



David S. Broder **Democratic** race is recipe for chaos

For those who like their politics neat and orderly, this year's Democratic presidential race is awfully discouraging. Every time the Democrats knock a candidate out of the race, a new one springs up to replace

Birch Bayh, Milton Shapp, Lloyd Bentsen and Terry Sanford have all bitten the dust since the race began. Sargent Shriver and Fred Harris are limping. But the number of prospects for the nomination does not seem to shrink.

Last week, Sen. Frank Church of Idaho joined the ranks of the active contenders, while the favorite-son group of potential power brokers and compromised choices added the names of Senators Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois, John Glen of Ohio, Rep. Peter Rodino of New Jersey and Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. of California

It sounds like a recipe for chaos a plot to convince the voters that the Democrats are inherently incapable of making up their minds.

But there are several reasons to think the unending stream of Democratic contenders is a sign of of health rather than trouble — for the

What it measures, first, is the depth of the talent pool in the Democratic party. That is certainly the case when the standard of comparison is the GOP. There, the presidential contest, if it still deserves that name, pits an appointed Presi-dent against a 65-year-old former governor of California.

Back when it was thought that Ronald Reagan might upset Presi-dent Ford in the early primaries and open the way for other Republican contestants, the only names heard were those of Vice President Roc-kefeller, a two-time loser in the pres-idential game, and John Connally,

The Republican leadership has been thinned to an alarming degree by the party's recent reverses. Barely 50 men hold major statewide office as senators or governors. There are a handful of Representatives with national standing and a small group of cabinet and agency

heads with presidential potential. Most are far enough advanced in years that they have little likelihood of being contenders for the Republican presidential nomination, even in 1980

Many of the latest entrants in the Democratic president derby are younger men clearly testing their legs for future races. That is probably the case with Church, who is sensible enough to know he faces long odds in beginning his quest when three other active contenders -Jimmy Carter, Henry Jackson and Morris Udall - have months of organizational and campaign efforts behind them.

Brown, Blenn and Stevenson while possible dark horses or vicepresidential possibilities in 1976 are also seen more palusibly as men ho may tigure in tuture presidential

They do not hurt the party by their presence in the contest. None of them needs apologies as being out of place in a league in which Gerald Ford and Ronald Regan represent the Republican all-stars.

The question which some would raise is whether these new Democrats clutter the field to the point that it becomes dangerously difficult for that party to find its way to a consensus candidate

- although they certainly create problems for some of the other active the the the the state of the state of

who is in self-imposed exile from the Democrats from a cluttered field of mainstream candidates is that mainstream candidates is that George Wallace might exploit the divided opposition to score plurality

> But with Wallace looking less menacing than he did in 1972, there is less pressure on the Democrats to keep the field of other challengers small. Certainly the risk of fragmentation is not so great as to discourage men like Stevenson, Glenn and Brown - who are potentially of national stature - from run-

The impact of these late-blooming candidacies is simply to shift the odds among the active candidates, and to reduce slightly the likelihood of the definite decision being made before convention time.

Udall would clearly be better off without Church contesting for liberal support in the Idaho and Oregon primaries. Jackson would like to see Ohio and California unencumbered by the likes of Glenn and Brown. For Carter - to whom every other elective official is an actual or potential roadblock — the emergence of favorite sons is even more nettlesome More than either Jackson or Udall, he depends for success on securing a majority or near-majority of convention votes in the primaries.

It is almost unnecessary to add that Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota must look with pleasure on the late-starting candidates and favorite sons. With Humphrey appa-rently holding to his pledge to avoid the primaries himself, he has a great interest in seeing the delegates split as many ways as possible.

But even that prospect can hardly The guess here is that they do not be thought hurtful to the Democrats' contenders. The chief danger to the credible challenger of Mr. Ford.

'Homosexuality immoral'

Editor:

According to the article printed Tuesday, March 9, in the **Battalion**, homosexuality is still against the law in Texas. How then, I ask, can such an organization as the Gay Line receive such publication (and promotion) on the front page or any page of a state funded school's newspaper?

Contrary to all of the ideas in this article, I find homosexuality disgusting. As a student of the Bible, I find that homosexuality is an indication of everything immoral. And, once you rule the morality of your life only by conscience, the truth of morality crosses that fine line of sanity.

Campus voting block Editor:

Over the years the turnout by Aggies to vote in Brazos county elections have been very small, possibly because the powers that be did not see fit to place voting places on the Campus where there is the largest block of possible voters in the

county. This year we have not only a chance to elect, or help to elect good officials but to also have a voice in other type elections.

And we do not have to leave the Campus to do this. We have several offices where the

ones in office now have others asking for the office and if we do not vote we deserve any treatment that is given. Aggies have never been looked on as citizens by the officials and law

enforcement group, it seems, but now with a possible twenty-five thousand voters on the Campus we are a force to be noticed. We live in this county for at least

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four years of our lives and we can now make our wishes known. Let's get with it and give this the OL AGGIE TRY.

Ron Portor '75

Seniors OK bond

Editor: With all the controversy about the bond issue, we students at A&M Consolidated High School wonder if be line of sanity. all the opinions have been recog-Sherry Ann Fisher nized. The adults might not think we're responsible enough, or it could just be our age, but whatever the reasons, we think we should be asked and our responses taken seri-ously. After all, the students and their brothers and sisters have to go to school with or without the changes

When a person turns 18, he is considered an adult, capable of making decisions for himself. With our senior class full of adults and many close behind, we should be heard. Although we're not actually paying the taxes out of our own pockets, we are affected directly by the changes they bring. We need an adequate environment in which to learn as much as our parents need a sufficiently equipped place to work. We believe the passing of this bond will help us to have what we need. Chris Gehring Lauralee Phillips

KK's justified

Editor: I had previously intended to write

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osts less than inadequate

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this letter as a criticism of Mr. Tynes' comments in the March 10 issue of **The Battalion** in which he intended to criticize the Kampus Kops (aka University Police). However, I found his letter to have so many non-well-taken grievances that it de-fied criticism.

The first of his grievances that he wished to state, but didn't, con-cerned the KK's strolling around kampus handing out tickets the way a new father hands out cigars. We all know that every member of the faculty, staff and student would park in assigned areas without the threat of receiving these friendly little yellow citations on his/her windshield. After all, we only park illegally out of sheer defiance. I also know why the KK's get very few specific complaints about illegal parking. Why, I per-sonally don't call them more than once a day concerning cars parked illegally in reserved spaces, spaces for the handicapped, loading zones,

The second of his grievances, again not-stated, pointed out the unwarranted harassment of bicyclists. I dare say that there has never been a single incident of running stop signs (especially at crowded in-tersections), blocking ramps for the handicapped, forcing pedestrians off sidewalks, pedalling faster than a speeding bullet between classes, etc. on this kampus.

lack of short-term parking for students trying to load cars. However, rumor has it that in the past such thing DOES need to be space has been marked off in Lot 19 the bike riders on this a for students living in Hart Hall. This don't appear to be com was brought to my attention by fa- other people's safety befor culty and staff assigned to this lot who could not find a parking place

Editor: Bicycles are fun. They the easiest and fastest w from one end of the can other. Most bikes are sat nately some of the riders It's an eerie feeling to thing whoosh by you and that you've been narrowly a bike rider. It's an even ing when you get hit by one the bike riders on camp safe. However some don't are the ones who are en the pedestrians on this ca I have a few suggestion help alleviate this problem.

cars. I'm sure that this ponsible action will cea ever find out about it.

You're right, Mr. Ty

your grievances, whethe not, do say a lot for the in

effectiveness of the KK's.

Bike safety

Michael I

as follows: -Hope these bike ri come to their senses and s or even walk their bikes campus is crowded. —Construct special around and through the c bike riders only so they ca rated from the pedestria -Ban bikes from the sid together and restrict them

Third point, ditto, concerning the and road use only. ck of short-term parking for stu- Hopefully these last m tions won't be necessary.

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