VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

THURSDAY **FEBRUARY 23, 1978**

City Hall's lost some history

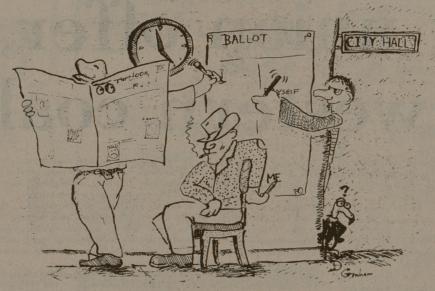
Luckenbach, Texas, has its return of the Mud Daubers. Capistrano awaits the arrival of the swallows, and each year the whole country anticipates the groundhog's forecast. College Station has for years celebrated its own annual waiting game, however lacking in national coverage. It's been christened 'The Filing of City Council Candidates.

As you may have guessed, College Station's historic time of tense anticipa-tion is a little unlike the others. It has felt the stab of governmental intrusion (the government always seems to want to regulate fun) and instead of Filing being an all-out one-day affair, it's stretched out over a couple of weeks. In the past, a few candidates would take advantage of the government-

imposed required Filing period and mosey in to put themselves on the ballot early. But, for the most part, instinct governed Filing, and that's why people gathered religiously at 4:45 p.m. on the last day to watch the candidates come to City Hall.

It was quite a sight. Potential candidates wandered in and nervously checked to see who had filed and what places were presently unopposed. They roamed the halls, watching any and every movement around the clerk's office. You could cut the tension with a knife as the minutes ticked by. Then, seconds before five, candidates-to-be raced the clock in a flurry of excitement to file for the most advantageous places on the ballot. It was a stirring rendition of historic political strategy

It's sad to think that those days may be gone. March 2 may go unnoticed this year. The ward system has taken much of the excitement out of Filing, since a candidate may only run for his ward's position or the mayor's seat. No chance of jockeying at the last minute for the easiest race. And, along with



the mayor's office, only half of the council's positions are up for election. City Hall, we may assume, will close quietly next Thursday, for Filing just ain't what it used to be. I.A.

Nuclear power cheaper than you think

By ROBERT PATLOVANY

From the recent SCONA discussions, it appears that there are a lot of very shabby arguments being used to fight the development of nuclear power in this country. It is time to review the popular ideas about nuclear energy and put them in

their proper perspective. First of all, many people think a nuclear power plant can explode like the "Little Boy" or "Fat Man" bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively, during World War II. That simply is not true. A power reactor has neither the shape nor the material to produce a bomb-like explosion. Both shape and material must be perfect to build a bomb. Yet Gov. Edmund Brown of California

told a Japanese journalist that he could not understand how Japan could feel so totally used to the idea of nuclear powered elec tricity after Nagasaki and Hiroshima. If you feel bad about what the U.S.A. did to Japan, consider the following points about those devastating explosions.

From the losses of men required to capture Iwo Jima and Okinawa some estimates by the Pacific Command were that 1.5 million American soldiers would be

killed in the invasion of the Japanese homeland. Needless to say, the number of Japanese men, women and children de-stined to die in that attack would have been a similiar number

Each nuclear explosion over Japan killed about 8,000 people outright, with

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many dying later of burns, radiation sickness and cancer. However, Tokyo was fire-bombed more than once with napalm. In one of those raids alone, 12,000 people died quickly, with many dying later from the complications of serious burns.

Fire-bombing was something men un-derstood, but the pure terror of the un-knowns of the nuclear bomb capabilities scared Japan quickly into surrender. Shall we say that the use of nuclear explosives in World War II saved about 3 million lives total from both sides? It is a very reason-"able hypothesis."

Another thing that people have lost touch with is the fact that nuclear power is

cheaper than any other power generation method foreseen for the next 20 years. In the first half of 1975, oil, coal and nuclear power costs were 3.36, 1.75, and 1.23 cents per kilowatt-hour, respectively. ("Nuclear 43.6% Below Fossil Generating Costs in the First Half," INFO, Atomic Industrial Forum, Sept. 1975). Brown comes down hard against nuclear power, citing the high costs of waste reprocessing. He, too, is being unreasonable, since the waste reprocessing methods proposed will be less than 1 percent of the cost of nuclear

be less than 1 percent of the cost of nuclear power electricity. (A.S. Kubo and D.J. Rose, "Disposal of Nuclear Wastes," Sci-ence, 182, p. 1205, Dec. 21, 1975.) Something that few people realize is that the big cost of nuclear power is the interact, an another on the constant that is interest payments on the capital that is tied up in equipment. The cost of uranium could double or triple and few people would notice the difference in their light bill. The increased costs from security, enrichment, decommissioning, waste dis-posal and private insurance will be less than 10 percent of the costs.

Than 10 percent of the costs. While capital costs are practically con-stant for nuclear power, the fuel costs of coal represent from 50 percent to 60 per-cent of the total cost of its electricity. Kobert ratiovany nuclear engineering are the author's on those of this paper-

(L.F.C. Reicke, "The Economics of Nuclear Power," presented to the New York Society of Security Analysts, Aug. 27, 1975.) If the strip mining and other environmental air protection laws keep getting tougher, the doubling or tripling of coal prices will therefore be all too appar-ent in a comparable increase in light bills. Add those price increases to the increased cost of unionized coal about to be decided any day now. It is still hard to believe that many people like Congressman Udall be-lieve nuclear power is more expensive than coal. It just isn't so. Isn't it about time to be a little more

realistic about the risks of nuclear power? No one has ever been killed by anything to do with nuclear powered commercial electrical power. Aren't we maybe spending too much money already for safeguards? Don't ask me. Ask the children and grandchildren conceived of the 1.5 million GI's who would now be resting peaceful (dead) on Japanese soil if it weren't for E = mc2.

Robert Patlov and is a senior majoring in nuclear engineering and mechanical engi-neering. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and not necessarily

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Scholarship deadline nears

The application deadline for Spring Awards Scholarships is 5p. Wednesday. Application forms may be obtained from the Studer Financial Aid Office, room 310, YMCA Building. Applications must be filed with the Student Financial Aid Office. Late applications not be accepted.

STATE

Bullock labels Hill 'fatcat'

State Comptroller Bob Bullock called Attorney General John Hila "fatcat" on Wednesday and accused Hill of trying to mislead voters claiming he has widespread support in his campaign for governor h a news release from his Austin campaign headquarters, Bullock a and Will of his of the fatter of the super su cused Hill of being a "a fatcat in poor man's clothing." He said H has tried to deceive voters into thinking he has massive support has tried to deceive voters into thinking he has massive support from "the little people" by criticizing Briscoe for having \$40,000 in on-tributions of \$1,000 or more. "The truth is that John Hills list financial supporters looks more like a Cadillac salesman's route is than an army of typical Texans," Bullock said. "Nearly 70 percent all contributions John Hill has received came in chunks of \$50 or more. What's more, better than 90 percent of all his contribution have been for \$100 or more," he added. "I guarantee you that the more are the super terms of the super subject of the subject of the super super subject of the super super subject of the super sup average Texan doesn't have \$100 to give to a politician the likes John Hill."

Jogging causes stress injuries

The current preoccupation with jogging and distance running resulting in stress injuries from overuse of the feet, an orthoped surgeon said Wednesday in Dallas. Dr. Lowell Lutter of St. Pa Minn., addressing the annual meeting of the American Orthope Foot Society, said such injuries should be treated and will be cur with a flexible shoe insert. Lutter said an estimated 10 million Amer cans run five or more miles daily. "More than 60 percent of them a injured in any given year and a majority of these injuries are spra and strains of the foot, which receives the greatest stress in running he said. Lutter, an associate professor at the University of Minnes who competes in marathons, said foot problems account for 3 percent of the injuries, while knee problems account for 29 percent

NATION

Gays win fight for recognition

The leader of Missouri's gay activists said Wednesday the fight or recognition by the University of Missouri was won in practice log before a legal victory finally came by way of the U.S. Supreme Court Lawrence Eggleston, a homosexual on the staff of the University of Missouri's medical center in Columbia, Mo., said the seven-ye struggle has changed attitudes to such an extent that formal recognition of Gay Lib on campus would come as no shock. Discussion homosexual problems before university groups is commonplace, said. The Supreme Court Tuesday rejected the university sapeal a lower court order that requires recognition of Gay Lib as a stu group on the four University of Missouri campuses. The aniversity had argued that the presence of Gay Lib would be harmful to su dents coping with sex problems and would encourage violation of the state law against sodomy.

WORLD Israel wants to resume talks

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has proposed an in mediate resumption of Israeli-Egyptian peace talks and U.S. env Alfred Atherton is taking the proposal to Egypt. Atherton met will Begin Tuesday in Jerusalem. Begin proposed in the meeting that Israel and Egypt resume the military and political talks that has been stalled since January. "I made a suggestion to Assistant Sec tary Atherton that both the committees — the military and the polit cal — renew their deliberations, the military in Cairo and the polit cal in Jerusalem," Begin said. Although Begin is proposing in mediate resumption of the talks, diplomatic sources in Jerusal cited a recent statement by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat preclud ing such a development as long as a declaration of principles for a comprehensive Middle East settlement is not worked out.

California escapes the national scene

By David S. Broder

SAN FRANCISCO — The hills of California are green again, and the reservoirs of Marin County are full. Bumper stickers still proclaim, "Shower with a Friend," but now it's a gag, not a necessity. The great drought that threatened agriculture in this state and cause real con-

frozen New England for the weekend, then came back to face again the impasse of the coal talks. A President with depleted power, a union with broken leadership, an industry with antiquated equipment and management and a country buried under snow: That was the Washington scene.

attempt to govern this land. Walter Mondale of Minnesota went skiing last week in Vail, Colo. That is where Gerald Ford of Michigan vacationed before he found there was even better weather in Palm Springs.

self-discipline, who satisfies himself with an occasional dip into the southern clime but stays, mainly, in the chilly precinct he but stays, mainly, in the chilly precinct he an occasional dip into the southern clime but stays, mainly, in the chilly precinct he

there be some sense of linkage between the political capital in the East and the commercial-cultural population centers of the West. But this is the growth section of America, and one would think a President who hopes to last almost seven more years It is only a Jimmy Carter, with his rigid in the job would have his arms open to

cessions in the living habits of its sybaritic citizens is a thing of the past.

Now, it is the rain that is the worry here. Flash floods caused serious damage in parts of southern California and there is concern about erosion of the land that was burned over in last year's devastating drought-fires. But last week, at least, as this city sparkled in the sun and the warm winds dried the Los Angeles basin, weather was once again a problem for those poor devils back East who had not joined the westward migration as yet.

Indiana and Ohio — already victimized by the worst winter weather in a generation — faced a new crisis of disappearing

vestigative hearing did really judge that

the complaints against the distribution on campus of "Today's Student" were personal expressions against God? There are

15,000 copies of that publication (Vol. 1

No. 19) on campus that says he did. If he did, I am sorry I missed the hear-

ing. This country hasn't had anything like

that since the Salem witch trials. I would

have addressed this inquiry to "Today's

Student," only they do not have any type

Oh, by the way, I am a Christian and a

Editor's note: The paragraph referred to in "Today's Student" reads, "A loosely

organized coalition of student atheists

sharply protested the first few editions of

"Today's Student." However, in an inves-

tigative hearing before the Concessions

Committee headed by Ron Blatchley,

their protests were judged to be personal expressions against God, not containing

Blatchley said Wednesday that he had

"We did not have an investigative hear-

ing. It's just a committee hearing," Blatchley said. "Anybody coming before

that committee has the opportunity to present their request. We did not, nor

Blatchley expressed surprise at the ar-

just received a copy of the article and was

personally offended by the story.

would we ever, judge anybody.

Graduate student, chemistry

- Tom Steckel

proponent of a free and accurate press

of feedback section.

Letters to the editor

Editor

Commentary

But all this seemed a long way from the people of the Pacific coast, whose most pressing problem is how to divide the surplus in their state budgets. Much has been said and written about the Sunbelt vs. the Snowbelt divisions in American society. But words do not adequately convey the psychological distance that separates those who have flourished in these happy climes from those who are struggling in

less happy circumstances. The tug of the West is felt by almost all

coal supplies. Jimmy Carter went off to Americans, including the politicians who

worked so hard to make his official home.

They do not understand that out here. They find so much else about Carter equally puzzling. To judge by the conversation one hears in California. Carter might as well be the ruler of Ruritania as the President of the United States.

There is no sense that he speaks of, for or to the people of this part of the land. His broadcast press conferences and speeches are played at odd, inconvenient hours out here: his personal visits are so infrequent that he comes each time, it seems, as a stranger

his more formidable potential challengers. But viewed from this end of the conti-

nent, Carter is a small figure grappling with large problems whose immediacy is not felt here. He is something that happened to the government of the United States while Californians were looking elsewhere. They had no part in his creation and they feel little involvement in his fate — or in the struggles in which he is engaged.

He is — and most of Washington with him — as remote from their thoughts as last year's drought.

Rhodesians discuss black rule

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith said a blunt warning from former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger 17 months ago ended his hopes of keeping power in the hands of Rhodesia's white minorit Smith told the British Broadcasting Corporation Tuesday that a meeting with Kissinger in September 1976 left him with no doubts he would have to accept black majority rule or lose the support "of our friends in the free world." The Rhodesian prime minister is negotiated accepted to the support of the supp ing with three moderate black leaders for an "internal" majority-rule settlement, even though he once vowed he would never turn ove power to blacks in his lifetime. Smith said his current negotiation with the three black leaders could produce an agreement leading to a transitional government "within a couple of days or a couple of weeks." He warned this would be followed by the "long process" drafting a constitution to reach a final settlement.

WEATHER

Fair and mild days, cold nights today through Sunday. Partly cloudy and warmer on Monday. High today low 70s. Low tonight low 40's. High tomorrow upper 70s. Winds from the northwest at 10-15 mph.

THE BATTALION

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and av subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to cdit such letters and doe

number for verification. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor. The Battalion. Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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distribution of "Today's Student," and said he would take the matter up with the newspaper's campus representatives. In the interest of accurate journalism, could you please find out if Ron Blatchley and the Concessions Committee in an in

Sorry, no film

'Student' under fire

I want to apologize to the people who showed up for the Arts Committee film "The Mystery of Kasper Hauser" last Monday night. The film, through no fault of the Arts Committee, did not come in until Tuesday. The film company simply did not mail it in time. We are sorry if this inconvenienced anyone.

- Susie Turner Arts Committee Chairman

Taken again

Editor:

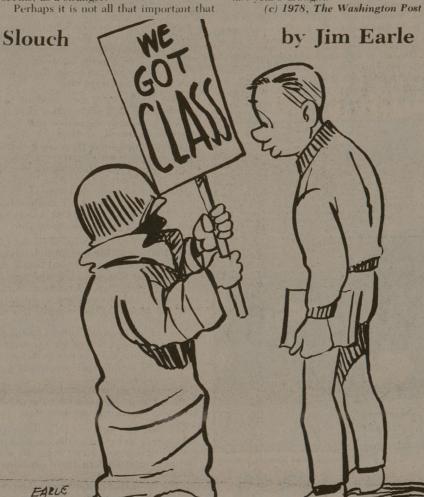
One last letter on the unarmed bandits called cigarette machines. I lost a \$1.50 in the machine in Reed McDonald. I was in the throes of a nicotine fit and did not have any other change. I was told that I would have to go to the library to get my money

I trotted over to the library and lo and behold, they didn't have any change. They asked ME if I had change. By this time I was shaking all over and barely making any sense. So I had to go over to the MSC and cash a check for \$5. THEN, I couldn't get change for that and the concession was

I know I should quit, but I'D RATHER DO IT MYSELF!!!

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"FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS EITHER, BUT IT