

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
MARCH 10, 1978

Quality first

When astronaut appointments were announced recently, much was made of the fact that the group included some blacks and women.

We are inclined to agree with their feeling that being among the first of their race or sex to be chosen is less important than their having made the grade. They decidedly do not want to be considered token appointees, and we understand that. One of them put it aptly:

"I feel like I'm one of the people that they selected to be an astronaut; it is a coincidence that I'm a woman."

That is the essence of the matter. It is heartening that women and blacks have at last been chosen to participate. But happily there is good reason to think they were chosen not for that but for outstanding capabilities.

The Monesson Pa. Valley Independent

The presidential primary prelims

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — If you need a chilling thought on this late winter day, try this: As of this past week, we are now closer in time to the New Hampshire presidential primary of 1980 than to that of 1976.

Those readers who are sane enough to take their politics in small doses can probably afford to ignore that fact. But those of us who make a living covering politics, and the poor devils who are just hooked on the subject, will understand instantly its implications.

It means that the surcease from presidential speculation is just about over. Washington was awash in such gossip last week, when the resident White House and congressional politicians were joined by almost all the 50 governors, in town for their annual conference.

The pushiest presidential hopeful in the group was a member of the party of the incumbent President — which gives you

some hint that 1980, like 1976, may be a two-ring circus. He was, of course, California Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown, Jr. (D).

Commentary

For three days, no journalist within a 15-block radius of the conference hotel was safe from being accosted by the eager Brown and being offered another "exclusive" interview. When he ran out of reporters, the challenger the Carter White House fears most shared his thought with everyone from Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin to Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.).

Neither, so far as is known, has accepted Brown's invitation to run for vice president on his ticket. But the rumors are thick.

So, too, is the field of Republican contenders. In the Senate, you have Sens.

Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R-Tenn.), Bob Dole (R-Kan.), Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) and Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. (R-Conn.), taking them alphabetically and in increasing order of physical magnitude, although not necessarily of political prowess.

Among the Republican governors, neighborliness has given way to presidential elbowing, with Illinois' Jim Thompson being crowded by Iowa's Robert Ray on one side and by Michigan's Bill Milliken on the other. All three are up for reelection this year, and, naturally, wish each other the best of luck.

The Republicans are a small party, which probably explains why the field looks so overcrowded. California has its two aging resident warriors — Jerry Ford and Ronald Reagan — neither of whom seems willing to quit until the other keels over.

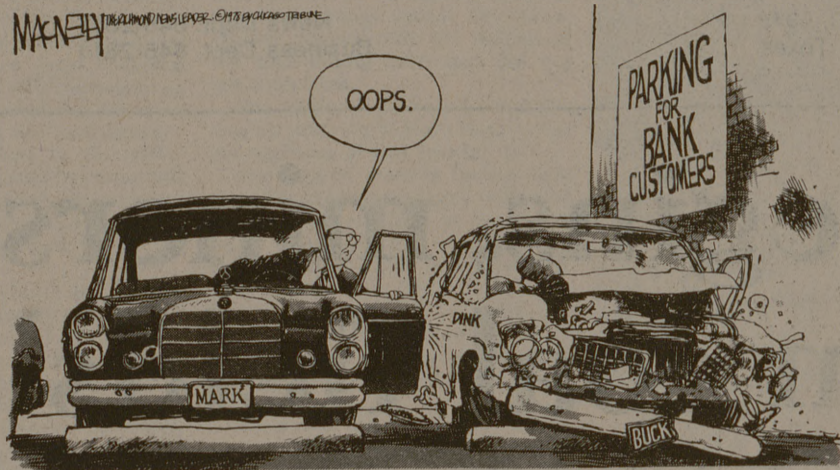
But that is not as touchy as the situation in Houston, where Republican hostesses must decide whether to invite John Con-

nally or George Bush to dinner, knowing full well that the wrong guess may well cost them the embassy in London.

That almost completes the Republican list — unless you want to include Rep. John B. Anderson (R-Ill.). Inspired by the 1976 example of his friend, Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.), Anderson is eager to prove that on the Republican side, too, the House is the best breeding ground of that precious political type, the gracious guy who can lose with class.

With Anderson in the field, there would be an even dozen Republican hopefuls. And that raises the exciting possibility that in 1980, the New Hampshire primary winner may break new ground by becoming the "invincible front-runner" with a share of the total vote small enough to be counted on the fingers of his two hands. It could be the first 9-percent landslide in our history. And think of it, now; it's less than two years away.

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TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Budget request gets approval

A preliminary 1978-79 budget of \$191,560 has been approved for the Texas A&M University Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise. The Center's Board of Consultants gave unanimous approval Wednesday to the budget request. The board also announced the center had received \$25,000 from Thomas Frymire, class of '45, chairman of the board of Frymire Enterprises in Dallas. The center also donated \$1,000 to the Texas A&M economics department for use in the Alfred F. Chalk scholarship award program. The scholarships are given annually to outstanding graduate and undergraduate economics students.

State subcommittee to meet here

A meeting of the Texas House of Representatives subcommittee on alternate energy sources for agriculture will be held Monday and Tuesday at Texas A&M University. The subcommittee, which is part of the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, will hear feature presentations by Texas A&M engineers and scientists. The hearing is planned for 10:30 a.m. in Memorial Student Center 206. Members of the subcommittee attending will include Chairman Bill Keese, Somerville; Dan Kubiak, Rockdale; Luther Jones, El Paso; Bill Coody, Weatherford; Susan Gurley McBee, Del Rio and Elmer Martin, Colorado City. Rep. Bill Friedman of Bryan is among those who will testify.

Parents award ceremony set

Aggie Parents of the Year will be selected on April 16 at a ceremony in Rudder Auditorium. The couple will be selected from among the parents of students currently enrolled at Texas A&M University by the Parents' Day Committee of the student government. Selection will be based on family and community involvement as well as the parents' guidance in the personal development of their children. Following the ceremony, a formal luncheon will be served for the couple, their family and members of the Parents' Day Committee in Rudder Tower. Last year's Aggie Parents of the Year were Dr. and Mrs. Durwood Clader of Midland, Texas, whose son is a senior in the Corps of Cadets.

STATE

Tankers derail, leak chemicals

Fifteen cars of a Santa Fe freight train, including five tankers carrying combustible chemicals at mild temperatures, derailed north of Dallas before dawn Thursday, forcing evacuation of about 60 persons in the rural community of Justin, Texas. The fire department initially reported chlorine gas was leaking from the derailed cars, but Santa Fe officials said the tankers were filled with less dangerous chemicals. Becky Shaw, wife of the chief of the volunteer fire department, said the tankers were leaking butyl alcohol and butyl acetate with flash points of 78 and 83 degrees respectively. The morning temperature was near 40. There were no reported injuries in the derailment.

Bell seeks another rate hike

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. asked the Public Utility Commission in Austin Thursday for permission to increase rates to customers in 488 Texas cities by \$214.3 million annually. The request, second largest filed since the Utility Commission began regulating rates in Texas Sept. 1, 1976, would affect residential and business rates, installation charges and other Bell service calls. Bell officials, contending the telephone company is losing \$300,000 daily under the rates set by the commission in a 1976 rate increase granted to Bell, challenged the commission's action in court. On April 5 they will argue before the Texas Supreme Court that the commission used an improper formula in determining Bell's Texas rates. Bell's latest rate proposal would increase charges for one-party residential service by 75 cents a month in small cities and \$1.20 a month in the state's largest cities. Rates for two-party residential phones would increase by 5 to 80 cents per month.

NATION

Short circuit blamed in blackout

A power outage, striking San Diego during the daytime, blacked out most of an area of 1.7 million inhabitants Wednesday, jamming traffic and trapping some elevator passengers, but ending with no serious injuries or damages. The blackout hit at 3:11 p.m., affecting 400,000 of the San Diego Gas and Electric Co. 600,000 customers. The 4½-hour blackout, caused by an explosive high-voltage short circuit in a generating plant, covered most of the city of San Diego and much of San Diego County from the Mexican border to Orange County. Police in high-crime areas were issued shotguns, but there were no reports of looting and the guns remained out of sight. Power was restored by sections, with the last linkups made at 7:40 p.m. about an hour after dark.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warm today, tonight and Saturday. High today mid-70s, low tonight low 50s. High tomorrow upper 70s. Winds from the south at 10-15 mph, becoming westerly tonight. 20% chance of light showers tonight.

THE BATTALION

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Washington Window

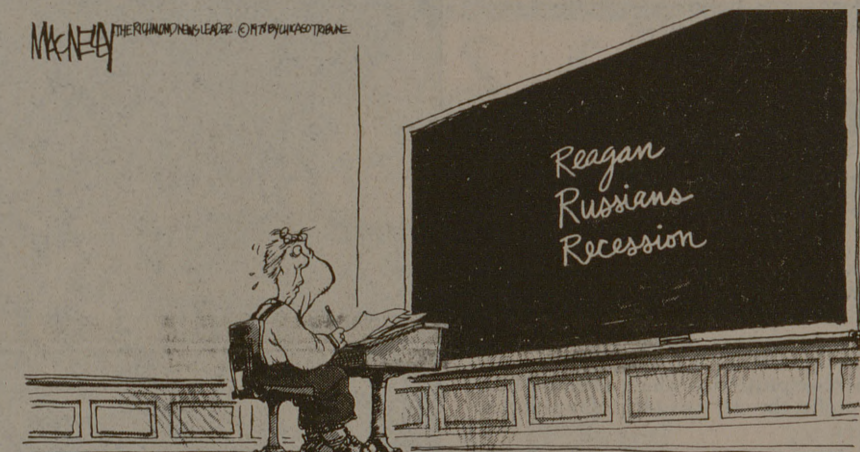
There is a changing climate in the international picture, and U.S. power and prosperity is being challenged on many fronts — tested, some might say.

Without public backing, as expressed on Capitol Hill, Carter's foreign policy initiatives will suffer severely. A repudiation of the treaties undoubtedly would be interpreted as a major setback for the president and a blow to his personal prestige.

Moreover, the U.S. image would suffer throughout the underdeveloped world if the treaties are rejected, and Carter's policies — that is the power to implement them — would be severely questioned by other powers.

Since he came into office, Carter has attempted new approaches in the foreign policy field. In some instances he has had to do a 180-degree turn and fall back on the familiar policies of the past.

Two such examples would be the resort-



BACK TO BASICS

ing to shuttle diplomacy again in the Middle East with Ambassador Alfred Atherton, the mediator, flying back and forth from Egypt to Israel, carrying messages from Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin. Shades of Henry Kissinger.

Then there is the question of linkage. The Soviet-Cuban adventures in the Horn of Africa are viewed as threatening and the United States is now trying to put pressure on the Russians to withdraw.

The pressure is in the form of making it clear that detente is total and comprehensive, as Carter put it in welcoming re-

marks on the arrival of Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito.

Detente, the president said, "must be reciprocal in nature, and it must be a demonstration constantly by the super powers of mutual restraint and a constant search for peace."

He was obviously addressing his remarks to the Soviet Union. In recent weeks, there reportedly has been some division among Carter's diplomatic advisers on the approach to Soviet moves in Africa. Disarmament negotiator Paul Warnke, for one, would not like to see the

strategic arms limitation talks linked to worsening relations in the Horn of Africa. But other advisers view it as inevitable that all issues are entwined in the U.S.-Soviet relationship.

Linkage came into vogue in a big way in the Nixon-Kissinger era and Carter seems to be falling back on it now.

In a recent interview, Carter expressed the view that a summit meeting with Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev would probably be needed to solve the last knotty problems involved in a SALT agreement.

It's Brezhnev's turn to come to the United States in the reciprocal arrangement that was set up in the Nixon administration.

But Brezhnev has shown no inclination for a summit meeting, at least until a SALT agreement can be nailed down. Carter would like to have a get-acquainted meeting to take the measure of the man.

Since last fall, Carter has lobbied untrillingly for acceptance of the treaties, holding White House briefings sometimes three times a week. Meanwhile, some other important foreign policy matters have been put on the back burner — relations with China, for example.

Failure to win the confidence of his own people in the matter of the canal treaties will not help the president when he seeks to impress his policies on other world leaders.

Letters to the editor

Off-campus students' polling place discrimination

Editor: We want to publicly let it be known that we are very disappointed in the polling places that were approved by the student senate Wednesday night.

Sixty-five percent of Texas A&M students live off campus yet only one bus stop was designated to serve as a polling place. The seven places approved were Commons, Corps Guard Room, MSC, Sbis, Zachry, the Reed McDonald bus stop and the Soil and Crop Sciences Building. We're glad the senate saw fit to include a polling place on West Campus. However, the only bus stop designated as a polling place serves only 24 percent of the off-campus students or approximately 4,300 people. This figure is quite low when you consider 18,300 students live off campus.

The off-campus students have clearly been discriminated against. Every year following elections people are up in arms about a "Corps bloc vote" and the apathetic voter turn-out of off-campus students. How can you expect the voter turnout to improve when you take away bus stop polls instead of increasing the accessibility of polling places to accommodate the increase in off-campus population? This is blatant discrimination against off-campus students and should not be tolerated.

We voted against this motion as did the vast majority of off-campus representatives. In all sincerity I can sympathize with the election commission concerning their lack of personnel and voting machines, but a more equitable system should be established. After all, off-campus students comprise 6 percent of this University's enrollment. We should be given the consideration we deserve.

— Laura Brockman, Sharon Taulman, Dorothy DuBois, Michael Jones, Mark Smith

Off-campus undergraduate senators

Evasion advise

Editor: Dormitory rooms may be subject to search but there are a few things the resident can do to protect himself-herself from

an untimely intrusion. Prop a chair or a board up against the door, change the lock, add a second lock, or use one of the various door jamming devices on the market.

If you live in one of the dorms with ceiling tile, climb up into the ceiling to avoid detection. Or if you live in one of the other dorms and are not on the ground level, climb out of the window and down a rope to escape the gestapo. But I suggest you practice these last two methods before you have to use them.

Abolish Visitation Rules!
Legalize Dormitory Cooking!
Legalize Marijuana!

— Blaine Kinnebrew, '78

Fights successful

Editor: I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to all Aggie spectators who came out to our Second Annual Sigma Phi Epsilon Fight Night. Both nights proved a success for both us and also for the spectators and participants as a means of getting away from the atmosphere of school and studies. Although a little disappointed in the team turnout, we are confident that next year more dorms and organizations will participate in the competition.

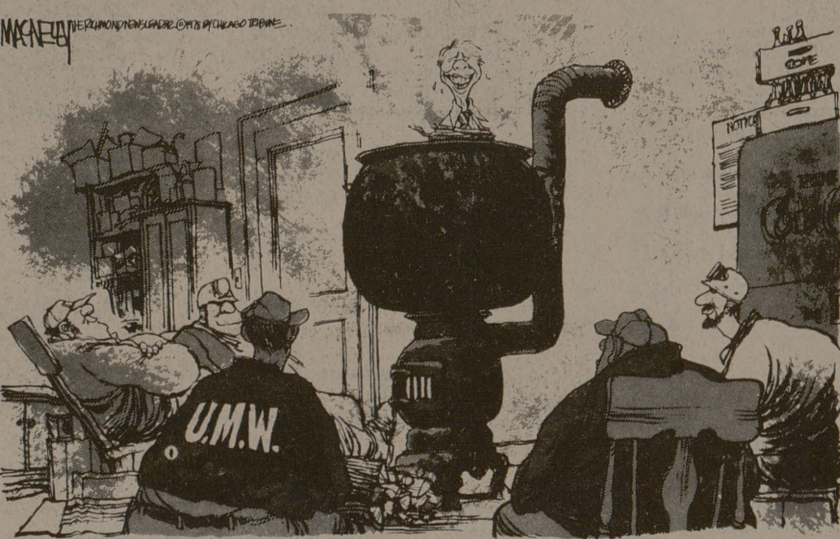
I would also like to thank all the teams that did enter the boxing competition, for without them the fights would have not been possible. Special acknowledgement goes to Moses Hall and the Rodeo Club for having the only complete teams in the open competition. Also, thanks to the Greek teams for their support and participation for the second year in a row.

I feel that organized events such as this are one step closer to better campus relations between the Greeks and the University.

— Don Mason,
President, Sigma Phi Epsilon

Cost of life

Editor: I read Mr. Bonney's letter on Wed.,



THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME FOR A COOLING OFF PERIOD, FELLAS...