

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Monday
November 21, 1977

A man named Cain

His middle name could have been Generous.

R. Wofford Cain was one of those Aggies who went out into the cruel world, made good and wanted to share the fruits of his success with this University. He was very generous in sharing that fruit.

Cain, who graduated from Texas A&M in 1913 with a bachelor of science degree, died last week in Dallas. He served the University well in those 64 years.

He was a member of the University system board of regents from 1965-1971. He was chairman of the University Development Foundation in 1950, highlighting his more than 20 years as a trustee of the Foundation.

But possibly his greatest generosity came out of his own pocket. He sponsored more than 100 University scholarships. The University swimming pool and athletic dormitory which he funded bear his name. He was a major contributor to the building fund for the University library. He paid for the furnishings and lighting in the All Faiths Chapel.

The University recognized his contributions and his accomplishments in the petroleum industry by awarding him the "Distinguished Alumni Award" in 1964.

But he never sought any publicity or thanks for those contributions. He seemed simply content knowing he was helping the school that had helped him.

They don't seem to make men like that anymore.

L.R.L.

Jimmy's confused

The controversial Allan Bakke "reverse discrimination" case, now before the U.S. Supreme Court, can be as confusing as it is important. That confusion extends right into the White House, to the president himself.

President Carter, in a recent letter to the American Jewish Committee, thanked that organization for its strong support of affirmative action programs. That's where the first confusion comes—it's not exactly clear how much affirmative action the Carter administration favors. The president's letter also says he agrees with the AJC's view that "rigid racial quotas are exclusionary and therefore unconstitutional."

The AJC has filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Bakke, who says a California medical school admissions policy discriminates against whites by giving minorities unfair advantage.

Wheeling W. Va. Intelligencer

Employment bill does much for no one

By WILLIAM RASPBERRY
WASHINGTON—The President is pleased that he and the sponsors of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill have worked out their differences.

The sponsors of the legislation—Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Calif.) say they are delighted over the prospect that their much debated proposal will soon be enacted.

Well, I've just looked at the compromise bill, and I don't understand what all the smiling is about.

What they seem to have produced, after years of controversy and several recent days of intensive negotiations, is a really tough policy statement which, while it takes pains to define "full employment," does precious little to achieve full employment.

The "interim" full-employment target for five years following enactment would be 3 percent for adults, 4 percent overall. The President would have to file each year a "short-term" plan for moving toward the "interim" target. The plan would include, in any mix that suited the President's fancy, various tools made available by Congress.

An innocent reading of the bill would suppose: (a) that the Congress wanted full employment while the President did not, and (b) that the Congress knew how to achieve full employment.

They both want a substantial reduction in joblessness, of course, although the President seems to be more concerned than Humphrey-Hawkins supporters about exacerbating inflation.

The problem isn't in where they'd like the economy to go. The problem is in how

to get it there, and although Humphrey-Hawkins lists the now-familiar range of options—including the government as an "employer of last resort"—neither knows how to make the economy do what they'd like to see it do.

But they talk as though wanting it to happen is the same as making it happen. Hear Hawkins:

"Focusing federal economic policy deci-

sions around the goal of reducing unemployment to full-employment levels is a major accomplishment which will positively affect the lives of not only teenagers and minority unemployed but also..." You get the drift.

But "focusing federal economic policy decisions around the goal of reducing unemployment" does not "positively affect the lives of anybody. Reducing unem-

ployment can positively affect the lives of us all. It is the result, not the focus that will do it.

Similarly, the goal of "attaining reasonable price stability as soon as feasible" is unarguable. Who wouldn't want to do exactly that? But what is the purpose of putting it in a piece of legislation?

When Hawkins and Humphrey first worked out their controversial legislation, one of its principal features was a public employment feature that would kick in whenever joblessness in a particular area reached a certain triggering point. Another was a congressional authority to sue the President for not doing what Congress set forth as the proper way to put the economy right.

The compromise bill now being hailed also provides for the government's role as employer of last resort, but no longer automatically. After all else fails, the President may come to the Congress and ask for public works programs. The right to sue has long since been abandoned.

What remains is hardly more than a joint policy statement. There is some value in some of the specific tools provided in the bill and also in the requirement for an annual economic report from the President. At least that will ensure a regular debate on the problems of joblessness and inflation.

But the absence of debate never was the problem. It was—and is—the absence of jobs for millions of people who want to work.

I don't see that Humphrey-Hawkins will do much for them.

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Letters to the editor

Students shouldn't hold incident against police

Editor: When I got out of my classes Wednesday evening I picked up my daily edition of the Battalion and proceeded into my dorm to read it. The first thing I noticed was the article about the patrolman accused of vainly trying to ignite the Aggie bonfire. Being a freshman student at Texas A&M, I feel that it is an honor to have the privilege of writing to the Battalion expressing my opinion concerning this matter.

Since I was a little kid in kindergarten I have always trusted police officers. I thought that they were your friends and weren't supposed to hurt you in any way. Setting the Aggie bonfire ablaze days early would surely have hurt many Aggies' pride in and respect for the College Station Police Department.

Since I have been in College Station I haven't had any criticisms of my own to hand out to the police department, until now. The only criticism I have is that the police department made a bad and costly choice in choosing Gooch to be an officer of the law and should take more caution next time.

A lot of Aggies have probably lost respect for the College Station Police Department, but I can assure Police Chief Byrd, that a lot of us still respect the police department and back it up 100 percent.

I speak for myself as well as for many other Aggies in saying that we don't hold this incident over the heads of the entire police force and we will keep on believing the old saying, "One bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bunch."

—Jay Finley, '81

Editor's note: As you say, ex-patrolman Gooch is definitely not typical of College Station policemen. Students will do well to remember that.

Freedom before law

(The following letter refers to Karen Boswell's letter in the Nov. 17 Battalion.)

Editor: When laws are made, they are made to fetter society (not a generalization). When the law stating that motorcyclists were not required to wear crash helmets was passed, I could not believe it. How could such a responsible law like that even be considered.

Riding a motorcycle can be dangerous, as can be riding a bicycle, walking across the street, driving a car, hunting, flying, water skiing, snow skiing, smoking, working in a steel mill, playing politics, writing letters to the Battalion, etc. Even with all the proper clothing, people can still be hurt or killed in an accident in any of these activities. Can you imagine irresponsibility in any of these areas. Heaven forbid! Responsibility should definitely be legislated.

People are people, and as such, we must protect them from themselves? Most will use common sense in matters of safety, but those that do not will not be "saved from themselves" by some law, and if they were, what right does anyone have to tell an individual which choices to make?

The mentality that says people should not be free to decide which personal rights and freedoms they will take is the same as that which required people to wear

motorcycle helmets in the first place, told us that by 1982 we cannot buy a new car without airbags, and tried to require that passengers in a car wear seatbelts. To these people I say, "respect the right of others to have personal freedoms just as you would have them respect yours." At that time when you do not feel responsible enough to make decisions for yourself, please don't expect everyone else to become slaves of society, also.

—Joe Beall, '79

Astroturf no danger

Editor: In response to Mr. Joe Heger's remarks regarding the tradition of midnight yell practice ("May be hazardous," Battalion Nov. 17), and guarding of Kyle Field, we agree with the tradition of protecting the field wholeheartedly. However, the reason that he gave of the astroturf being highly flammable completely insults the intelligence of all Aggies.

We would like to call to Mr. Heger's attention the fact that Kyle Field is not used only during midnight yell practice. The facility is constantly being used for P.E. classes, jogging, athletic events, etc. and it is a benefit not only to A&M, but the residents of Bryan-College Station as well. The stadium is accessible at all times (except during football practice) with little or no regulations regarding its use.

If the field is so much of a danger and so flammable as according to Mr. Heger, why isn't the field protected at all times? Kyle Field is a source of pride to all Aggies, and from this pride comes a deep respect and

desire not to hurt it.

In short, Mr. Heger, we thank you for explaining the traditions, and hope that people will respect them. But don't insult your fellow Aggies' intelligence by offering such a poor reason for these traditions.

—George Callagher, '79
—Mike Tissue, '80

P.S. Since the field is so flammable, Coach Bellard, please don't smoke your pipe on the field during practice for the safety of the team.

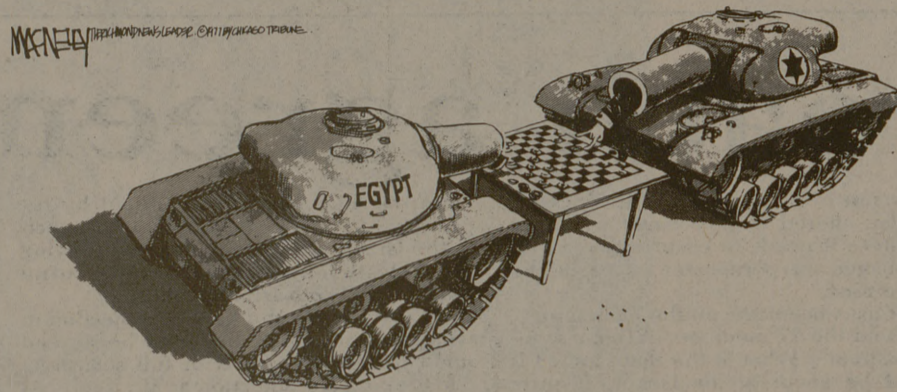
Ramps not for bikes

Editor: In response to Doug Luecke's two cents worth in November 16 Batt, and I quote "...don't walk in the bike paths or on the bike ramps, they were put there exclusively for bikes."

Now I don't ride a bike around campus. Personally I never really needed one. I'm sure its hard on the bike rider to have to jump a curb, and its aggravating to have pedestrians blocking bike paths. Now as to the exclusive rights to the ramps, I've got word from extremely reliable sources that the ramps main purpose is to serve the handicapped. That is to be more precise, the wheelchair students.

By the way, have you ever tried to jump a curb in a wheelchair? If you have any further questions on the ramps, I'd suggest you contact the university safety office.

—Timothy P. Beavers, '79



Helms tells no tales

Richard Helms, the former chief of the CIA, seems to have found a way out of a predicament that was embarrassing to everyone concerned.

By pleading no contest to two misdemeanor charges of failing to tell the whole truth to a congressional committee—as opposed to the felony charge of perjury that might have been lodged against him—he avoided a trial. Thus, both he and the government were relieved of the responsibility for revealing classified information that could have damaged the national interest.

Most Americans probably agree with President Carter's judgment that the charge finally brought by the Justice Department "upholds the law but also serves the interests of national security." But there is a dissenting view that no one, not even the CIA director, should lie to a congressional committee.

What effect will the Helms case have on future CIA and other secret-carriers? Probably they will do the same and take their chances, as most spies do anyway. It is unfortunate that a man like Mr. Helms, who had served honorably—despite some egregious lapses of his agency—should have let himself be ensnared in false testimony. But it is also bad that U.S. policy required him to do that.

Providence Journal-Bulletin



Top of the News

Campus

Class schedules ready

Class schedules for the spring semester are due for delivery today to the Registrar's office, first floor of the Coke Building.

KAMU-TV recognized

KAMU-TV, Texas A&M University-owned and managed educational television station, was singled out for recognition this year by the American Council for Better Broadcasts (ACBB) for the station's financial support of "Outstanding programs." The ACBB this year recognized 10 corporations and three foundations in addition to KAMU-TV Channel 15, which was the only television station cited. The Texas A&M facility was chosen for its support of the special "Coustean: One in Space." KAMU-TV was joined by Friends of Cousteau Society, Ford Foundation, Public Broadcasting Service and Corp. for Public Broadcasting in that particular special.

State

Women's conference strikes emotion

The National Women's Conference endorsed abortion, sex education and lesbian rights Sunday amid emotional appeals pro and con, sign waving and a burst of balloons emblazoned with the gay slogan, "We are everywhere." The feminists proposals "reproductive freedom" and "sexual preference" divided the 2,000 delegates in Austin, more severely than any of the other previous proposals adopted by the historic conferences — including the Equal Rights Amendment. Debate was also characterized by complaints of pushing and shoving at the microphones where women gathered by the scores seeking to speak.

Nation

Media combinations backed

Newspapers and broadcasts are making a last stand in the Supreme Court against an order threatening breakup of up to 150 media combinations in 44 states. A small blitz of briefs in Washington has descended on the justices as the court prepares to hold oral arguments on a U.S. Court of Appeals order requiring newspapers to sell television or radio stations they own in the same city where they publish. Cross-ownership in Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, St. Louis, Washington D. C., Shreveport, La., and New York could be affected by the outcome of the Supreme Court.

Editorials praise Sadat

American newspaper editorials Sunday praised Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Israel. One editorial suggested if Sadat's mission fails another Middle East war could result. The Pittsburgh Press said Sadat "showed exceptional courage" to go before the Israeli parliament. It added, "The act was courageous because it appears to have been initiated by President Sadat alone among the Arab nations and their leaders." The Columbus Ohio Dispatch labeled Sadat's visit a "bold and dangerous initiative that could break the diplomatic logjam and move Israel and Egypt closer to a durable peace settlement."

Junk food junkie details life

A self-confessed junk food junkie says more than half the food a U.S. consumer eats each year is junk, and America is the first nation in history to have the problem of malnutrition among the rich. Michael S. Lasky begins "The Complete Junk Food Book" by briefly detailing from childhood the formation of a lifetime habit: "The pimply 18-year-old made a tearful confession. He was fired, as the owner put it, for 'the worst kind of thievery there is — taking candy from the mouths of babes.'"

World

Portugese jetliner crashes, kills 125

A Portugese jetliner overshot a runway in heavy fog, plunged more than 200 feet off a cliff and exploded in flames on a rocky beach below, killing 125 people, officials said today. Officials said 39 people, including four children aged 4 to 10, survived the crash of the Boeing 727 jet carrying 164 passengers and crew of at least five nationalities to the Madeira Islands from Brussels, Belgium. No Americans were aboard Portugese TAP Flight 425, officials said. The crash was the first involving passenger casualties in TAP's 25-year history.

Thousands attend Mexico's parade

Thousands of Mexico City dwellers turned out on a bright, spring-like Sunday to see a colorful, traditional parade celebrating the 67th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Mexico's President Jose Lopez Portillo, speaking from the central balcony of the National Palace on the Zocalo, Mexico City's main plaza inaugurated the National Sport and Cultural Games of the Mexican Revolution.

Weather

Mostly cloudy and cool today and tomorrow with northeasterly winds 10-15 mph. High today upper 50s. Low tonight high 40s. High tomorrow mid 60s. 30 percent chance of rain.

The Battalion

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

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