

Post Office price tag

Postmaster General Benjamin Bailar naturally may be somewhat concerned about the increasing talk within Congress about taking away one of the independence granted the Postal Service in the reorganization of 1971. But in a recent rebuttal of some of the proposals coming forth, Bailar seemed to be locking himself into the proposition that only constantly increasing rates and service cuts can keep postal operations afloat.

That is exactly the attitude which is prompting the unrest in Congress. Bailar says he opposes the idea of more than federal subsidies to the Postal Service because that would "have individual citizens paying the bill for what is mainly a service to business."

But at the same time Bailar said "You can't wish away all of the rising costs and other economic trends. You can't wish that it didn't cost \$16 billion a year to run the Postal Service."

It isn't a case of wishing away the problem. It is a question of how to prevent further deterioration in an essential form of communication.

Biddeford Maine Journal Tribune

Edwards puts campaign on the road

By JIM CRAWLEY

DIXIE CHICKEN — Off to one side of the near empty Dixie Chicken, Chet Edwards, candidate for the Sixth Congressional race, begins to outline his attempt to win the Democratic spot for the November election.

Politics

While a campaign aide drinks beer from a longneck and twirls his Aggie senior ring on the tabletop, Edwards points out the essential element of his campaign. Organization.

Edwards, a former assistant to retiring Congressman Olin "Tiger" Teague, has been campaigning for the nomination since early October. Since then he has built an organization of campaign workers and friends which Edwards hopes will provide a base to win the May 6 primary.

The 26-year-old candidate has campaign staffs and workers in all eleven counties containing portions of the district. The nucleus of his organization is a mix of

eager, young adults and politically mature Teague supporters. These campaign workers conducted a workshop in January to discuss strategy and campaign tactics for the final three months of the primary campaign.

"We can out-work, out-organize, and hopeful, out-innovate the other candidates. We may not be getting a lot of money like some candidates, but we're going out there and out-working the other candidates," says Edwards.

This grassroots campaign will be aimed at the average citizens of the district. While he hopes to receive a lot of his support from young people within the district, Edwards can't discount the value of the farmer and the suburban vote. Young voters have traditionally had poor turnout at the polls, while the rural voter is usually present on election day.

The Sixth makes it difficult to have an effective campaign without a broad-based organization. The 200-mile district is not conducive to a mass media campaign that is within the financial reach of the average congressional candidate. Buying television time in Bryan has no effect on voters in the

Dallas suburbs. While in the multi-district Dallas-Ft. Worth area, a candidate's commercials would be lost in the myriad of political proclamations on the boob tube.

Additionally, TV, radio, and newspaper ads are expensive. Multiply this with the large region to be covered and the results point toward an \$100,000-plus media blitz or a broad, well-organized grassroots campaign.

Back in the Dixie Chicken, Edwards continues to express his ideas for innovation in his campaign. In the near future, Edwards will begin a series of small parties called "Chili and Chips and Chat with Chet." This tongue-twister and his cousin, "Chet-Chat," his campaign newsletter, are examples of Edwards' attempts to out-innovate the opposition.

Another essential element of the Edwards campaign is his push for former Teague supporters and the support, if not the endorsement, of the retiring congressman.

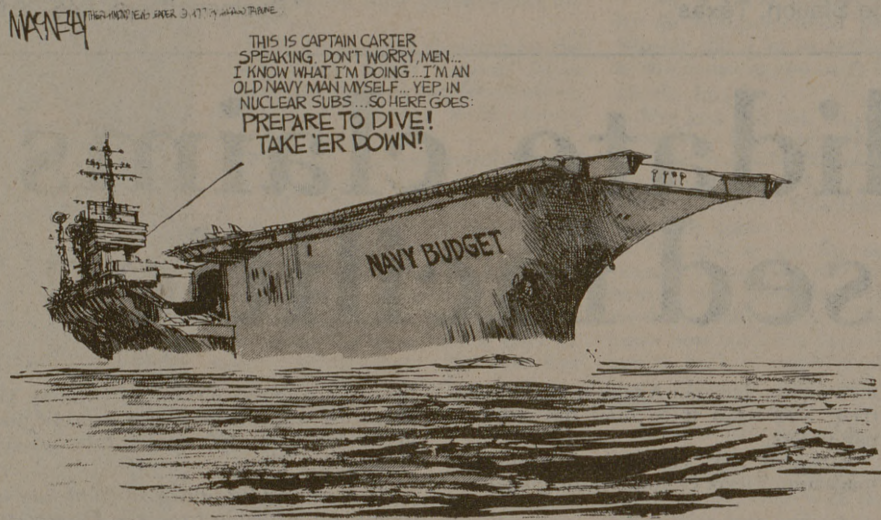
There is little doubt that there is a connection between Teague and Edwards. Even if it is superficial. One must remember that Edwards was a staff member in Teague's office. Edwards drafts a high

priority on reminding the voters of this connection with Teague.

Last month, Teague spoke in support of Edwards. This can't be construed as an endorsement in the truest sense. Teague has taken great pains to make clear his refusal to officially endorse anyone in the primary. But he has also repeatedly lent kind words of encouragement and friendship to Edwards. This apparent support has been noticed by politicians, the press and the other candidate.

This unofficial support can only help Edwards. While a picture of Teague standing next to a candidate for the nomination might gain some support from the voters, a statement from Teague saying, "Chet Edwards is experienced, and he is exactly the right age to be elected to Congress," can be a prayer for Edwards. Not because it will draw the average voter. Instead, it could convince many long-time Teague backers to come off the fence and throw their support behind the youthful candidate.

These long-time Teague supporters could be the key to a successful campaign organization, and the Democratic position on the November ballot.



Mexican star visits Brownsville

Vincente Fernandez — a star of cinema, radio, television and stage in Mexico — arrives in Brownsville Wednesday for his first appearance as "Mr. Amigo" of this year's Charro Days celebration. Fernandez will participate in the Fiesta Folklorico Pageant at Sams Memorial Stadium Wednesday night and will be honored at several other events during the Charro Days fiesta which ends next Sunday. Approximately 90 elementary school pupils will perform 23 original Mexican dances at the Folklorico.

Murder suspects flown to Houston

Two suspects in the Houston slaying of three persons during a \$200,000 jewelry robbery-abduction agreed to waive extradition from Colorado where they were arrested, police said Tuesday. Mark L. Cass, 22, and David A. Roeder, 20, both of Houston, have been charged with capital murder in the triple slaying last week. The pair were flown back to Houston early Tuesday. The bodies of Dr. William S. Fitzpatrick, Donald C. Fantich and jewelry store owner Georgina M. Rose were found near Shiner, Texas, Saturday. All three had been shot in the head.

Candidate says Carter 'helpful'

Jim Baker III, a Houston attorney who is running unopposed in the Republican primary for state attorney general, said Tuesday the Carter Administration's "continued betrayal of Texas" will help his campaign. The former undersecretary of commerce told capitol reporters Texas chief legal officer should be independent of the political powers that rule the state. Baker, who managed former President Ford's 1976 presidential campaign, faces Democratic opponents former Secretary of State Mark White and former House Speaker Price Daniel Jr. for the post vacated with Attorney General John Hill's gubernatorial candidacy announcement.

New astronauts introduced

Space agency officials in Houston Tuesday formally introduced 35 new astronauts, including the first six women and three blacks. The introductions were made on the 20th anniversary of the launch of America's first satellite, Explorer 1. The trainees bring to 108 the astronauts picked since the space program began. They join 27 active astronauts. In addition to the newness of women and blacks, there was a liberal sprinkling of long hair, mustaches and beards — uncommon in previous selections — among the 15 pilots and 20 mission specialists. Some of the new astronauts will make their first flights in 1981 aboard the shuttle.

Nation

Oil spill threatens Gulf coast

Thousands of gallons of crude oil oozed into the Gulf of Mexico Tuesday from a 300-foot barge that suffered an 8-foot gash in a collision with an oilfield supply boat. The spill was about 20 miles from the south Louisiana coast near the entrance to the Atchafalaya Bay. Coast Guard spokesman A. T. Wolf said most of the 220,000 gallon load of No. 6 crude oil was lost in the spill. It was classified as a "major oil spill" and pollution threat by the Coast Guard. No injuries were reported in the collision, which occurred early Tuesday about 40 miles southwest of Morgan City. Wolf said a 20-knot wind was pushing the oil steadily away from shore.

Carter to answer canal questions

President Carter will go on television at 9 p.m. EST Wednesday to answer major questions raised by opponents of the Panama Canal treaties, the White House said Tuesday. "He plans to bring up the most frequently raised questions" regarding the treaties "and will respond directly," said deputy press secretary Rex Granum. Such questions include U.S. defense and emergency warship passage rights to the canal if Panama takes it over in the year 2000. The fireside chat will be delivered from the White House library.

Fire destroys historic theater

A glittering segment of Atlanta's history went up in flames Monday when fire destroyed Loew's Theater. The height of the theater's glory occurred when Rhett Butler abandoned Scarlett O'Hara for the first time in the 1939 premier of "Gone With the Wind." The fire, which started on the top floors of the seven-story building, spread to the adjacent Continental Insurance Building, causing heavy damage to the top floors of that structure. Fire authorities said at least eight firemen suffered minor injuries in the blaze. The cause of the fire at the 85-year-old building has not been determined.

Pop group member dies

Gregory Delano Herbert, saxophonist of the American Blood, Sweat and Tears pop group, died in Amsterdam early Tuesday, said a spokesman for the group. He was 30. Herbert was found dead in his Park Hotel room, and "it could be a case of an overdose of drugs," said a spokesman for the police drugs squad. The squad found a small quantity of heroin and cocaine and also a few injection needles in the room. A concert scheduled for Tuesday night was canceled, and the rest of the European tour, which was to include Britain and France, was uncertain, the spokesman said.

Weather

Cloudy with little change in temperature today, tonight or Thursday. Intermittent drizzle or light rain today, increasing Thursday. High today low to mid 40's, low tonight mid-30's. High tomorrow mid-40's. Winds from the Northeast at 10-15 mph. 20 percent chance of rain today increasing to 50 percent tomorrow.

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.

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Ag breakthrough: animal masonry

By DICK WEST

In the onward and upward march of scientific husbandry, agricultural researchers have confirmed that eating cement dust causes cattle to gain weight faster than normal.

The phenomenon was first observed by some Georgia farmers who were feeding the stuff to their cattle as a mineral supplement.

Although later experiments produced similar results, the Agricultural Department

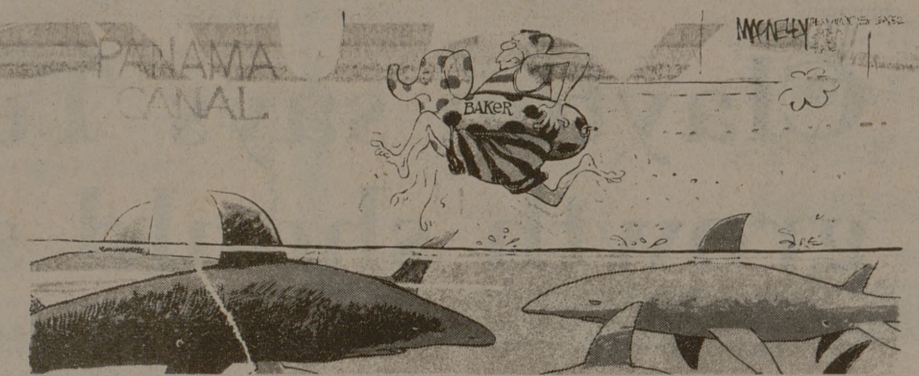
The Lighter Side

ment cautions farmers against adding cement dust to cattle feed pending further study.

The department said in a press release that its scientists still weren't certain why dust-fed cattle put on pounds faster than those on conventional diets.

The department said in a press release that its scientists still weren't certain why dust-fed cattle put on pounds faster than those on conventional diets.

I know a fellow down the road, Fermus McAugur, who raises cattle, so I asked him what he thought caused the weight



acceleration. He led me out to a split-rail fence behind the barn.

"See those cows out in yonder meadow," he said, waving toward a low herd. "How much do you reckon they weigh?"

"Not very much," I replied. "They're so thin you can count their ribs."

"Thin, yes," McAugur agreed, "but they outweigh those fat cows over in the other pasture by about 50 pounds."

"Land o' Goshen!" I marveled. "Whatever do you feed them that makes them become heavier without getting fat?"

"Bricks," McAugur cried triumphantly. It seems that about six weeks ago McAugur had built a new indoor steam bath and no longer needed the old brick sauna that stood in back of the house. So he leveled the structure with a sledgehammer and fed the pieces to his cows.

Letters to the editor

Get the grade before giving the service

Editor:

Many of us go from day to day at Texas A&M with the realization or fear that this semester we may blow it (academically). That we may become scholastically deficient. The real nightmare would be to post sub-2.000 grades while holding a student services office; to have it made known to all around you and your position taken away.

No matter how you look at it the situation Mr. Harvey, our Student Government President, finds himself is indeed an unenviable one and I feel for him deeply. However, we and Robert Harvey should remember what we are here for. Texas A&M University is a school of higher education. The Student Government, although being a helpful input point for student concerns and a learning experience for those who are its members, it should

not overshadow the reason students are here. Nor should other extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, school publications, interest groups, etc.

Mr. Harvey owes this student body the right: 1) to be proud of its elected officials, and 2) to take upon himself the responsibility for doing what is morally and ethically right. Although GPR is normally a personal matter, as in most things it becomes public when one accepts the responsibility of elected office.

Mr. Harvey accepted the responsibility of being an elected official. He should have enough pride in his university and student body, and sense of responsibility to have kept up a 2.000. Such a requirement we can all agree is indeed minimal, easy enough to meet, and liken to the performance to be expected from elected officers. Mr. Harvey by not resigning when

he did not post a 2.000 last semester is shirking the responsibilities he accepted by serving in the Student Government (if not by the letter of the constitution, certainly by the spirit of it). Mr. Harvey's stating that the constitution is unclear on this point is simply avoiding the issue and avoiding his responsibility both to the student body and to his own conscience.

Again I want to reiterate that I sympathize with the situation of Mr. Harvey. However, no one in public office, especially the Student Government President should be able to hold office while posting poor grades. The responsibility of Mr. Harvey and any other Student Government officers who may be scholastically deficient, is clearly to resign and give some credence to the assertion that the Student Government is a responsible student services unit, lead by mature men and women. To do otherwise would put a scar on the Student Government, the office of Student Government President and the University itself.

— Scott Lane, '81

Attorneys helpful

Editor:

For almost two years now my husband and I have been in a legal dispute with Darby's Garage. Not being able to settle our problems we contacted the student legal advisor — Chris Kling.

During the past week, we were represented by Mr. Kling in County Court in an effort to collect damages we felt were a result of Mr. Darby's negligence. As it turned out, Mr. Darby offered to repay us for our losses just as the jury was about to

deliberate following two days of testimony. So we came away even.

In our opinion, Chris Kling, who is an Aggie himself, is a fine representative for A&M. The services he and his partner, Sonny, offers to all students are very valuable.

We wanted other students to know about our legal advisors who not only do a wonderful job, but also do not charge for the valuable services they offer.

— Tish Husak

Assaults covered?

Editor:

This letter is in reference to Charlie Andrews' article, "Rape Overlooked," in Monday's *Battalion*. Charlie holds a very good point! I know of one such attempted rape that occurred last semester, resulting in serious injury to an A&M student. This was kept out of the Batt even though the victim freely offered the information.

I realize that this case, and probably others similar to it, may have been "banned from the Batt" with the intention of keeping the record clean! These things do happen, I'm sorry to say, and not printing them doesn't change the facts.

I believe that A&M's student body and faculty deserve to read about these things for their own benefit. Charlie, I'm glad to see someone taking a stand on the subject.

— Mark Brenckman, '80

Ed. note: The *Battalion* does not have a policy to exclude stories concerning rape and assault on campus. Incidents brought to our attention and substantiated by factual information are considered, and only an editor's decision would "ban" their release.

