact, for the whole family. It would mean a new start in a new place — an adventure. My little brothers would be attending new schools, and my mother wouldn't have any problem finding a new job in her field. And my dad would be happy in an highly academic environment which valued his contributions to the mathematical world.

But when I hung up the phone, the realization of the move began to sink in. There would be no more trips to Beaumont to see my family and the house I grew up in. I would not experience that little lift I always got when I drove into town, seeing the familiar streets and

buildings and people. I could not pop in for a weekend visit. I probably would not even be able to go home for Thanksgiving or birthday celebrations. I was going to be an orphan. Deserted.

Now that they've moved, however, I'm much more sane about things. I figure that I really didn't go home that often anyhow, and I could still go back to Beaumont for visits whenever I wanted to. I think everyone I know from my next-door neighbor to my first grade teacher insisted I stay with them when I visit. And besides, I'll probably move out of state at the end of this year and I wouldn't be visiting much anyhow.

But there is one nagging question which has been nagging me ever since I saw Beaumont for the last time: When I meet new people and they ask the question which is inevitably one of the first three questions in any introductory conversation, what do I answer? The question: So, where are you from? The answer: Well, I grew up in Beaumont but my parents moved to Indiana over the

summer, and I was only there for three days and I only have two boxes of old papers and an old doll house in the attic there but I have my winter coat and my summer swimsuit in my apartment in Bryan and I work in College Station and ... You see the problem?

Then I started to realize there were quite a few people in my predicament. I never really noticed how many friends' parents had moved since they had begun college. Many of them could sympathize, and some were even worse off than me. My roommate's parents live in Saudi Arabia, so she definitely won't be going for any weekend visits.

Actually, my parents' move is probably more beneficial for me than I thought. Although I was already paying most of my way through college, now I'm forced to be even more independent.

All those little chores I had unconsciously left up to Mom and Dad are my responsibility now. Lose a contact? I can't just call Mom and ask her to

go to the optometrist to order another one for me. It would take twice as long to get the contact if she got it in Indiana, so I take care of it myself. Need to see the dentist? If I have a cavity, I can wait till I go to Indiana where Mom can have conveniently set up an appointment for me. Now I take care of it myself.

It's not so much that I feel so big and grown up now. Rather, I just feel that I have more responsibility for my own life now. And that feels good.

So what if I can't zip in for the weekend? I know that I always have a home to return to whenever I'd like. And I can still feel homesick even if I miss the home I've only lived in for three days. Home is where my family is, or, as the saying goes, where the heart is.

Dorothy really had something when she said there's no place like home. In Kansas? Well, ...

Lydia Berzsenyi is a senior math major and editor of The Battalion.

Bush, Dukakis left many tough questions unanswered

WASHINGTON — Some questions that would cause Sunday night's debaters to shrivel up like salted snails:

George Will

For Dukakis: You campaigned in the streets of Cambridge with Helen Caldicott, the Australian extremist, in favor of a "nuclear freeze." Yet you adore the INF agreement which was made possible by deployments, you and she opposed, of Pershings and cruise missiles. On Aug. 4, you said you still favored freeze (although later your staff told you that you no longer did). Do you not owe the nation an explanation and an apology? And while you are at it, explain this: Two weeks after you promised to spend billions on SDI, you mailed a fund-raising letter promising to "put an end to the dangerous Star Wars fantasy." Say what?

For Bush: Talk about debates, the Reagan-Bush administration is having a dandy debate with itself. It embraces the Scowcroft Commission endorsement of mobile missiles as a response to the vul-

nerability of our land-based deterrent. It favors the mobile Midgetman and a mobile basing mode for MX. But the administration has proposed a ban on mobile missiles, because mobility complicates verification and thus interferes with the fetish of arms control. Do you know which side of the debate you are on tonight?

For Dukakis: You are the only governor who opposed his state's participation in the GWEN (Ground Wave Emergency Network) project to provide the President with command-and-control communications capable of surviving a Soviet first strike. A spokesman for you still says what you said in your 1986 letter to the Air Force, that such a system would make nuclear war more likely. But how can there be deterrence if the enemy knows the United States lacks the capability to conduct a counterattack?

For Bush: Gorbachev wants a more efficient communism. Do you? If so, why? If not, will you link Soviet access to U.S. and multi-national economic institutions to changes in Soviet behavior, specifically to an end to arms shipments to Nicaragua?

For Dukakis: You opposed not only the liberation of Grenada but also the

use of U.S. forces to plant democracy in the Dominican Republic in 1965. Is it a Dukakis Doctrine that two more dictatorships in this hemisphere would not matter.

For Bush: The last large-scale use of U.S. force was in Vietnam, a disaster in the end. Should we never have helped South Vietnam resist aggression? Or should we have taken stronger military actions — which ones — to win?

For Bush: Your solution to the budget deficit is a "flexible freeze" of spending. Isn't that an oxymoron, the adjective nullifying the noun? To dispel the suspicion that flexibility would be used to appease every clamorous constituency, name the big-ticket programs you would not be flexible about.

For Dukakis: Congress howled when Attorney General Meese, acting on the "sausage for the gander" principle, ended Congress' immunity to special prosecutors. Was Meese right? Or do you think the Democratic-controlled Congress should be exempt from the rules it writes for others?

For Bush: Assuming that business cycles have not been banished, there will

be recession. How far will the dollar collapse and how high will interest rates soar when the next recession turns the annual Reagan-Bush budget deficit of \$150 billion into a \$300 billion Bush-Quayle deficit?

For Dukakis: You support the Supreme Court's 1973 abortion ruling that a fetus is at no point a person with rights. But intra-uterine medicine now conducts surgery and other therapy on fetuses. Can a fetus be a patient but not a person? Should the Hippocratic Oath — "First, do no harm" — protect fetuses at least in the second and third trimesters?

For Bush: Before the Republican National Convention you said, "Watch my vice-presidential decision. That will tell all." All?

For Dukakis: Campaigning in Iowa, you boasted of being a "card-carrying member" of the American Civil Liberties Union. The official ACLU policy guide says, among many other things: there should be no tax-exempt status for churches and synagogues; the words "In God We Trust" should be taken off the currency and "Under God" should be stricken from the Pledge of Alle-

giance; drug use and prostitution — including street solicitation — should be legalized; homosexuals have a right to be foster parents; all prisoners, regardless of their offenses, should be released from prison and allowed to return to their last place of residence to vote. What are you carrying that card?

For Bush: You cite Dukakis' ACLU card as evidence that he is unfit for high office. Will you describe your shock, horror, revulsion, etc. about the fact that your Attorney General Richard Thornburgh was a member of the ACLU in the late 1970s?

For Dukakis: The next President will reshape the Supreme Court. You and other opponents of Robert Bork stressed concern about "privacy" rights. Consider an issue currently being litigated: Do people who engage in homosexual acts have a constitutional privacy right to serve in the military?

For Bush: If during your presidency anyone proposes a plan as cockeyed as giving arms to the Ayatollah, do you expect Vice President Quayle to respond as you did, or do you expect him to object vigorously?

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