# System almost perfect for Carter

David S.

Broder

could not have been staged. While

Carter was on his lonely pedestal, the politicians were scrabbling at his

Except for a 20-minute visit from

Committee had any connection with

powerful nation. Nominally, they

they were a roomful of paper tigers, easily fobbed off with a few jokes.

appointments among themselves

on the party's executive committee.

top positions in the Justice Depart-

and their friends.

feet for jobs.

still needed of the impotence and irrelevance of political party organizations in the era of the personalized presidency, last week's meeting of the Democratic National Committee would be Exhibit A.

The leadership of the Democratic party gathered in the nation's capital for the first time since the day after President Carter's inaugural. It was an important time for the young administration.

Carter's soaring personal popularity was being tested on two fronts. In the Democratic Congress, action on his economic stimulus package — his basic response to the problem of unemployment that was so central to his campaign — had been brought to a halt by a combination of conservative doubts and water-project poli-

In Moscow, the President's most important foreign policy initiative the bid to halt the nuclear arms race — had been rebuffed by Soviet leaders, raising grave questions about the future of America's international

In a healthy political system, a President facing that situation would have turned to his party leaders for both advice and support in meeting a challenge that involved them almost as much as it did him.

Instead, Carter ignored the meeting of his party's national committee. And its members demeaned them-selves by a public display of petu-lance over the pettiest patronage matters. A more dramatic example of the breach between presidential leadership and party responsibility

Slouch

for the Advancement of Colored sion

Labor, another vital part of the Democratic coalition, was "rewarded" with its ten executive committee seats. But not one voice common-site picketing, or the issue

of foreign imports.

At one point, someone did suggest to Carter's handpicked Democratic national chairman, Kenneth B. Curtis, that it might be a good idea for him to send a copy of the Democratic Vice President Mondale, there was platform to members of Congress and the administration, with a

nothing but the patronage squawks to tell a visitor that the men and women of the Democratic National suggestion that they read it.

Curtis said he'd see if he could hunt up some copies of the platform, the government of the world's most but added, with a modesty that becomes his position, "I'm not sure they'd appreciate my telling them what to read.

represented the party in power; in reality, as Mondale's talk reflected, There's nothing new about this. The other modern-era Presidents Adapting easily to such treatment, have treated their party with equal the committee members focused on contempt. And why not? They don't the parochial business of apportionneed the party for anything — they ing some largely empty titles and think

Jimmy Carter won the Democratic nomination in the primaries, Great emphasis was placed on the victory" of blacks in gaining 10 seats on the party's executive committee. with his own organization, and graciously accepted the surrender of the Democratic Party at Madison But not one word was said about the consequences to the Democratic Party of Carter having named to the had to give another thought to the ment two of his own political pals, Griffin Bell and Peter Flaherty, who were opposed by the nation's largest ern, not by strengthening his party

and most responsible civil rights organization, the National Association directly to the public through televi-

quences of his failure.

There are a few peole around who

A number of those advocates of party responsibility - some of them active politicians, some of them academics — have found places on the Democratic Party commission assigned to evaluate the current presidential primary system. The commission is named for its head, Michigan Democratic Chairman

If there is any chance for the Democratic party leaders to reclaim their place in the sun, it lies in the Winograd Commission finding some way to rake the runaway power of the proliferating presidential primaries. Only if the politicians recapture a voice in selecting the President will

they have any influence with him.

But don't make any bets on this happening. Jimmy Carter has pro-

It was no different for the Republicans with Eisenhower and Nixon, or the Democrats with Kennedy and Johnson. The party leaders, so-called, just have to keep their fingers was raised at the party meeting to ask crossed, knowing they will share where the administration was going only meagerly in a President's suc-on minimum-wage legislation, or cess but will suffer the full conse-

nourish the dream of seeing a political party strong enough to sustain a President in times of trouble and confident enough to restrain him when his misjudgments threaten his

Morley Winograd.

nounced the present system "almost perfect." And for him, in this spring of high popularity, it is.
(c) 1977, The Washington Post

Move

## Hopes still running very high for U.S.-Soviet arms limitation

WASHINGTON - President Carter wants to end the nuclear arms race and to set the superpowers on a course to wipe all the doomsday weapons off the face of

MANELLY THE RICHION DINING ENTIRE O 1977 BY CHICASOTREANS

But his first attempts to persuade the Soviets that there is a better way than the balance of terror are being written off as a failure by old-line

In the 1950s, Russian leaders repeatedly called for "general and complete disarmament." But those

all proceeds to go to the Muscular

Bowl-a-thon, no story was ever run

in the paper.

Why did The Battalion not run

any stories on these events? Both took place in the MSC, the center of

Commentary

negotiations for offensive nuclear arms limitation have centered on parity, if such a thing is possible.

President Richard Nixon changed

the strategy at the start of his administration from "superiority" to "sufficiency." Since then, U.S.-Soviet

But now, Carter has introduced a new element — a reduction of the

that an impossibility.

Kremlinologists and the pundits are critical of Carter's package of Dystrophy Association. While The Battalion did contact me about proposals, but even more so of his pproach to the Soviets. They say that kid gloves and greater secrecy would have been more appropriate; that the Politburo should not have been caught off guard by dramatic new proposals; that Carter has

were the days of clear American nu- He's looking to long range

his and the secretary's be there will be an agreemed ceanographers
Both Vance and Nation imputer prog
Affairs Adviser Zbigmvill allow them
ezinski insist they did move bad the ef ezinski insist they did mow bad the eff Soviet Leonid I. Brezhne One of the r mediately embrace Carlet. Reid, noted "to go beyond established sually the prod-ings to actual reductions. tarthquake wii is no question that the Sound close enou-that followed gave the Lause a surge. A leadership some pause. olcanic islands On the positive side, ause such sur-aides believe that in "going arer than those and letting the American. This surge is

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arsenals and a retreat from development of even more sophisticated missiles and first-strike capabilities. He is trying to put a cap on the arms competition before the technological explosion makes that an impossibility.

Kremlinologists and the pundits are critical of Carter's package of foreign policy.

"Gravity ca Gravity ca foreign policy.

With U.S.-Soviet arm adiate outward suming next month, the waves from five

is "no panic."

Carter appears convin 00 miles per considering the alternative longated sour threatening, budget-bust intenna and be race — the United State ertain direction Soviet Union will realistic. "A near-by some accord before it's too bector and increase."

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accompany all submission The Owl and 15 AU offers Needlepoint at its finest!! Bargello ~ taught by Natalie Hawley of The Elsa Williams School of Needle Arts You will set-up 9 different patterns (Helpful to have worked 3 wks. - 2 hour sessions - Wed., 7-9 p.m. r. 13-27 \$10 (Supplies not include Starts: Apr. 13-27 **401 DUNN** BRYAN 846-4736

student activities, yet The Battalion did not feel they were worthy of naively put the Russians on the decoverage in the paper.
Perhaps The Battalion should His critics also say Carter has cease running AP stories, which everyone reads in the morning paclouded the carefully nurtured at-mosphere of detente by sending Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Guest viewpoints, in mall, maybe a tion to Letters to the Loves from deep pers and devote more of its space to coverage of campus activities.

— Russel R. Kirk '77 Moscow with radically new proposals, and no advance warnings. are welcome. All pieceshe wave leng mitted to Readers hince the ene Carter's diplomatic advisers see it differently. They say that since the should be: election, Carter has signaled his in-• Typed triple space reases, someti
• Limited to 60 character 0 feet, he said tention to seek more far-reaching goals in arms control than his pre decessors. Futhermore, they say Carter does not view the Vance mis-Limited to 100 lines from all the ma Submit articles to inds also have McDonald 217, College at they cause tion, Texas, 77843. And converge a name and phone number amage," Reid sion as a bust. 'Jimmy is a patient guy who thinks of the long haul," said one aide. He doesn't mind one step backward to take two steps forward.

## The Battalion

"NOW THERE'S A GUY WHO REALLY WANTS TO BE

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### by Jim Earle Coleman hearing 'was a joke' pus, sponsored a Bowl-a-thon with

In reference to Wednesday's senate nominating committee meeting on the appointment of Dr. John B. Coleman to the Board of Regents, there are a few points I'd like to bring up. Students are probably not aware of these facts, which likely weren't presented in any of the media. I should hope people would be in-

First of all, no one seemed concerned with the welfare of Texas A&M. All that was discussed dealt with the morality of abortion, which all people who testified insisted was as bad as Nazi Germany killing Jews. (I'm not making analogies, this was mentioned.) Since Dr. Coleman is part owner and participates in an abortion clinic in Houston, he is dubbed "immoral" by these people. Lewis Berry, a Houston lawyer, compared this situation to "putting prostitutes and pimps in public of-"As you can see things got quite off track, and much time was wasted at this meeting. Abortion is legal and we are not to impose our individual moral values upon anyone. Coleman could not possibly have any effect upon Texas A&M's moral values, as Senator Walter Mengden infered by asking Coleman if he would force all Texas A&M medical students to

learn how to perform abortions.

Ira Early, president of Life Advocates in Houston, was also present at this meeting. I don't think he was there in concern over Texas A&M University, as everyone should have been, but rather to acquire some publicity for his organization. He was cut off by the chairman of the senate committee as soon as he began his emotional presentation against abortion. Early was at A&M

reduce the number of abortions needed and certainly should be considered less "immoral" than abor-

All in all, the meeting was a joke. I wish more Aggies could have been there. It just didn't seem to show enough concern over our university. Also, very little respect was paid to Dr. Coleman, who sure had to put up with a lot of crap. Perhaps we should all invade Austin next week in support of Dr. Coleman and Texas A&M University.

— Scott Gordon '79

#### What about campus reports?

Last week two activities took place on the TAMU campus which were never reported in The Battal-

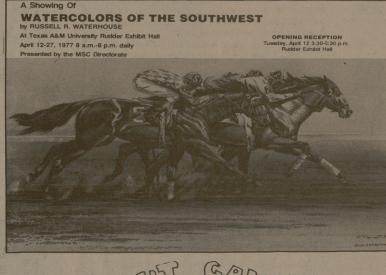
On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Aggie Blood Drive was held in the Memorial Student Center (MSC). Although I did see advertisements in The Battalion, I never read a story about what Aggie Blood Drive was all about. And I know the advertisements were paid for by one of the sponsoring organizations

Also, last Saturday starting at 2 p.m. and lasting until 6 a.m. Sunday morning, Alpha Phi Omega, a National Service Fraternity on cam-

Editor's note: The present editor works under the premise that a sizable percentage of the studentry at Texas A&M does not receive any other newspaper and therefore would not get state, national or international news reports if The Battalion did not carry these re-

Also, we are limited to a certain extent in what we can cover because of the limited size of our reporting staff. The editors have to make decisions concerning priorities in coverage as we cannot report everything that happens on

We ordinarily try to give advance notice of events to our readers. Any oversights are not in-





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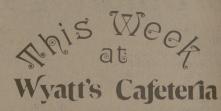
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Cooked in sauce and served with on vegetable.

Sunday Ham Steak

Served with rice and one vegetable



several weeks ago in a debate on abortion in which he presented simi-lar material. But here again, the purpose of the meeting is lost. Early should go home and revise his game plan. If he wishes to abolish abortion, he should go back to its cause problem pregnancy. If there were ess unwanted pregnancies, there would be less abortions — you know, cause and effect. He should lobby for birth control education for young people in public schools. This would والمناس المناس **Happy Cottage** We Specialize In Diamonds Set is full of Easter gifts -Sizing — Reoxidizing -

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