

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY  
MARCH 24, 1978

## The ongoing futility of aggression

Once again last week, the guns of the guerrillas and the terrorists dominated the news and stirred the emotions.

The attacks were by the Palestine Liberation Organization outside Tel Aviv, by South Moluccan gunmen who seized 72 hostages in the Netherlands and by Red Brigades extremists who kidnapped Aldo Moro, one of Italy's more important political leaders and murdered his five bodyguards.

The terrorists have different reasons for their actions, but commonality exists in the irrationality. The Palestinian attack will not bring realization of a homeland closer. The Moluccans will not persuade the Dutch government to help win independence from Indonesia for their island homeland. And the Red Brigades terrorists will not force a total collapse of Italian society, which has survived greater strains.

To the civilized, logic has never been a force among such determined men. They kill in hopes of success, the world shudders and governments try and very often fail to prevent new assaults and to punish the guilty. It's all another illustration of the destructive powers of relatively small bands of terrorists.

What are the nations to do?

In some cases, the best answer to terrorism may be to provide a stable and just society. But it is not that simple. The Dutch pride themselves on stability, yet are targets. As for justice, some societies with the most injustice, such as those in Eastern Europe, are the freest of terrorism.

Sadly, there are no clear answers. There is nothing the Dutch can do, for example, to twist Indonesian arms for the creation of an independent Moluccan state. The Palestinians' attack only stiffens Israeli resistance to an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank. And the crisis in Italy may



turn out to be more beneficial than harmful to society if the present mood of solidarity among all political parties continues there.

Futility appears to breed futility. That attackers fail in achieving their goals, the attacked fail in their search for calm. And, most important, the innocent continue to suffer.

Los Angeles Times

## Domestic politics, foreign policy

WASHINGTON — President Carter is in the middle of several crucial foreign policy moves, the outcome of which are far from certain. Furthermore, it appears that domestic politics is weighing heavily on all the president's major decisions these days.

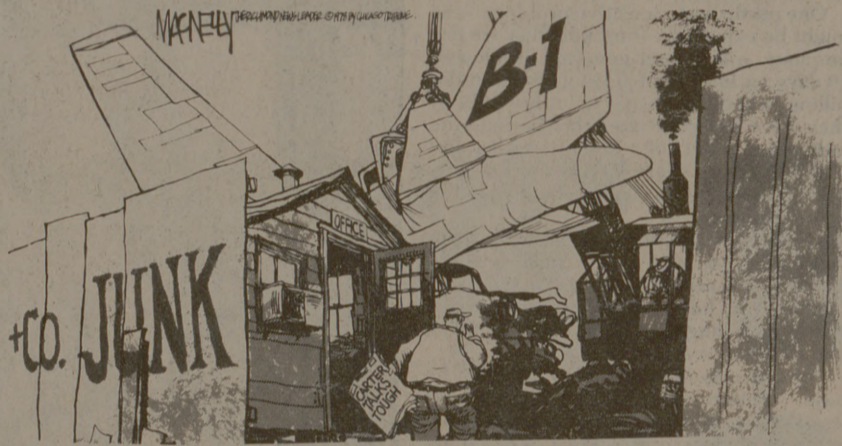
Facing strong opposition from conservative forces, he won by one vote the ratification of the Panama Canal neutrality treaty. But the fight is far from over. The big test comes in early April when the Senate votes on the turning over of control of the waterway to Panama.

The president also has taken a tougher approach to the Soviets with his Wako Forest University speech in which he vowed to maintain the U.S. military strength to guarantee its security.

"Adequate and capable military forces are still an essential element of our national security," Carter said. "We, like our ancestors, have the obligation to maintain strength equal to the challenges of the world in which we live and we Americans will continue to do so."

The speech, which included a warning against growing Soviet military power, was quickly denounced by the Soviets as having abandoned the policy of detente and created new tensions.

The Russian-Cuban adventures in the



Horn of Africa and the stalemated strategic arms limitation talks motivated the aggressive address by Carter.

Aides concede that the new toughness against the Russians is partly designed to answer criticism from the right that the president may be giving away too much in the SALT negotiations.

As for the Middle East, Carter issued a strong condemnation of the terrorist attack

in Israel, but in contrast had no personal statement to make on the massive Israeli invasion of Lebanon where hundreds have been killed and some 200,000 Palestinians and Lebanese made homeless.

Early in the week, aides also indicated that Carter would not hold a news conference this week — although he is due for one — apparently so that he would not be hit with a barrage of questions on the

Middle East situation. Carter was certain to be asked about the use of American supplied arms in the invasion of another country.

Carter's chief domestic political adviser, Hamilton Jordan, has sat in all the foreign policy deliberations. His presence is the principal clue that the president is keenly aware of the political impact of all his decisions on the international front.

His own political future as president is tied up in all the moves he makes now. The State Department held off on any statement regarding the raids into Lebanon until after the Panama Canal vote, out of fear of alienating some of the supporters of Israel in the Senate.

Carter's moves in the international field also affect the value of the dollar and the global image of the United States. Like other presidents, he finds that most of his working hours are devoted to world affairs where he alone makes many of the final decisions.

So, if there is a linkage in Carter's foreign policy, domestic politics is not the least of his concerns. In fact, lately it appears to be one of the most important of his preoccupations as he strives for the answers that will win him the support of the people.

## Leaving no clone unturned

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Never exactly a household word heretofore, cloning — an asexual reproductive process — has suddenly become a hot topic. Two events have helped make it so.

The first was Woody Allen's movie "Sleeper." It had a scene in which cloning was used to reconstruct a political dictator from the nose down.

The nose, the only part of his body to survive an assassination attempt, had been kept alive by his followers to provide the nucleus of their leader's restoration.

More recently, a controversial new book claims that a child has been cloned from a single cell taken from a rich bachelor who wanted an heir but objected to conventional procreative methods.

Although the film was figment and the

reported human cloning has yet to be confirmed, the book has nevertheless produced a great deal of discussion and debate.

### The Lighter Side

I understand a Broadway composer has even written a song called "Bring in the Clones."

For a veteran Capitol Hill observer like myself, however, this is old stuff. Congress has been cloning around for years.

Just this week I had the opportunity to observe the Senate cloning a new farm program.

When it set out to create the measure, the Senate had little more to work with than a dictator's nose. Specifically, what it had at hand was a minor House-approved bill dealing with California raisins.

But just as Athena, the Greek goddess of agriculture, sprang full grown from the forehead of Zeus, major farm legislation was sprung full blown by the head of the Agriculture Department.

Eschewing conventional propagation, through which it would have germinated its own bill, the committee took the single-celled House organism and cloned it into the Emergency Agricultural Act of 1978.

Before our very eyes a bill that in nuclear form would merely have provided for the cooperative promotion of raisins be-

came a far-reaching land diversion plan that would pay farmers for not producing wheat, grain, cotton and soybeans.

Then the measure was taken to the Senate floor for additional cloning that transformed it into a complex medium for raising crop support loan rates.

This was, I might add, by no means the first or the most spectacular feat of legislative cloning that Congress has accomplished. All sorts of strange statutes have been produced in this wise.

I once asked a senator what advantage cloning had over a legislative body's natural creative procedure. He explained that it reduced the normal gestation period for acts of Congress.

Another boon, I suspect, is suggested by the title to Woody Allen's movie. This is a way of putting life into sleepers.

### Letters to the editor

Editor:

Listen up, Ags! Now, Ags, y'all know y'all ain't much more'n a bunch of big kids, Ags, and, Ags, y'all go around proving it all of the time.

Take the other day, Ags, after the second match against USC in baseball. Y'all lost, Ags.

Now, Ags, listen up there! There's a bigger kid'n most out there somewheres, Ags. And this big kid, Ags, is dangerous. This big kid, Ags, has a knife.

What does this big kid do with this knife, Ags? What does he do when the Fightin' Texas Aggies lose, Ags? He slashes the inner tube on another Ag's bicycle, Ags.

So the bicycle was yellow, Ags. Same color as USC, Ags. Lucky there weren't no USC fans, Ags, might've had us a murder.

Hey, Ags, do you know that big kid, Ags? Do me a favor, Ags. Beat the hell outta that big kid, Ags.

— Colin Crombie, '80

### Election litter

Editor:

We the undersigned have had enough bullshit. We are damned tired of having student government "elect me" flyers shoved under our doors, only to have to pick them up and throw them into the trash.

Aspirant politicians, you know who you are. Cease and Desist. We get enough of your garbage on the bulletin boards without you littering up our rooms as well.

— John L. Graves '79

(Editor's note: This letter was signed by 34 other residents of Hotard Hall.)

### Skateboarding crime

Editor:

I would like to inform Frank Vasovski that his letter on skateboarding did not interest me, nor probably any other reader. On my behalf though, I would like to say I'm not the illiterate criminal he portrays me as. Anyone who has walked on the ramp could not possibly miss the warning signs. It may interest Frank Vasovski to know that I was only helping a journalism major with a project.

Because of College Station's lack of skateboard park for one of the fastest growing sports, we chose the catwalk. I only hope that Frank Vasovski is as concerned with the increasing rate of serious crimes as he is with this minor issue.

— John McCarthy, '79

### Thanks for flowers

Editor:

To those who caused and those who planted and cared for the narcissi, daffodils, and pansies on the campus, I would like to express my appreciation, for they are lovely to see.

— Barbara McNeill, '81

### Correction

The information concerning the scheduling of the "Falling Star" concert to be aired on channel 15 (channel 12 on the cables) was incorrect in the Tuesday, March 21 issue. The program will be shown at 7:30 p.m. March 30 and will be repeated at 10 p.m. April 3 as part of KAMU-TV's regular Montage series. The Battalion regrets the error.

### Slouch by Jim Earle



"YOUR RIDE LEFT EARLY AND CAME BACK LATE, AND NOW I HEAR YOU SPENT THE HOLIDAYS IN BRYAN!"

## TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

### Bookstore profits requests due

Recognized student organizations have until 5 p.m. today to request funds from bookstore profits. Budget request forms can be picked up in the Student Finance Center, MSC 217, and returned there when completed.

## STATE

### De-annexation petition rejected

The Houston City Council has rejected a 53,000-signature petition demanding that the city de-annex the Clear Lake City area absorbed last year despite neighborhood protest. The council's unanimous decision followed legal advice that the petitions had no force in law and reports from social scientists that the mostly white opposition appeared racially motivated. Opponents of the annexation said they will take the fight to court and several council members said that's where it belongs. City Attorney Robert Collie told council members Texas law gives Houston the authority to annex any area within five miles of its existing city limits without recourse to neighborhood opinion.

## NATION

### U.S. to buy Mexican natural gas

Although the United States and Mexico have yet to agree on price, the Mexican national oil company has pushed forward with a 600-mile natural gas pipeline to the Rio Grande River, two officials report. "Production of crude oil has been obtained in Mexico with associated gas volumes to such an extent that it is in surplus quantities to the internal needs of Mexico," reported Clemente Beltran and Gregorio Flores Montelongo. Beltran and Montelongo, officials of Petrosbras Mexicanos, made their joint report Wednesday to American oilmen attending the 6th International Pipeline Technology Convention. They said Mexican engineers visited and studied the Alaskan pipeline "to gain additional experience." Two American companies, Tennessee Inc. and Texas Eastern Transmission Corp., are providing technical aid. The pipeline ultimately will carry 2.7 million cubic feet of gas per day. Startup at a lower daily rate is scheduled for early 1979, assuming agreement on price.

### FDA proposal criticized

Testimony presented Thursday on behalf of thousands of Midwest livestock producers criticized the Food and Drug Administration's proposal to restrict the use of antibiotics in animal feed. The Great Plains Legal Foundation presented several witnesses at the hearing, the first of three to be conducted by the FDA. The foundation, a public interest law firm based in Kansas City, Mo., presented testimony on behalf of organizations that represent swine, poultry and cattle producers. Christopher Bond, foundation president and former Missouri governor, said low-level or subtherapeutic doses of antibiotics has been used over the past 25 years with only positive results. Recently the FDA proposed to ban, or severely restrict, the use of penicillin and tetracyclines in animal feed for subtherapeutic use. The FDA plan would allow use of the drugs only with the consent of a licensed veterinarian. The FDA said continued use of antibiotics in feed might reduce the therapeutic use of the similar antibiotics on humans.

### Chrysler execs received raises

Top executives of financially strapped Chrysler Corp., which posted a \$50 million fourth-quarter loss received pay raises averaging 30 percent last year, company records show. However, "incentive bonuses paid to the officials fell drastically from 1976 levels, cutting the executives' overall earnings last year to less than half of their 1976 pay. Chrysler reported the figures in a proxy statement to stockholders released in advance of the company's annual meeting slated May 2. The largest raise went to Chrysler Chairman John Riccardo, the firm's highest paid officer, who received an additional \$69,963 in 1977, boosting his salary to \$314,852. President Eugene Cañero was next with a \$65,963 raise, increasing his annual salary to \$284,700.

## WORLD

### Cosmonauts recycle wastewater

The Salyut cosmonauts who recently set a 96-day space endurance record used water recycled from human waste, showers and perspiration, says a longtime unofficial observer of the Russian space program. "This is a great weight savings for them," Air Force Capt. James Oberg reported at a recent symposium of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. "They are recycling 95 percent of the water they are using." American astronauts do not recycle wastewater for drinking. Oberg, who was not speaking as a representative of NASA or the Air Force, predicted within two years cosmonauts will recycle air and grow food in space and new Soviet space endurance records are likely during the next few months.

### Oil leakage threatens marine life

Thousands of tons of oil still inside the wrecked supertanker Amoco Cadiz probably will ooze into the ocean before the weather allows crews to pump the hull dry, marine authorities say. Fishermen watching the black tide of thick oil surging into the port of nearby Portsall said Wednesday, "It's too late. No hope now." Navy authorities said some 50,000 tons of oil left in the supertanker were leaking out of gashed tanks at the rate of 300 tons an hour. At least 170,000 tons have gushed out to blacken the once beautiful beaches of Brittany and kill thousand of oysters, fish and birds.

## WEATHER

Decreasing cloudiness and mild this morning, fair and cool this afternoon and tonight. Sunny and cool on Saturday. High today mid-70s, low tonight mid-40s. High tomorrow mid-60s. Winds from the north-northwest at 15-20 mph.

## THE BATTALION

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