

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Friday
January 20, 1978

Top of the News

Campus

Library tours to be held

Beginning Jan. 23, students may begin signing for tours to be offered at the Sterling C. Evans Library. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the first floor of the library, across from the circulation desk. Tours of the library will be offered from Jan. 30 through Feb. 10 at various times throughout each day.

State

FBI criticism made 'unjustly'

Former Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr says an FBI official's criticisms about Carr's report on the investigation of President John Kennedy's assassination were made unjustly and should not have been kept secret. An Oct. 8, 1964 memorandum from Alan Belmont, assistant to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, dismissed Carr's 3,000-word report as a "self-serving apologetic treatise" on the actions of Texas authorities following the assassination. In the memorandum, Belmont also said Carr's document added nothing to what was already known. The memorandum was contained in FBI files released Wednesday in Washington.

Nation

Airplane crash investigated

Frontier Airlines says the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate a training jet crash, which killed three Frontier employees in Pueblo, Colo. "There was no voice recorder aboard the plane, so we are checking with control tower personnel to help us determine what might have caused the crash," Frontier spokesman Bob Schulman said Wednesday. Schulman said the plane, a deHavilland Twin Otter Prop-jet, crashed and exploded shortly after 3 p.m. Wednesday. Schulman said it was not known who was piloting the plane when it crashed. He identified the victims as Capt. Jack Howell, 48, and pilot trainee Dennis A. Meyer, 34, both of Denver, and Capt. Dale L. Glenn, 35, Aurora.

Economy grew little in 1977

The nation's economy, slowed by reluctance of wary businessmen to restock shelves, grew by only 4.9 percent last year compared to six percent in 1976, the Commerce Department said today. The Gross National Product, measure of the nation's overall goods and services, slowed to a 4.2 percent growth rate in the fourth quarter compared to 5.1 percent in the third quarter. CNP growth also slowed in the second quarter. Americans went on a buying spree last year and many businesses were wary of restocking at year's end, the department said.

World

Italian premier appointed

President Giovanni Leone re-appointed acting Premier Giulio Andreotti yesterday to form Italy's next government, opening a round of tough negotiations between the ruling Christian Democrats and the Communist Party determined to increase its power. Leone named Andreotti, 59, after three days of consultations with the nation's political party leaders and four days after Andreotti's previous Washington-backed Christian Democratic government fell under Communist pressure.

Israel's Begin makes promise

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin pledged yesterday if U.S. mediation efforts succeed in restoring the broken off Middle East peace talks he will refrain from making public statements that could harm the negotiation process. He said, however, it must be on a basis of reciprocity, adhered to also by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Begin made the comments at a joint news conference with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance following a 75-minute meeting with the American mediator on issues that Vance was to take to Sadat in Cairo today.

Weather

Cloudy and cold today, tonight and tomorrow. High today mid-30's, low tonight low-20's. High tomorrow in the mid-30's. Winds out of the northeast at 5-10 mph. Thirty percent chance of rain and possibly snow tonight and Saturday. Partly cloudy and cold on Sunday.

The Battalion

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Arab royalty can't buy peace

Oil-rich Arab nations have developed a style all their own for flaunting their wealth before the rest of the world. But Saudi Arabia may have reached the limit in "Name your price" diplomacy.

Saudi Arabia's King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd have offered to buy land from Israel to form a Palestinian homeland, the Associated Press reported Wednesday. A Middle East newspaper reported Tuesday that the Saudi leaders made the offer to President Jimmy Carter during his recent tour to the country.

Khaled and Fahd told Carter, "You try to solve the Palestinian problem and we are ready to give you all the oil you want," according to that newspaper account.

Now isn't that wonderful? One has to be reminded of a wealthy father who, upon finding two children fighting over a single toy, says, "Now, now, I'll buy you each a toy, so you won't have to fight anymore."

Certainly, any solution that could possibly bring peace to that troubled part of the world is worth considering. But this idea is somewhat akin to the Saudis trying to buy the moon. Of course they probably just haven't thought of that yet.

The Jews spent quite a few centuries trying to find a place they could call their own. When they did in Israel, they had to fight dearly to keep it. The disputed land, the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip, the Israelis paid for not in cash, but in blood. They're not likely to give them up at any price.

Even if the Saudis or anyone could just give that land to the Palestinians, all problems would not be solved. One of the major stumbling blocks to present peace efforts is the tenacity with which Palestinian extremists stick to one and only one goal: to destroy Israel. A Palestinian homeland won't bring peace if it becomes a base from which the Palestinians launch attacks on Israel.

No, unless the Palestinians and the Israelis can solve their ideological disputes, a Palestinian homeland is no solution.

On the other hand, maybe King Khaled would be interested in a few acres south of Bryan.

L.R.L.



Jimmy Carter



Prince Fahd

Between the lines of the treaties

By JOHN D. WEAVER

With the start of the new year President Carter plans to step up his campaign for the passage of the proposed Panama Canal treaties through the U.S. Senate. The president has dispatched Secretary of State Vance and Secretary of Defense Brown across the nation to "inform" the public about the giveaway. I agree with the president that the mass public knows very little about the treaties. That is the only point in which we agree. It is my feeling that the people would be even more opposed to this continued retreat than they are at the present.

Readers Forum

The first point that should be secured is that the Panama Canal Zone is sovereign U.S. territory. We made payments of \$70 million to Panama, \$40 million to France and \$25 million to Colombia for their respective interests in the zone. Private property in the area was purchased at a cost of \$166,362,173. All of this for a 648 square-mile area. If this "stealing" as many people claim then it was the most benevolent theft in history. Besides U.S. ownership, the United States has a legal right to remain in the canal zone "in perpetuity" and "as if it were sovereign," according to the 1903 treaty with Panama. This treaty is quite clear in meaning and far less ambiguous than the Carter-Torrijos pact. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld American sovereignty in the 1907 Wilson vs. Shaw case. It was reaffirmed in 1972.

Not only are we giving the Panamanian dictator our canal, which is presently



worth about \$7 billion, but we are paying him to take it. American taxpayers will be obligated to pay Gen. Torrijos about \$50 million a year plus about \$350 million in economic and military aid! Our tax dollars will be going in military aid to a Marxist dictator. This will only solidify his already tight hold as one of the most repressive regimes in Latin America. Freedom House, the respected organization which ranks countries on the basis of human rights, rated Panama on the same scale as the Soviet Union and even lower than Cuba. What has the Carter Administration said about human rights in Panama? The president has gone out of his way to praise General Torrijos, calling him an "enlightened dictator."

Perhaps the biggest falsehood coming out of Washington is that the canal is no

longer vital to the security of the United States. The president and his aides claim that the canal is too small for today's ships and that the canal is out of date. For the record, there are only 13 ships in the U.S. Navy that cannot use the canal and 96 percent of the world's vessels are capable of using the canal. Now with the U.S. Navy committed to the "mini-carrier" concept, the day may come when every ship in the U.S. Navy may use that waterway. Another important fact is the current role of the Navy. The United States does not have a two-ocean navy and the canal is a vital link in our outnumbered one-ocean navy.

While the canal is extremely important for our security it is also of extreme importance to the economy of this country. Sixty-eight percent of the shipping through the canal is either destined for or

coming from the United States. One third of all U.S. shipping through the canal is energy in some form. Once the Alaska pipeline reaches its full capacity, it will yield 1.2 million barrels of oil a day. The west coast can accommodate only 700,000 barrels a day. The remaining 500,000 barrels will go to the east or Gulf Coast. Since there is no pipeline across the U.S., the fastest way is by tanker through the canal. This oil will be vital to our energy needs.

Why put our energy lifeline in the hands of a Marxist dictator who has already broken the present treaty eleven times in the past two years?

One of the most important aspects of the pacts is that a Soviet warship would have the same rights as a U.S. Naval vessel even in time of war or national emergency. This fact is never discussed by Carter's truth squad. Perhaps they do not want to mention this or the fact that candidate Jimmy Carter "promised" not to give away the Panama Canal. According to Time (August 22, 1977, page 11), Jimmy Carter promised the American people he would never surrender "complete or practical control" of the canal. So much for Jimmy Carter's promises.

The battle for the canal is raging. Every citizen can have an impact. Remember, there is no Panama Canal! There is an American Canal at Panama! Lets keep our canal.

John Weaver is a freshman journalism and political science major and is vice president of Texas A&M Young Americans for Freedom. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and do not necessarily represent those of this paper.

So you're not used to snow

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — It's mid-January and much of the nation is again being blanketed with ice and snow and winter safety tips.

Since winter occurs every year, rain or shine, you might think that after so long a

The Lighter Side

time - say a millennium or two - people would begin to get the hang of it. No way.

Learning to cope with winter is nothing like learning to ride a bicycle, a skill that once mastered is never lost.

During the off-season, the little tricks that see us safely through the winter fade

from memory and must be assimilated all over again.

Example: The other evening I heard a disc jockey reading a list of winter safety tips. They included a reminder that it's safer to fall down in the snow than it is to fall down on ice.

Optimally, we would remember from one winter to the next that snow is softer than ice. But the facts of winter life always seem to take us by surprise. And so the tips must be repeated with the advent of each new blizzard.

Before the snow gets any deeper and the ice any harder, here a few other survival rules that it might be useful to relearn:

Falling Down - The main reason so many people are injured in wintertime falls is because they are out of practice.

There are several good practice falls that

will help keep arms, legs and other limbs in condition to absorb impacts with ice and snow without fractures.

These include tilting over backward in rocking chairs, dropping through old hammocks whose fabric has rotted and hearing coarse language that causes one to swoon.

Driving - Because city streets are frequently coated with ice and snow in winter, motorists need to learn to drive on salt.

The most important thing to bear in mind is that a salty street may cause one's brakes to pucker, making it difficult to come to a smooth stop.

Insulation - Medical science has established that up to 41.7 percent of our bodily heat may be lost through failure to wear well-insulated eyeglasses.

"The notion that bifocals will keep your

eyes warmer is mostly myth," one specialist reports. "For maximum protection from the cold, you need thermal pane lenses."

Safety experts also recommend batting the eyes less frequently in winter, particularly if one has long eyelashes. Sweeping lashes produce a fanning effect that draws cold air into the eye sockets.

Women especially should avoid coquettish encounters that induce rapid batting.

Since warm air rises, it is helpful to scowl a lot in winter. Scowling keeps eyebrows at a low level, which is the best angle for retaining the heat given off by the eyeballs.

Avoid astonishing or shocking situations that cause the eyebrows to arch.

And remember that on the average brown eyes are warmer than blue.

A ticket alternative

Editor:

After sitting in the endzone three long years, this is one junior who is damn tired of it! I feel I have an alternative idea that merits close inspection by the Senate.

Since the first two digits of the I.D. number indicate the year that a student enters the university, why not use the I.D. for ticket distribution. Any transfer student, graduate or undergraduate, who has not previously attended A&M, should receive freshman tickets his first year, sophomore tickets his second year and so on. Like in the Corps, it is not fair for someone who's frogging into the university to get full privileges (in this case ticket privileges.)

This idea makes it fair for all the leggies who have been here since they were freshmen, sucking it up on the sidelines.

waiting for their chance to be an upperclassman and get good tickets.

This also brings to mind another beef. In the upperdeck there are several rows of so-called consideration seats. The idea behind this must have been thought up by a teasp. I feel that any graduate student or any student for that matter who thinks they are too good to stand up or follow any other of our traditions should be placed on the track regardless of rank...I realize and approve of someone who is not physically able to stand be able to receive these tickets.

I realize my ideas about the ticket distribution will probably receive a lot of flak, but I bet I can guess who from.

Let's here some responses, both bad and good on my ideas. I would like to know where everyone stands on this issue.

—Gus Wilson, '79

