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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS PRESENTS THE

Brazos Valley Medical Center

Chamber Music Concerts TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL

TONIGHT! 7:30 PM • Rudder Theatre

Esterhazy String Quartet Western Arts Trio

performing new works by Peter Lieuwen and Michael Horvitz Also: Works by Turina, Villa-Lobos and Webern

Supported by: The Arts Council of Brazos Valley The Texas Commission on the Arts A&M University Honors Program

A reception to meet the artists, sponsored by Janet Higgins & Bo Ward, Ashford Square Realtors, will follow the program.

Tickets available at the MSC Box Office Adults - \$10.00 Senior Citizens (65+) - \$7.00 Students - \$5.00

Rudder Theatre is handicapped accessible. Parking available in the University Center Parking Garage. (.50 p/hr)

Concert Series, June 6-July 27. For Festival Information, call 845-3355 or 845-1234.

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Tues. Night - Ladies Night. No cover. 98¢ single shot bar drinks and longnecks all night long. Doors open at 7. Dance 8-12. Music by Stampede. Thurs. Night - No cover, over 21 all night. 98¢ night. 98¢ cover, 98¢ any single shot drinks, longnecks, and pitchers all night long. Doors open at 8. Dance 8-1. Fri. Night - No cover over 21 with current student/faculty/staff ID. Under 21 receive \$2 off with same. 25¢ bar drinks and draft beer 8-11. Doors open at 8. Dance 9-1. Music by Maiden Texas. Sat. Night - Aggie 96 Night. \$1 Zima, \$1 Firewater shots all night long. \$1.50 60 oz. pitchers of beer 8-10. \$2 off cover with current student/faculty/staff ID. Doors open at 8. Dance 9-1. Music by Jeff Chance.

Upcoming: Concert and Dance: Western Swing July 9th 822-2222 2309 FM 2818 South



Stew Milne/The Battalion

Sunday drivers

Dennis Spears and his niece Cheryl Shaver take a bicycle ride on Sunday afternoon in Research Park. The two were having a picnic with other members of their family.

Cruising on the government's tab

Inspectors take family, friends along on hunts for illegal aliens

WASHINGTON (AP) — That couple you met on the cruise may well have been a federal cop who took his wife and family on a free sea voyage while he sought out illegal immigrants.

The government paid his salary. The cruise line picked up his tab.

In a tale of government regulation turned cozy, a Justice Department audit reveals that Immigration and Naturalization Service inspectors placed on cruise ships to detect illegal immigrants have been taking family and friends along for free or reduced fares.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press, also found that the cruise lines were directly reimbursing the INS agents — usually without receipts or documentation — for their travel expenses.

The Justice Department agency is promising disciplinary action and new regulations to curtail the abuses. The INS is required to check cruise ships for undocumented aliens as they reach a U.S. port. But some inspectors took round trips that left them with idle time aboard the vessels or at foreign ports, then filed for overtime pay, the report said.

Auditors decried several practices of the round-trip inspections, saying the coziness jeopardized the independence of agents whose job it is to fine cruise lines up to \$3,000 for each undocumented alien found aboard.

They specifically questioned whether the discounts for agents' relatives violated federal laws and regulations barring government employees from accepting anything of value in connection with their official duties.

"The reduced fares would cause a reasonable person to question whether such a gratuity could result in more lenient inspectors or treatment of the cruise line," the report said.

The INS is overhauling its regulations to prohibit the actions described in the report, and will take disciplinary action if warranted, agency spokeswoman Ana Cobian said.

"It's behavior we obviously don't condone," she said. "Even if it's not compromising (inspections) on a practical matter, the perception still can't be permitted."

The new rules under consideration would not only prohibit discounts, but also could bar inspectors from taking guests aboard ships when on official business, she said.

Ordinarily, INS inspectors check returning cruise ships for aliens at docksides.

But cruise lines with a large number of foreigners aboard can request and pay for an "en route" inspector to be flown to the last port of call to conduct inspections on the trip's final leg. This saves travelers a lengthy dockside inspection.



Rush critic fails to research position

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to J. Sterling Hayman's column that maintains that Dittoheads do not think issues through. Let's evaluate that. Does anyone really believe that a talk show

host could accumulate the biggest audience in the nation by making assertions and hoping that the audience will blindly accept them? The fact is that the reason Rush is so popular is because he articulates the thoughts, convictions, and observations of many Americans in a logical and entertaining fashion.

It is always interesting that people criticize Rush or his audience never or infrequently listen to his program. Therefore they're ignorant when they criticize something they know little or nothing about. This is demonstrated by Hayman's assertion that Limbaugh suggests that racism does not exist. Rush frequently states on his show that racism still exists. However, he states that it is an obstacle that can be overcome. He sees self-reliance, rather waiting on the government, as the most effective means to overcome it and to improve your life.

Hayman's reference to swastikas was wholly inappropriate and in wanton disregard of the true composition of Rush's audience. Looks like, in making such a statement, he chose not to do any of the "research" he advocates. He just "depended" on liberal columnists for their ideas rather than

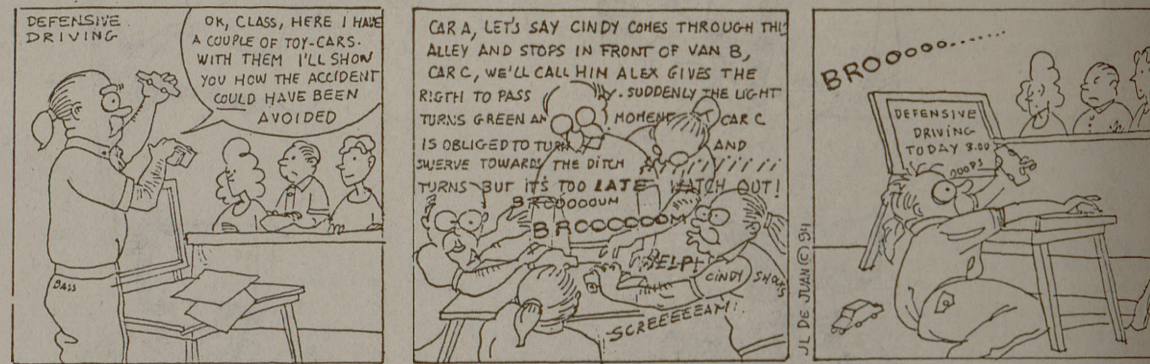
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By Boomer Cardinale



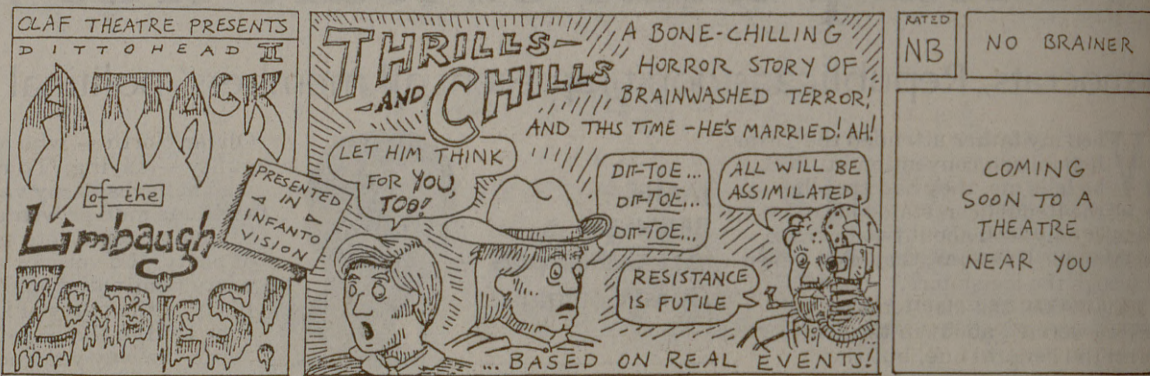
HEATHER

By JL



OUT THERE

By JD



Senate filibusters cause gridlock

Congressional reformers say stalling power is misused

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jimmy Stewart filibustered the Senate for a high-minded principle in the movie classic "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." But today the filibuster isn't always used that way.

Each senator's power to hold up debate on any issue for any reason is causing congressional gridlock and should be eliminated, say congressional reformers.

Oklahoma Democratic Rep. Mike Synar puts it this way: If you were driving the kindergarten car pool, would you let one 5-year-old in the back seat decide when to move forward? That's what senators are doing when they filibuster.

"People don't use the filibuster so their side can be heard. They use the filibuster so nothing can be heard," says Synar, chairman of the House Democratic Study Group, which is pressing the Senate to change its rules.

The Senate leadership doesn't even enter a debate on the floor that would publicly explore the issues if there's the least threat of a filibuster, he notes.

There have been six times more filibusters in the last five years than the Senate's whole first

century, according to congressional records.

When Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell is told by reporters Republicans are threatening a filibuster a particular issue, he usually responds: "What else is new?"

Health care reform could become the next major victim, congressional reformers say. They say last year's fight over subsidized grazing land is an example of how the will of the majority can be foiled by the Senate's rules protecting the minority.

The battle began in 1976 when reformers started trying to force 27,000 ranchers to pay competitive prices for grazing livestock on federal lands. They paid only about one-fifth the fee charged by private landowners.

A compromise plan that would have moderately increased the fees was included in the 1993 Interior appropriations bill and passed the House 317-106.

But the provision died in the Senate because Western senators representing the 27,000 ranchers (a small fraction of the nation's ranchers) led a three-week filibuster.

Senate supporters of the reform tried to get the 60 votes needed to stop the obstructing tactic, but gave up when the third, most successful effort resulted in only a 54-44 outcome.

So even though 317 congressmen and 54 senators voted to raise the fees for grazing on publicly owned land, the minority ruled.

evaluating the situation for himself. After all, "it's much easier than researching, learning about the issues and arriving at your own conclusion."

Hayman maintains that he supports independent thought on the issues. This is just camouflage, for after assessing Hayman's column it is readily apparent to any casual observer that he is guilty of the same "dependence" he purports to decry.

James R. Staley Class of '95

Gays in military do not present threat

I read the June 14 editorial, "Still Asking, Telling," with surprise and respect. It's about time somebody pointed out that this whole "gays in the military" thing is about fair play versus mean-spiritedness. While I agree with Barry Goldwater's statement, I do think that Shakespeare was closer to the mark with his "Much Ado About Nothing." Any soldier or Marine who is afraid of having a gay man look at him in the shower would probably be even more afraid to face an armed enemy. We don't need such sexually insecure little boys in uniform, and we certainly don't need to give them loaded weapons.

What I don't understand is why it is taking the military so long to figure out that most Americans are bone tired of

prejudice and have more than enough real problems to deal with these days. If two Marines want to mess around with each other when they are off duty and have some privacy ... well ... who cares? Could there be so many high-ranking, but closeted, gay military officers that are scared witless that everyone will find out their secret, too?

If they were witch hunting for troops carrying plagues, or for Libyan terrorists, I could understand their hysteria, but these officers who insist on sticking their noses into their troops' undershorts just don't make any sense. Is it possible that America's military officers have never encountered the simple concept of minding their own business? Maybe that's why they shoot down Iranian civilian airplanes, shoot up Turkish ships, try to blame gays for one of their gun turrets blowing up, let straight Marines betray our Moscow Embassy, and make fools of themselves at Tailhook conventions. If they would stick to their jobs and stop looking for scapegoats to blame their screw-ups on, maybe we could wind up with a military that we could be proud of, and even trust to tell the truth.

Again, thanks for taking a stand for common sense and common decency. You're all miles ahead of the uniformed military, but if you keep after them they just might someday catch up.

Mike Leathers Bryan

World problems need local action

Frank Stanford wrote a column June 8 lamenting the horrors in Rwanda and directing people to remain aware of the suffering going on. That column has made me increasingly angry until I now feel compelled to write about it. Stanford made a good beginning, but simply "remaining aware" of the situation just doesn't cut it. Every day, Americans sit in front of their televisions watching bloodshed and suffering occur all over the world, and feel utterly helpless to stop it. Simply "remaining aware" isn't noble or enlightening - it's downright depressing.

There are things we can do to help alleviate the Rwandan situation, even if we are half a world away. The Red Cross has an office in Bryan that takes donations five days a week. Note that you'd like your contribution to go to Rwanda and they will be glad to earmark your money and send it on to the hospital they operate there.

In short, it's my opinion that the world doesn't change until people make it change.

Now that there is a cease-fire of sorts in Rwanda, I'd rather help (in some small way) to pick up the pieces than sit idly by.

Jennifer Z. Freeman Class of '94

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