

Turn off the lights — party's over

Media scrambles for news after end of elections

As the candidates scrape the mud from their lapels and await the dry cleaning bills of a campaign gone by, a day-after-Christmas taste pervades our radios, our newspapers, our color televisions. The counted ballots sleep sweetly in some vacant office, collecting dust, clogging landfills, assuming their rightful places in the statistics of history. Brooms and shovels push away the hopeful confetti of a defeated president and the happy placards of a victorious contender. The bunting falls away from the ceilings; the election falls away from memory.



STACY FEDUCIA
Assistant Editor

The photographers file their final prints in their lonely portfolios of election year hoopla — smiles, sorrows, songs captured on squares of black and white and rainbow colors. The reporters file their last stories, clip their clips for posterity, turn off their typewriters and drink a lonely toast to the end.

Hands have been shaken and promises made like so many bridegrooms on breathless wedding nights, and all that remains are the questions unanswered. What will President Clinton be like? What will Hilary do with the china pattern? How will Millie fare outside the White House lawn? Will Dana Carvey's contract be renewed on "Saturday Night Live"?

But the most important question looms large above the others, a monolithic terror, worse yet than the Communist menace! What will the media whine about now that the election is over??

The mood over here at the Batt cave is one of dismay and confusion — and I am certain that it is being re-enacted in newsrooms across this great nation. What the hell are we going to write about? We have nothing to do. For the past nine months we have been pregnant with this monstrous campaign. And Tuesday night, the water broke. We grabbed the tongs and the catcher's mitt and popped that puppy out right into the laps of America. What the hell are we supposed to do now?

Never fear, that's why I'm here with my handy dandy list of potential story ideas that the reading and viewing

public would probably like to see:

(1) Does it trouble anyone that both our president-elect and our lame-duck president are both joggers?

(2) Doesn't the term "lame duck" carry unpleasant connotations which may perhaps offend our feathered friends? Shouldn't we find a more sensitive term to apply to the defeated president rather than lame duck? How about electorally impaired? Or incumbently challenged?

(3) Shouldn't we investigate why some people insist on boarding a crowded elevator on the first floor and then riding only to the second floor with no apparent reason for doing so aside from basic laziness? Why not take the stairs?

(4) Will the Fightin' Texas Aggies ever advance beyond number five in the football polls?

(5) Should people be brutally bludgeoned for crinkly-crinkling their candy wrappers in classrooms during tests — or heaven forbid, during cultural events like the bozos who sat behind me at the ballet last month?

(6) Is cheerleading as an intellectual discipline worth risking conviction for attempted homicide? Why not just be on the dance line? Why not encourage your child to pursue more life-enriching pursuits, like tanning?

(7) Is Beverly Hills 8675309 real? How about Smellrose Place? Why do so many people insist on speaking to the characters during these television shows like the characters are real people? "Brenda, how could you dump him?" Is this phenomenon related to Dan Quayle's insistence on picking a fight with fictional character Murphy Brown?

(8) What will happen to all the Dan Quayle jokes?

(9) Does Chelsea Clinton watch Beverly Thrills 9021666?

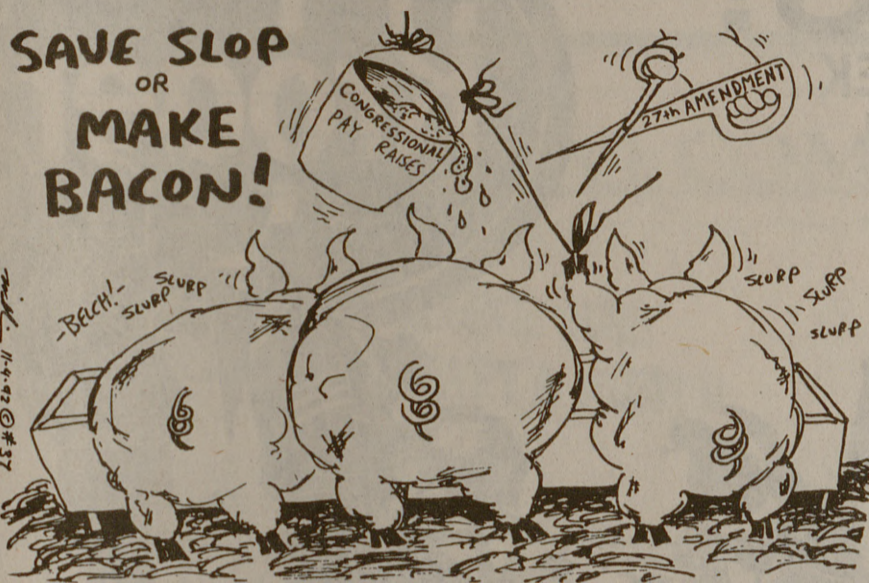
(10) Why are the Christmas commercials airing already when the Halloween jack-o-lanterns are just now beginning to rot?

Just some things to contemplate now that the election madness has left us high and dry; as buttons and bumper stickers of red, white and blue patriotism go the way of Christmas wrapping paper, cardboard boxes and candy canes, as we hang up our electoral intrigues and turn back to our Monday Night Football.

You heard it here first.

Feducia is a senior English and history major

SAVE SLOP
OR
MAKE BACON!



EDITORIALS

Changes in the Corps

Cadets put questions to rest

The Battalion recently ran a series of articles about the Corps of Cadets and the changes that have taken place within it since last year's charges of sexual harassment.

In that series, comments from some female cadets seem to indicate that they feel as if meaningful changes have taken place in the Corps; changes which make them feel equally at home on the Quad-range.

Though there will always be some who cannot bring themselves to accept women in the Corps, the prevailing attitude among cadets appears to be one of growing acceptance.

According to interviews, cadets in leadership positions in particular are taking an active role in implementing new policies to ensure that

the specter of sexual discrimination does not reappear.

Congratulations are due the Corps of Cadets for their transformation into an organization in which both men and women have the uncontested opportunity to become, in the words of The Standard, a Corps manual, "leaders of character for the state and nation."

Nobody truly concerned about the image and welfare of Texas A&M University, not to mention its Corps of Cadets, could help but be dismayed about the episode of last year.

One year later, the Corps and the University are looking much better.

We should be able to put our concerns to rest as we have all put this issue behind us; hopefully, once and for all.

Fistful of dollars

Congress' payraises look doomed

America has a new Constitutional amendment and hardly knows it. On May 8, Michigan became the 38th and deciding state to ratify the amendment, making Constitutional history.

Authored by James Madison 202 years ago, the amendment prohibits Congress from voting to implement a pay raise before the next election for House offices. Long dormant, the amendment sprang to life amid the current voter outrage over recent Congressional scandals.

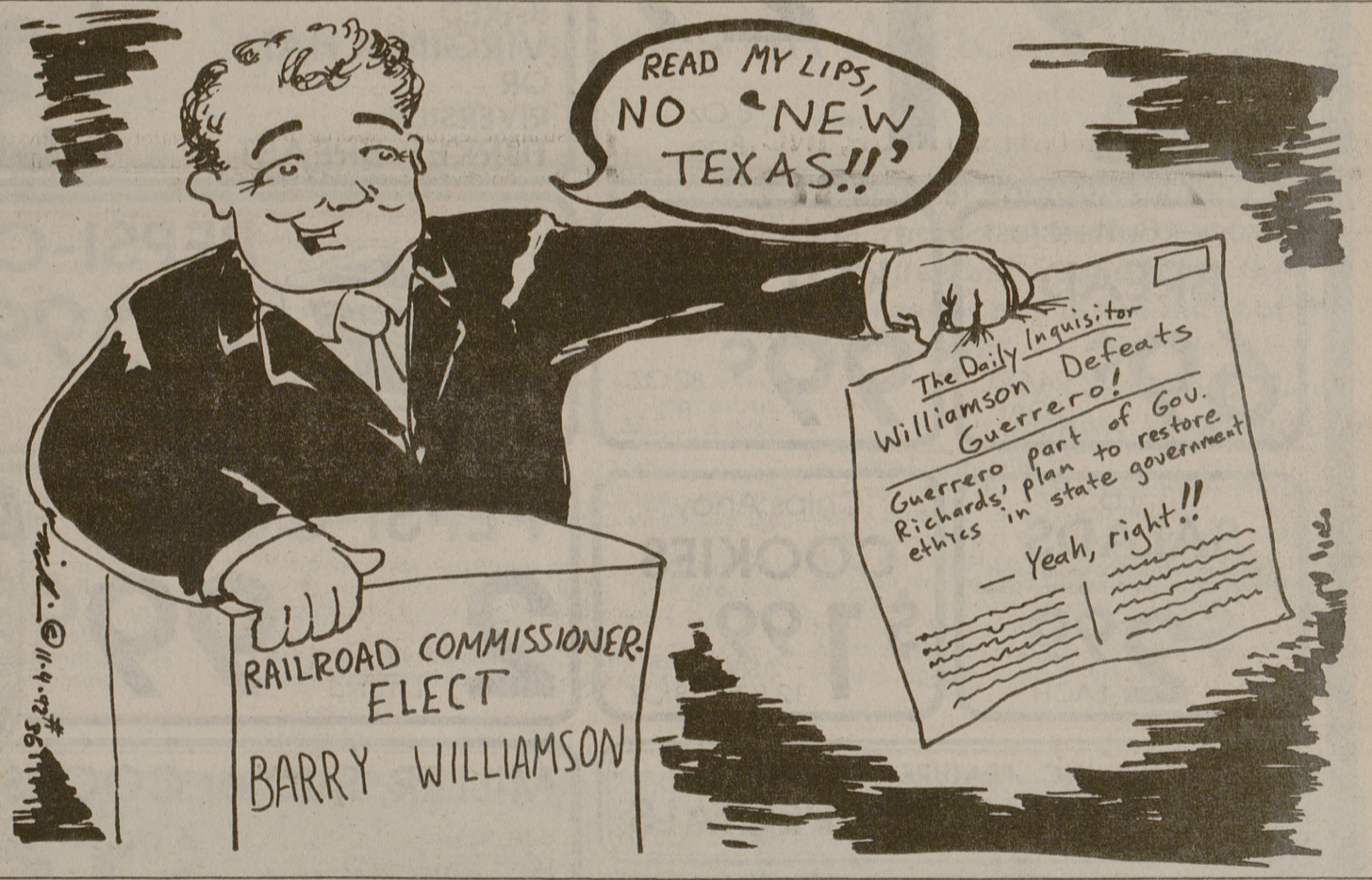
The first application of the 27th Amendment is now at hand — 20 incumbent lawmakers, 106 Congressional challengers, the American Legislative Exchange Council, and other organizations have brought a suit to block a \$4,100 annual raise

for each member of the House and Senate beginning the first day of 1993.

The law, passed in 1989, gives members of Congress automatic annual raises tied to increases in the cost of living.

Opponents of the law argue that Congressional inaction to block the raise by Dec. 31 without an intervening election as required by the new amendment is a sanction of the automatic raise.

The current suit ought to prevail over the automatic pay raises. James Madison designed the 27th Amendment to discipline lawmakers into facing an election before dipping into the public coffers. It is time to ask a modicum of public control of Congress.



MAIL CALL

Serbs willing to negotiate over Bosnia

I agree wholeheartedly with Dr. Hatchett (Battalion, Oct. 20) that a just solution for the civil war in the former Yugoslavia lies in establishment of new borders based on ethnicity. This has not been possible because the Bosnians and Croats do not want to give up territory. However, I strongly disagree with the Battalion headline riddle "U.S., U.N. should force Serbs to talks" and Dr. Hatchett's suggestion that Bosnians and Croats should be provided with more military aid in order to persuade Serbs to come to the negotiating table. The latter is not necessary since Serbs are more than willing to negotiate these issues, but so far the other two parties have refused to discuss them.

In Croatia the cease-fire has been in effect since January. The Yugoslav army had withdrawn from Croatia, and

local Serbs have surrendered all their heavy weapons to the U.N. peacekeeping troops. Croatian President Tudjman had said on several occasions that he does not plan to renew the one year mandate of the U.N. forces in Croatia, and that he will not hesitate to use force to establish Croatian authority over territories that are presently under control of ethnic Serbs. So far there has been no progress toward reaching a political settlement. What will happen after the U.N. troops withdraw from Croatia?

Bosnian Muslim leaders have often boycotted United Nations sponsored talks and are refusing to talk directly with Serbian "murderers and aggressors." They have been willing neither to give any territory to Bosnian Serbs nor to discuss the concept of the division of Bosnia into autonomous ethnic regions. They are for a unitary state structure, which would ensure their domination.

Bosnian Serbs are willing to talk with anyone, at any time and at any place, according to General Lewis MacKenzie, former commander of U.N. forces in Sarajevo. At the recent Peace Conference on Yugoslavia in London, the leader of Bosnian Serbs, Mr. Karadzic, said, "Though Serbs actually legally own 64 percent of Bosnian land, we are ready to reduce what we hold to 50 percent if it will enable us to draw very clear and lasting boundaries that demarcate Moslem, Croatian, and Serb areas."

The just, peaceful, and long-lasting

solution for this tragic civil war could be achieved if the United States and EC governments were willing to pressure Croatia and Bosnian Muslims to negotiate new borders. All that is needed is fair international arbitration with equal treatment for all sides.

Dragomir B. Bukur
Dept. of Chemical Engineering

Bad government: we reap what we sow

Jason Loughman's recent opinion in The Battalion raises what must be an obvious question to many: namely, why is it that in an election year in which there is widespread disgust with both major parties there is not more interest in the Libertarian Party? He places blame mostly with the Libertarians, when actually it should be with the electorate itself.

Jason points out that a statement party members are asked to sign is a major impediment for many people who do not want to be "half-Libertarian," yet he later admits to being "part Republican and part Democrat." This indicates to me that he himself regards the Libertarian Party too idealistically, rather than the other way around as he suggests.

An observer once pointed out that a people eventually ends up with the gov-

ernment that it deserves. I do not believe that the United States is an exception to this observation. Given a clear choice of standing on one's own feet, and making decisions for oneself, or having government make all the decisions, 90 percent of Americans will choose to have government make the decisions. This is not the sort of environment in which the strict constitutionalist point of view can take root. I'm afraid that we already have the kind of government and political parties that we as a people deserve. Welcome to the real world.

Ron Theriault
Computer Science Department

Show your Aggie friendliness at game

Right now I'm in the home of the Fightin' Texas Aggies' next hapless victim, Louisville, Ky. Louisville has come close to beating some real good teams this year, and a lot of people around here are starting to say that A&M is ready for its first loss. Well Ags, I think the Twelfth Man will have something to say about that.

Ever since I arrived in the Bluegrass State, I keep hearing about all this Cardinal spirit. People have stickers on their cars, a lot of people say they root for the Cardinals, and they like to dress

in red sweaters for game day. But they've never been to Kyle Field, Aggies. And after Saturday, I don't think they'll want to come back.

Heck, if we don't win I'm in big trouble. I've been saying all year that U of L is going to get pisted at Kyle Field. Everybody's coming over to my place on Saturday, and if we lose I'll never hear the end of it.

But almost as much as I want to see us win, I would like for Kentuckians that venture south to Aggieland to come back talking about two things: the pride and spirit of our fans, and the warmth and hospitality of our campus. A&M is a special place where we're 10-0 or 0-10, and it's the character of the student body that makes it so.

They may root for the Cardinals, but we are the Aggies. Beat the Hell outta Louisville!

Stephen Beck
Class of '91

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The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald / Mail stop 1111
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843