

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
MAY 3, 1978

The Battalion endorsements

John Hill is best choice for Texas

"The nation blessed above all nations is she in whom the civic genius of the people does the saving day by day, by acts without external picturesqueness; by speaking, writing, voting reasonably; . . . by the people knowing true men when they see them, and preferring them as leaders to rabid partisans or empty quacks."

— William James, 1897

This is an important election year for Texas. We are living in a time of rapid economic and governmental change and that change is being felt no where more than in this state. The leaders Texas voters choose this year may well make or break this state.

And there is no more crucial race this year than that for the governor's mansion. Following the precedent of past elections, the Democratic primary this Saturday between present Gov. Briscoe and Attorney General John Hill will probably determine the state's next governor.

Our choice has to be Mr. Hill. He has racked up an impressive record as an aggressive, consumer-minded, charismatic attorney general. He has made the attorney general's office a potent consumer protection arm of the state government, more so than at any time in the past. Particularly in the area of state and national energy leadership, Hill has made a firm commitment to actively defend the state's gas and oil resources.

Governor Briscoe's leadership has been notably lacking in defense of those resources. The governor has failed to assert the state's position nationally as a major oil and gas-producing state. He likewise failed last year to exert the leadership that could have helped the State Legislature solve several major state problems, notably funding for primary and secondary education.

There is another consideration. Dolph Briscoe has been governor for six years. Re-electing him to another four-year term leaves the state's leadership in the hands of one man for a dangerously long time. Texas does not need a 10-year governor.

Former Gov. Preston Smith is also running in the Democratic primary but his role is more that of a "spoiler," depriving either Briscoe or Hill of a first-round primary win without a run-off.

John Hill is the best choice for Texas. In the Republican primary for governor, our choice is attorney Ray Hutchison over millionaire oil drilling contractor Bill Clements.

Hutchison has a thorough knowledge of state government both through his four years as a state legislator from Dallas and from his term as state Republican Party chairman. Clements served as an under-secretary for the U.S. Defense Department during the Nixon and Ford administrations, which gives him plenty of experience in dealing with the national bureaucracy. But he has been away from Texas too long.

Any Republican candidate will have a severe challenge to even slightly threaten the Democratic candidate for governor in November.

Experience for Congress

Brazos Valley residents will be voting on primary races for two congressional positions: John Tower's Senate seat and the 6th Congressional District seat that Olin Teague will be vacating.

The Democratic primary to choose Tower's November opponent is a closely fought race between two-term congressman Bob Krueger and former Insurance Board chairman Joe Christie. Both men are qualified candidates, both would make capable senators and both would be worthy opponents to the "Little Giant."

But our support goes to Bob Krueger based on his service as congressman. Krueger went to Washington in 1975 as a political neophyte, but immediately established himself as a hard-working, serious representative. His determined sponsorship of a bill to deregulate natural gas prices earned him the title "Most Effective Freshman Congressman." He deserves a chance to be the "most effective freshman senator."

The 6th Congressional District horse-race is certain to produce a run-off election between two of the three top Democratic contenders: Texas A&M economics professor Phil Gramm, former Teague aide Chet Edwards, and former TV weatherman-present attorney Ron Godbey.

Chet Edwards has emphasized again and again during his campaign that his constituents are his first concern and for that reason he receives our endorsement. While on Teague's staff, Edwards worked almost exclusively in solving problems for the congressman's constituents. Though only 26, his three years of experience in working the Washington bureaucracy to the benefit of district residents will serve him in good stead. He has asked constituents what they want in Washington, and not told them what they need, as have some other candidates in the race.

In the Republican primary Wes Mowery is the only serious candidate. Opponent Carl Krohn, a disabled Marine Corps veteran, has based almost his entire campaign on the issue of increasing national defense spending. However, Mowery will have a tough time defeating a Democratic opponent in November because of the Fort Worth farmer's blistering attacks on Teague during the 1976 election.

State 'name games'

All the state executive offices are up for election this year, although few are drawing races as heated as that for the governorship.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby has built that office into a virtually impregnable fortress. Only a full-scale miracle would dislodge him from that post.

Letters to the editor

Gas turns Utay Hall into no man's land

Editor:
We would like to make a correction to the article in the May 2 Battalion concerning the Utay Hall tear gas incident Monday. The reporter failed to mention the fact that many members of the fourth floor suffered from extreme cases of pains in the ass as a result of this awesome display of military prowess administered by some CT playing army (no doubt in preparation for an all-out Russian invasion from Snook!).

Isn't it comforting to know that we have all of these fine, upstanding, and especially responsible "G.I. Joes" protecting us from the Halls of Utay to the shores of Lake Somerville. God bless the Military Academies.

—Utay Fourth Floor
James Sessions
Roy H. Caldwell
David Hennington
Randy Ratterru
Jim Reid
Mike Love
Johnny Howell

'A damn shame'

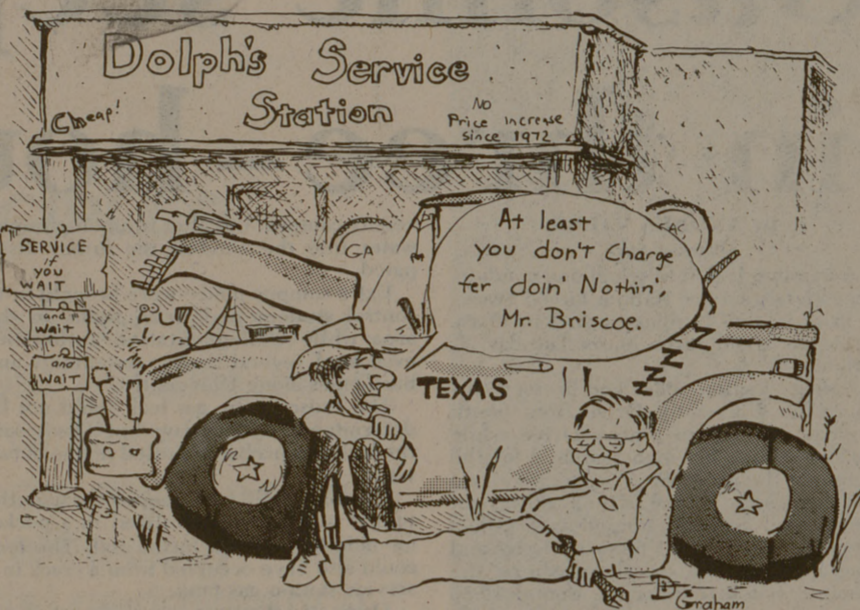
Editor:
I am writing this letter to register my disappointment and disgust with Squadron 2 of the famed Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. Having attended A&M

for four years I have learned and had actually believed that members of this elite corps represented good moral character, pride, and a high level of sportsmanship. Unfortunately this was proven to be untrue when the Squadron 2 softball team decided that a good place to hold a practice was the outfield of our semi-final intramural playoff game. I just could not believe they were hitting fungo shots into our outfield while our game was in progress.

During our game a ball was hit towards right field and I was forced to weave my way through Squadron 2 to chase after it. Getting in my way was bad enough, but for two of them to stand there and have a shouting match with me immediately afterward was unreal. Maybe they thought it was the "Macho" thing to do considering their entire squadron was close behind.

Please don't get me wrong, I am not trying to bad mouth the entire Corps or all of Squadron 2 for that matter. I will always respect and admire the real men of the Aggie Corps, but I think it's a damn shame that several frustrated individuals can reflect so poorly on such a fine organization. I hope the little children of Squadron 2 grow up fast and start making their uniforms mean something.

—Dave Rich, '78



Such is not the case in the Democratic race for state attorney general. Price Daniel Jr., former Speaker of the Texas House, and Mark White, present secretary of state, are playing a game of name recognition in their battle to replace John Hill.

The name to remember is Price Daniel Jr. Daniel's career both in the State House and as its Speaker are outstanding. He sponsored numerous pieces of progress state legislation, not the least of which was the Texas Open Meetings Law.

The state treasurer's race is another "name game." Present treasurer Warren G. Harding was appointed by Briscoe to serve out the unexpired term of former treasurer Jesse James, who died in office. Harding is being challenged by Harry Ledbetter, a financial analyst from Austin.

Jesse James remained in office for many years because of his famous, or infamous, name. Harding should not be elected for the same reason. He has had an opportunity to show how he would revise the state's fiscal operations, which for many years have allowed millions of dollars to be lost in interest not earned on state funds kept in checking accounts instead of savings accounts. Harding has switched some funds to interest-bearing accounts, but mostly under the pressure of the campaign.

It is obvious the state's fiscal policies need revision. Harding has had an opportunity to do so and has not. Ledbetter seems committed to doing more. Therefore, Harry Ledbetter receives our endorsement for state treasurer.

The Democratic race for state agriculture commissioner pits appointed commissioner Reagan Brown against Rep. Joe Hubenak, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Don Sewell, part-time farmer from Nocona.

Joe Hubenak receives our endorsement for the agriculture commissioner post based on his experience on the Legislature's agriculture committee and on his record as an aggressive, vocal member of the Legislature. Commissioner Brown has played too low-key a role on recent farmer protests both in the state and nationally.

Two of the State Railroad Commission's three seats will be filled this year and incumbent commissioners Mack Wallace and John Poerner seem the best choices in those races.

Two seats on the state Supreme Court are up for election this year and both are shrouded by the specter of the 1976 election, when Don Yarbrough was elected to the court and then left it under indictment. The Yarbrough incident well illustrates the danger of voters casting ballots for familiar names when they know nothing about the man behind the name. Our recommendation is that voters vote for Supreme Court candidates only if they are well aware of each candidate's qualifications.

Keep local incumbents

In addition to state-level races, several local government positions are up for election. In these elections the Battalion's endorsements depended heavily upon the candidate's past experience in government.

For Brazos County Judge, our endorsement goes to former Bryan mayor Lloyd Joyce. Present County attorney John Barron, appointed to that post last year, has proven qualified in that position and deserves re-election.

Likewise, in the district attorney race, present district attorney Roland Searcy has proven to be an aggressive and effective prosecutor during his five years in that post. We recommend that voters keep him in that office.

The Battalion declines to endorse a candidate in the race for district judge between present county judge Bill Vance and former county and district attorney Tom McDonald Jr. It has become impossible to see either candidate for all the mud that has been slung in this race.

Happy reader

Editor:
You know, I really enjoy reading my copy of The Battalion. Being away from the campus, I can keep up with most everything happening on and off campus. The majority of the articles are well written, informative and interesting. I'd be willing to bet that I could discuss the activities around campus with many of the present students.

But Aggies, I bet you don't realize that just 100 miles away down at t.u. there resides a genius. After all, listen to what he has done. With just one year of school as a psychology major, he has taken one inci-

dent, analyzed 30,000 people, and in less than a handful of words has offered his professional opinion of you.

In case you missed it, I am referring to our dear Mr. Neal Pfeiffer's letter in the April 21 edition. In defense of what I know Texas A&M is, I would like to politely ask "Dr." Pfeiffer to keep his nose out of our newspaper. I'm sure he could find plenty of fallacies on his own campus to analyze. I feel sure that the majority of Texas A&M students do not need or want your ?????? opinion.

My choice for my education was Texas A&M. I am deeply indebted to the powers that be that you chose to go to t.u.

—Joseph H. duMenil, '75

Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

'State of University' message

"State of the University" messages and presentation of 16 awards of \$1,000 each for distinguished achievement will highlight Texas A&M University's annual faculty and staff meeting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in Rudder Auditorium. President Jarvis Miller and Vice President for Academic Affairs J.M. Prescott will share the speaking honors. The Association of Former Students will present \$1,000 checks, commemorative watches and plaques to 14 faculty and staff members.

To honor retiring professors

Texas A&M University will honor 10 retiring faculty members at a reception and dinner tonight. They represent 235 years of service to the University. Honored will be L. Edward Stark, professor of engineering design graphics, Dean R. Lee, associate professor of chemistry, Harrison Hieth, professor of English and John G. McNeely, professor of agricultural economics. Also honored will be Richard H. Ballinger, professor of English, Donald S. Moore, associate professor of agricultural economics, Alfred E. Cronk, professor and head of aerospace engineering, Johannes van Overbeek, professor of biology, Herman Kleerekoper, professor of biology and George Carter, distinguished professor of geography.

STATE

Man admits to arranging murder

A former security guard has pleaded guilty to offering a professional killer \$6,000 to kill a policeman for a share of his life insurance proceeds. Howard James Bordeau, 22, Monday admitted to soliciting the capital murder of Arthur L. Swearingen, 40. State District Judge J.D. Guyon delayed sentencing, but Bordeau could receive life imprisonment. Police said Wayne Simms told them Bordeau offered him a contract to kill Swearingen and with Simms' cooperation investigators arranged tape recordings of conversations about the deal. With police help, officers said Simms met Bordeau and showed him "proof" of the murder, a badge, name tag and blood-stained shirt with two bullet holes in it. Bordeau was arrested upon receipt of the "proof," police said.

NATION

Seven fires in Chelsea section

At least 10 persons were injured in a series of fires in the Chelsea section of Atlantic City, N.J., Tuesday including some who jumped into a bay to escape the flames. Several policemen jumped into the water to rescue adults and children who leaped from the windows of a two-story townhouse at the Bay Colony Condominiums along the shoreline. Firemen counted fires, believed to be the work of arsonists, in at least seven buildings and three grassy areas. They were questioning two suspects and looking for a third described as a man in his 20s. The list of people treated for smoke inhalation and water exposure at Atlantic City Medical Center included four policemen, a fireman and five residents, including two children aged 2 and 5. The first fire was reported at 4:50 a.m. and all the blazes were brought under control by 7 a.m. The buildings involved included several homes and apartment house, a bake shop, a Chinese restaurant and a doctor's office, all within a four-block area.

Auto theft ring broken

Mississippi authorities say they have broken a four-state auto theft ring with the arrest of three men and the recovery of eight stolen luxury cars valued at \$80,000. One of the men arrested was identified as Charlie Thornton, 38, of Jackson. Two Texas men, who were not identified, were arrested during the weekend in Houston and are expected to be extradited to Mississippi. Jackson Police Capt. Gary McGee said the arrest was based on information from Attorney General A.F. Sumner's office that Thornton would be bringing a stolen 1978 Lincoln Continental to Jackson from the Gulf Coast. Surveillance by investigators resulted in the recovery of the car and the arrest.

WORLD

Sadat orders cabinet shakeup

President Anwar Sadat Tuesday ordered a cabinet shakeup and parliamentary reform to shore up Egypt's home front and renewed his readiness to resume talks with Israel if it changes its negotiation position. Addressing a labor rally in observance of May Day, Sadat also reaffirmed his confidence in President Carter as a go-between in Middle East peacemaking, ending a Cairo diplomatic furor over remarks attributed to the American leader. Declaring himself in favor of Arab solidarity, shattered by headline opposition to his peace mission to Jerusalem last November, Sadat offered to resume diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and South Yemen. But he qualified the offer with a demand that these countries, with which Egypt broke off diplomatic relations in December, stop abusive attacks on Egypt for its peace initiative.

French U.N. troops fighting

French U.N. troops opened fire on a band of Palestinian guerrillas trying to infiltrate past their lines in southern Lebanon early today, killing one and wounding two, a French spokesman said. The firefight between French U.N. troops and Palestinian guerrillas — the second such incident in two days — occurred near the town of Bazouriyeh, inland from the southwest port of Tyre.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, windy and cool with showers throughout the area today. Showers ending tonight becoming partly cloudy and mild. High today mid-60s, low tonight upper 40s. High tomorrow low 70s. Winds from the north at 15-25 mph diminishing tonight. 60% chance of rain today decreasing to 20% tonight.

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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