

# Viewpoint

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

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Wednesday

## Carter wooing press, bureaucrats?

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — The man who signs himself, almost cryptically, T. McN. Simpson, III, is a Virginia-born southern chauvinist who so far violated the detachment of his academic profession as to tell Georgia Political Science Assn. early this year, "We ought to dance in the streets" over the election of Jimmy Carter.

Simpson, who teaches at the University of Tennessee, is the leading student of Carter's term as governor of Georgia and the author of a forthcoming book on that subject. The other day, he was in Washington, inspecting his man in the new setting and testing his own impressions against those of other Carter-watchers.

His views are worthy of note, not because this reporter necessarily agrees with them all but because they come from an admirer who has thought harder than most of us about what manner of man this President is.

First off, Professor Simpson says, he finds Carter significantly changed from the years of his governorship (1970-1974) and "much more skillful" in the political arts. Particularly that is true, he says, in his handling of three of the great institutions that any new president must master — Congress, the bureaucracy and the press.

Simpson rejects as absurd what has become almost a cliché among Carter critics on Capitol Hill — the assertion that Carter does not know the difference between Congress and the Georgia legislature. Carter not only recognizes the power of Congress and the assertiveness it has developed in recent years, but he has a strong belief in the value of the separation of powers, Simpson says.

This belief, Simpson says, is somewhat camouflaged by what he calls Carter's "calculated abrasive" approach to the legislative branch. But he sees Carter as a man who is quite willing to risk the antagonism of the lawmakers and even lose a number of battles with Congress — so long as he gains more than he loses in the overall scheme.

Simpson thinks Carter will stay on the plus side of the equation for several reasons. First, the President knows that realistically, given the inflationary pressures and budgetary constraints under which he is operating, he could not push

an ambitious legislative program even if he enjoyed cordial relations with Congress.

Second, he believes that he can cushion the adverse political effects of any retreats or defeats on Capitol Hill by launching a barrage of new initiatives elsewhere — in diplomacy, in the bureaucracy and even in matters of personal style.

Third, Simpson says, Carter believes there is yet more political mileage in the campaign-period depiction of himself as the public-spirited outsider, fighting the citizen's battle against a Congress whose members tend to represent narrow sectional or special-interest viewpoints.

Much of this analysis is close to the somewhat cynical speculations many members of Congress voice about Carter's approach to them. But Simpson goes beyond this to make another point which differs sharply from the conventional Washington wisdom about Carter.

If Congress is Carter's natural antagonist, Simpson says, "his natural allies are the bureaucracy and the press. . . . One reason Carter deals in a rather crude, calculatedly abrasive fashion with Congress is to send a rather subtle message to the bureaucracy that he wants to run the country together with them. He is saying to the bureaucracy by these tactics that he will allow no inroads in the administration by Congress, no patronage and no catering to special interests."

In Simpson's view, the tactic is likely to "draw a very affirmative response from the skilled and conscientious people in the bureaucracy." He sees Carter working hard to reinforce this alliance by positive steps. "He is being very careful to create the impression that he reads everything they (the senior bureaucrats) send him, that he is very attentive to what is going on in the departments."

As he did in Georgia, Simpson says, Carter is using the devices of reorganization and zero-base budgeting to dramatize a concern over the quality of public administration.

As for us ink-stained wretches of the press, Simpson says he believes Carter will continue to be "unfilingly courteous." There may be occasional shows of pique with various reporters and even a healthy feud or two, just to highlight his good relations with the journalists as a group.

But overall, Simpson says, reporters should be a lot happier with Carter than congressmen are — and maybe even as happy as the bureaucrats will be.

These are the views, let me repeat, of Carter scholar T. McN. Simpson III, and they do not necessarily reflect the policy of this station or its sponsors.

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## Judge's statements founded in myth

By GLENNA WHITLEY  
Battalion Campus Editor

A 15-year-old boy sexually assaulted a 16-year-old girl in a stairwell in Madison, Wis. County Judge Archie Simonson ruled the boy was reacting "normally" to prevalent sexual permissiveness and women's provocative clothing.

The boy was one of three accused in the case. He received a sentence of one year of court supervision at home. Another boy was put in a group home and the third was released in exchange for his testimony.

"This community is well known to be sexually permissive," Simonson said. "Should we punish a 15- or 16-year-old boy who reacts to it normally?"

He said revealing female clothing contributed to this atmosphere. At the time of the rape, the 16-year-old girl was wearing blue jeans, tennis shoes, and a blouse over a turtleneck sweater.

The remarks brought angry protests from men and women who paraded outside the Dane County Courthouse last week demanding his resignation. School principals joined the outcry, demanding the judge retract the statement or quit the bench.

After the demands for his resignation, Simonson claimed his remarks had been "distorted."

"I was speaking in generalities," he

said. "In the adult world there is sexual permissiveness and provocation. We have sex shows and movies, nude bars and taverns."

"Even the mode of dress is provocative. It's just normal for a 15-year-old boy to respond normally to sexual provocations," he said.

Simonson defended his remarks and claimed nation-wide support for his views on rape.

"Whether women like it or not, they are sex objects. I'm trying to say to women, 'Stop teasing. I think I struck a nerve.'"

Simonson has indeed struck a nerve, one that produces a cry of pain and horror in the realization that the violent crime of rape is so misunderstood by a man in such a position of authority.

Provocative clothing, sexy movies, and bra-less fashions are not the causes of rape. Rape thrived in Victorian times, when women were tightly corseted and covered with layers of clothing.

As the protestors outside the courthouse chanted, "Rape is a crime, not a normal reaction." It is the violation of a woman's or a man's body intended to humiliate and degrade.

In "Sexual Assault: Confronting Rape in America," Nancy Gager and Cathleen Schurr, feminists and professional writers,

document research that supports this theory.

"Forensic psychiatric experts consider the rapist a potential murderer whose primary purpose is humiliating and physically assaulting a woman, the sexual act being secondary to the wish for violence against women."

Gager and Schurr say other experts agree that rape is basically an expression of inner rage and violence, not the outcome of thwarted sexual desire.

Denver activist Shirley McDermott is quoted as saying "Rapists are not 'just poor sex-starved bastards.' Many of the men who rape women are married, have girl friends, and some even have apparently happy families with charming children and doting mothers. Rapists come from every life situation. Take the eighty-one-year-old woman who was raped in southwest Denver. As a sex object, she is over the hill, but this old, frightened woman is in her prime as a humiliation object."

The myth that females invite rape by their mode of dress and behavior is just that, a myth. "She was asking for it" is the excuse the rapist uses to shift the blame from himself to the victim. The common belief that a woman seduces or teases a man into rape is a screen to protect the male from his own actions.

Women are seen as sex "objects," especially by those trying to sell things like magazines, after-shave, automobiles and lipstick. Rape myths perpetrate this idea that women are "fair game," depersonalized things to be possessed by men. And their victimization is thrown back in their faces with "old sayings" like:

"No woman can be raped against her will."

"She was asking for it."

"All women secretly want to be raped."

"If you're going to be raped, you might as well relax and enjoy it."

Sex offenses are the fastest-growing crime of violence against people in the United States and nearly all the victims are female. In the Gager-Schurr book, they point out that the social institutions responsible for handling and reducing rape — police, hospitals and courts — by and large exhibit a cultural, behavioral and psychological sexism that condones and even encourages rape, as shown in the decision by Simonson.

There are changes occurring however. The hue and cry raised against Simonson is indicative of forces that do want the system changed.

The Madison Association of School Principals said in a weekend statement, "It's deplorable that you (Simonson) suggest meaningless supervision by the court in the youth's home when a well-designed and administered program is clearly indicated. Please be reminded that permissiveness in our society has been largely brought about by court decisions that have evaded school disciplinary action and control."

Their stance should be applauded. Victims' basic rights need support from public and social institutions.

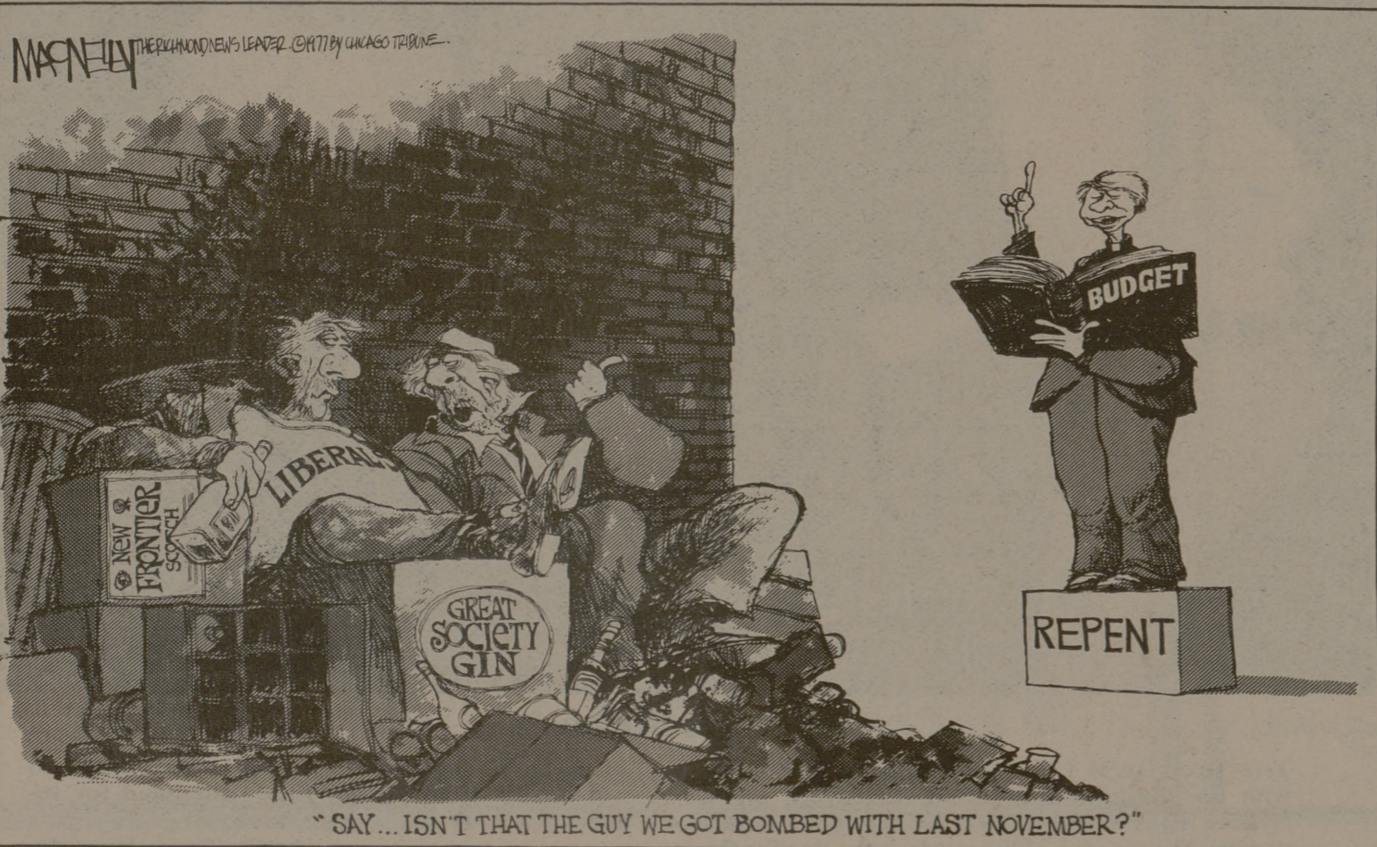
Simonson was reportedly given a copy of Susan Brownmiller's excellent book on rape, "Against Our Will." I hope he reads it carefully and begins to understand the atrocious nature of the crime he takes so lightly.

## Readers' forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
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- Limited to 100 lines

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"SAY... ISN'T THAT THE GUY WE GOT BOMBED WITH LAST NOVEMBER?"

## Top of the News

State

### Deputies must meet standards

Special deputies must meet the requirements of a peace officer before a sheriff can appoint them, says Attorney General John Hill's opinion responded to a Groesbeck sheriff's appointment of special deputies to patrol a fiddle festival. A Groesbeck attorney questioned their right to issue handguns to the deputies without having them pass state standards.

### GOP chairman criticizes Briscoe

State Republican Chairman Ray Hutchinson criticized the latest legislative session yesterday, calling it the most ineffective in history. "Texans had their own version of the energy crisis and his name, Dolph Briscoe," Hutchinson said. He blamed Briscoe for the failure of several major bills, including school finances and utility taxes.

### McManus asks for new trial

Convicted murderer Vernon McManus asked a state district judge to grant him a new trial on charges he killed a wealthy Baytown couple. The judge set a June 20 date for a hearing on the motion. McManus was convicted May 20 for the murder of a contractor and his wife last summer. He is the first man convicted of murdering the death by injection law passed during the latest session of the legislature.

Nation

### New Hampshire legalizes Laetrile

Laetrile, a drug used in treating cancer banned by the federal Food and Drug Administration, has been legalized in New Hampshire by that state's senate. The federal ban restricts interstate sale of the drug. But the new state law allows the drug to be given to cancer patients at their request.

### Hurricane season begins

Hurricane season begins today. The National Hurricane Center starts 24-hour storm tracking of the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and the Atlantic. The season runs through Nov. 30. No major hurricane has hit the south Florida coast in 12 years and the Texas coast for seven.

### The envelope please . . .

And the new state insect for Connecticut is . . . the praying mantis. The mantis assumes official status Oct. 1 thanks to lobbying efforts of 25 fourth grade children from Vernon, Conn. The House had killed an earlier bill to recognize the insect, but the children drummed up enough publicity and news coverage to revive the legislation.

### No beauty and the beast

A New York attorney who owns "Oliver the missing link," an unusual apelike creature, sued two magazines yesterday for reporting he plans to mate Oliver with a Japanese actress. Michael Miller files suit against National Lampoon and Oui claiming they portrayed him as immoral. Oliver resembles a chimpanzee, but walks erectly on two legs and is balding. Zoologists have expressed doubts as to whether Oliver is really the "missing link" his owner claims he is.

### No evidence of rape, judge says

Judge Archie Simonson, scorned by feminists and others for his remarks on the sexual assault of a young girl, said yesterday he has not seen any evidence that the girl was raped. The boy involved in the case pleaded no contest to second degree sexual assault. But the state crime laboratory report shows evidence that the girl was raped. The judge claims the boy reacted "normally" to the sexual permissiveness of society. His comments seem to have drawn nothing but angry protests, though he claims to have nation-wide support for his views.

### A new bass with a lot of snap

A new hybrid bass developed by artificially crossing the largemouth and smallmouth bass has produced what may be the "Jaws" of the farm pond. The new bass is so aggressive they have been known to jump into the air to bite people. Part of a project in a doctoral dissertation, the new fish grows faster and reaches sexual maturity faster than other bass.

World

### Gem thieves all wet

Two of four gunmen sought in the snatching of \$330,000 worth of gems in Italy were later caught soaking in the famous Montecatini Terme spa, police said yesterday. The bandits were "taking the cure" in the spa's thermal springs when police surrounded them. Their accomplices were arrested in a nearby house where police found an arsenal of weapons and all of the stolen jewelry.

## The Battalion

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