

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 1978

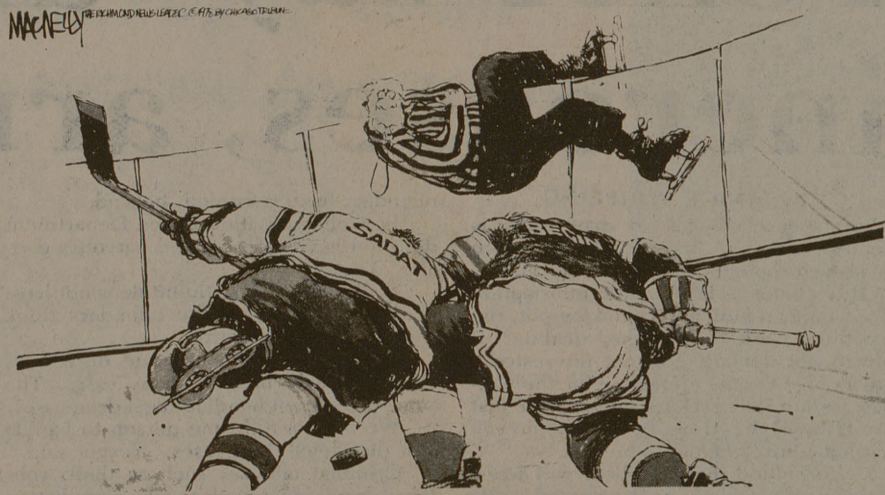
Israel's Begin puts peace on hold

The simmering dispute between the United States and Israel over whether President Carter was given an Israeli commitment not to establish new civilian settlements in occupied Arab territories is in large measure irrelevant to the central problem that the settlements — new or old — present.

As a matter of international law, under the Fourth Geneva Convention, the settlements are illegal. As a matter of practical political reality, Israel's insistence on permanent retention of the contested sites places a formidable and probably insurmountable barrier in the path of peacemaking. As a matter of timing and good-faith diplomacy, the recent expansion of the settlements policy — whatever name is given to it — is largely inexplicable and wholly retrogressive.

Now Israel faces the opportunity that it has long coveted — at least to begin making peace with its neighbors. And, confronted suddenly with the necessity for choice, confronted with a need to make good on its long-standing pledge that everything would be negotiable, Israel responds by saying that the settlements are established and irremovable facts, and that their future is not within the purview of negotiations. And then, to underscore this stance and intensify the irritant, Israel proceeds to expand its physical presence in the occupied territory.

There should be no doubt about the central importance of this issue. What is at stake in this controversy is not Prime Minister Menahem Begin's ability to deal with his domestic political problems. As we see it, what is at stake



ultimately and fundamentally is the sincerity and effectiveness of Israel's commitment to work toward a just and realizable peace.

Los Angeles Times

Godbey campaign keys on name

By JIM CRAWLEY

Ron Godbey is the proud owner of two traits that voters look for when they vote for any candidate.

First, the voter will look for a candidate that has a familiar name. This is a subconscious function that most people don't rec-

Politics

ognize. The second and more conscious voter clue is a similarity between the candidate and the voter.

Godbey, an attorney and former Fort Worth TV meteorologist with strong name identification in the northern half of the Sixth Congressional District, is considered by many political observers as one of the candidates likely to make a run-off in the May 6 primary. In 1976, Godbey campaigned against incumbent Olin E. "Tiger" Teague in the Democratic primary. Nearly 40 percent of the voters selected Godbey in 1976.

Name identification is probably the greatest asset to the Godbey campaign.

While he is knowledgeable on the issues and experienced on the campaign trail, it will be his years as a weatherman for KXAS-TV that voters remember. With half of the district's voters living in range of KXAS-TV, this name identification will drastically reduce the amount of money Godbey will have to spend getting his name known to the voters.

Godbey, 43, is trying to run his campaign on the shoelaces. While he collected only \$17,000 for the 1976 primary, he ran better against Teague than any recent Democratic opponent. This time the campaign chest for Godbey will probably be expanded since the race is fairly open.

Supposing Godbey gets campaign contributions totaling \$25,000, what can he do? According to Phil Gramm, another Democratic contender, it costs \$30,000 to send a letter to every voter in the district. Gramm and his staff are in the process of composing letters to each voter. So by his opponent's figures, Godbey may not be able to afford to send letters to all the voters. Political announcements are expensive, especially in a district that is 200 miles long and covers three major media markets.

Handshaking is the only political advertising that is cheap these days. But even the traditional handshake and kissing of babies can cost vast sums of money. To shake hands in every town in the district a candidate has to buy gas, food and lodging while on the campaign trail.

Godbey should also be able to attract votes from citizens looking for a candidate with a similar background as their own. Many voters want to see a congressman that would be able to sympathize with the constituents' problems.

Godbey may be the man that can relate to many of the district's voters. He cites experience in many fields other than meteorology and law. He claims experience in teaching, the military and politics. Godbey holds a teaching certificate and has taught college meteorology classes. He is also a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve, coming up in the ranks from private.

The last Democratic primary was Godbey's first adventure into politics. In that race against the now-retiring Teague, Godbey surprised many Teague backers by getting nearly 40 percent of the district vote. Godbey received an excellent turn-

out in the northern part of the district and lost the Texas A&M campus precinct vote by only three votes.

The Democrat believes the district needs a common man in its congressional seat.

"Needed is a congressman who understands you and your situation, a congressman you can trust, a congressman who believes in old-fashioned honesty and a congressman who genuinely wants to see the United States of America remain the hope and the envy of the rest of the world for another 200 years," reads the Godbey literature.

Physically speaking, Godbey could be your next-door neighbor. He prides himself with the idea that he is just like any other resident of the Sixth. He doesn't wear flashy clothes and doesn't try to hide the fact that he is the oldest candidate in the race. The only apparent difference between Ron Godbey and the next-door neighbor is Godbey is running for a seat in the House of Representatives.

Jim Crawley's political column now will be published on Wednesdays and Fridays to provide more extensive coverage of candidates.

Letters to the editor

Photo caption receives bad reviews

Editor:

Allow me to respond to the rhetorical question, "This is Art?", utilized as a caption for the photograph of a sculptural combine by Mr. David Vogel. (Battalion, Feb. 8, 1978). The answer is Yes! The question, incidentally, is at least fifty years out of date.

—John J. McDermott
Professor of Philosophy

...and again

Editor:

In last Wednesday's Battalion the front page picture of the sculpture exhibit at the Architecture Building had a caption under it that read, "This is Art?". I wish to address myself to this mentality:

Yes, it's true that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. But art is more than pretty flowers and majestic landscapes. It is ideas expressed in terms of form, color, texture, sound and movement. The innuendo of your caption, "This is Art?", not only limits the meaning of art, but perpetuates the aura of provincialism that prevails at A&M.

I will confess that I don't find the sculpture the cutest little thing I've ever seen. However, I do respect the piece as a meaningful work of art, and the sculptor, David Vogel, as well.

A&M began as a technical college with emphasis in the agricultural and mechanical fields, (no quarrel here). But A&M College grew in scope and numbers, and in 1963 acquired the name "Texas A&M University". Implicit in the word "university" is the assumption that the various disciplines work together to sustain a place of higher education. "University" comes from the word "universus", meaning all together or the whole. (Consider: How can the heart function without a liver? The eye without the brain?) The lack of artistic awareness that seems to abound at A&M raises the question then, of whether A&M is truly a university or just a glorified trade school.

Generally speaking, the administration has never been an avid supporter of the arts as a vital element of higher education at this University. And certainly not the new administration. The responsibility, therefore, falls to more grass roots levels of influence, namely the students and the individual

teachers. It saddens me that the Battalion, a student-run newspaper, does not appreciate this realization.

I believe the Battalion owes an apology to the artist, David Vogel, and perhaps to the ideals of higher education as well.

—P.C. Fleer, '79

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 27 other signatures of persons supporting the author's sentiments. It was not our intention to degrade Mr. Vogel's work, and it was unfortunate that the caption was run. The Battalion extends its apologies to Mr. Vogel and the arts.

Shuttle great

Editor:

I would like to compliment the University and the student senate on providing a useful service to the students.

I am referring to the new intra-campus bus system, which I found to be of great assistance during the rainy weather.

With our campus now covering over 5,100 acres, it is high time we got buses to take us from places like Zachry to the agriculture buildings across the tracks. During the rain, I was able to ride from Zachry to Rudder Tower and arrive on time and dry.

Bus drivers should be complimented, too. These drivers cover the entire route in under 20 minutes, and because of their promptness, and the efficient use of six buses, no one waits long.

Persons who oppose the program point out a high cost and low student benefits. However, I feel the estimated \$1.75 a student per semester cost — which comes out of our fees — is well worth it.

During baseball season consideration of expanding the route to stop at the new field would also increase student benefits.

I see the intra-campus system as a necessary asset to our growing University and this system should be continued.

—Scott Burton, '80

Bad representation

Editor:

I'm mad and you should be too. Wednesday night the student senate met and voted 26-24 to recommend that Student Body President Robert Harvey resign his office. Speaker of the Senate Bobby Tucker said, "One thing many people seemed to be hanging on to was the feeling of the senate...I feel like our voice has been heard."

Tucker is wrong. The senate voice has not been heard. One-third of the student senate did not attend the meeting. Twenty-seven of the people we elected to represent us did not have the decency or responsibility to attend this important

meeting. Those 27 votes easily could have changed the recommendation of the senate.

This emphasizes a problem in America as well as at Texas A&M. We elect people to represent us, to be our voice in government, and then we forget about them. We let politicians walk all over us. They spend our money and vote on matters the way they feel.

When Americans do not communicate with their elected officials, then the most important aspect of democracy fails. The two Texas senators have the highest rate of absenteeism in the entire senate. Every time these two men miss a session of the senate, we are not being represented, and the money we pay them is wasted.

The reason I am outraged with absenteeism in the student senate is that this is where we students learn basic democracy. If we do not care about our representation in college, then we will not care about our representation later.

Student senate members were not elected because of their popularity. They were elected to make decisions that affect everyone at this University daily. If you care in the slightest how University policy affects you, then find out who your representative is, and make sure he attends senate meetings. If he does not, make sure he hears about it. It is his responsibility to attend all meetings, and if he does not, you are the one who loses.

It is your duty and right as a citizen to check up on elected officials, from student government to federal government. Any time you oppose the actions of an elected official, write a letter, or make a telephone call. You may be surprised with the results. If the average citizen will let his elected representatives know now he feels, then democracy can work. Otherwise, democracy is simply an idea.

—Keith Taylor, '80

Correction

Editor:

In my letter, printed in the Feb. 9, 1978 issue of the Battalion, I inadvertently omitted a few words from a quote.

The quote was taken from the University "Blue Book." My letter read, "...at the time of elections and at least a 2,000 grade point ratio for the preceding summer terms..."

The quote should have read, "...at the time of the election or elections and at least a 2,000 grade point ratio 'or the preceding regular semester or the two preceding summer terms..."

I sincerely apologize to everyone concerned with the issue. The omission by no means affects my arguments as the pertinent portion was correctly quoted.

—Owen D. Massey, '79

TOP OF THE NEWS Campus

Spring Award forms available

Application forms for Spring Awards Programs may be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 310, YMCA Building. Applications must be filed with the Student Financial Aid Office no later than 5 p.m., March 1, 1978. Late applications will not be accepted.

Last day for Who's Who

Today is the last day for Who's Who students to sign up to schedule their pictures for the 1978 AggieLand. Deadline is 5 p.m., and sign-ups are at Barker Photography Studio. The second installment board payment for the 1978 Spring semester is due on or before Feb. 17. The amount is \$143.05 for the 7-day board plan and \$128 for the 5-Day Plan. Please pay now either at the Fiscal Office, Richard Coke Building or the Cashier's Office in the main lobby of the Rudder Center, to avoid penalty.

State

Millions for asbestos workers

More than 400 workers exposed to asbestos dust have been awarded an unprecedented \$20 million in an out-of-court settlement in Beaumont, but they still face health problems and possible death. The agreement reached Wednesday settles the largest personal injury suit filed against the federal government. However, the problems may not be over for the 445 workers exposed to the cancer-causing agent at a Tyler manufacturing plant. The workers originally sued for \$100 million. Officials of the Texas Chest Foundation said that as many as 300 of the 1,000 people who worked at the Tyler facility at various times could die of cancer. The foundation, which was in charge of a medical diagnostic program for the plant's former workers, said they will experience their worst health problems 15 to 30 years after exposure. The suit was filed against the government because the workers said it was the government's responsibility to ensure safe working conditions at the factory.

Snow closes many Texas schools

Many Easterners moved to Texas to bask in the much touted Sunbelt weather after years of suffering through blizzard conditions during winter. But such logic wore thin Thursday as north Texas was blanketed with several inches of ice and snow. Freezing rain and snow flurries once again snarled traffic throughout populous areas of north Texas and forced the closing of most schools in Dallas and surrounding sectors. The ice even forced officials to cancel, of all things, an ice hockey game in Dallas. Wednesday morning, Amarillo was the coldest city in the state with a 13 degree reading. The warmest temperature was 50 degrees at Brownsville.

Nation

Actor questioned as 'Strangler'

Police traced a telephone call from a babbling actor who apparently was exhausted or drugged and arrested him Wednesday on suspicion of being the Hillside Strangler of 12 women and girls — but there is little evidence he is the killer. Ned T. York, 37, was booked on suspicion of murder. York passed out while being questioned, giving contradictory and incoherent replies. Detectives waited for him to awaken to resume questioning. York has appeared in minor television parts, including a role as a villainous male nurse on a "Starky and Hutch" episode last year, according to the show's producers, but is little-known in the entertainment business. After searching York's home, a police source said, "We didn't find a thing — the place is clean as a whistle."

Daughter given sight by parents

Eileen Billington's parents gave her an extraordinary gift — her eyesight. In 1972 she lost her vision to keratoconus, a disease that turns the rounded cornea into a cone. But two years ago Mrs. Billington's mother died of cancer. Her eyes were removed and brought to Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia where one of her corneas was transplanted into her daughter's left eye. Last Saturday, Mrs. Billington's father died of heart failure. His eyes were removed and rushed to the eye clinic where, on Sunday, one of his corneas was transplanted to his daughter's right eye. It will be several weeks before she knows if the new transplant has taken, or whether the new cornea will be rejected or infected. "I have lots of optimism," said Mrs. Billington, "but it's just too early to predict the future."

World

Sadat briefs foreign leaders

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, saying he was still optimistic about working out a peace agreement with Israel, hoppedscotched from Britain to West Germany Thursday to brief leaders of those countries on his talks with President Carter in Washington. Sadat spent an hour talking with British Prime Minister James Callaghan in London before leaving for Hamburg, where he met West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He told a news conference at London's Heathrow Airport he believed his talks with Carter were a success and a Middle East peace agreement still can be worked out. Sadat reportedly received private assurances in Washington that Egypt will receive U.S. weapons for the first time.

Weather

Cloudy and cold today with continued cloudiness on Saturday. High today upper 40's, low tonight low 30's. High tomorrow upper 50's. Winds from the north at 5-10 mph, becoming southeasterly this afternoon. Cloudy and cool with showers on Sunday.

THE BATTALION

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Slouch

by Jim Earle



"GETTING THE FLU IS BAD, BUT WHAT GETS TO ME IS IT HAD TO HAPPEN ON MY TIME, ON THE WEEKEND!"