

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
JULY 25, 1978

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS A&M grad honored at Pentagon

Army 2nd Lt. William H. Ibbotson, a 1977 Texas A&M University graduate from Mission, will report to the Pentagon Friday to receive the Hughes Trophy which is awarded each year to the nation's outstanding Army ROTC graduate. Ibbotson was a magna cum laude graduate in political science and an eight-semester Distinguished Student, Honors Program participant, platoon leader and supply officer of Company D-2 in the Corps of Cadets.

Summer school enrollment up

Second session summer school enrollment at Texas A&M University is 9,358, an increase of 1.8 percent over the same period last year, Registrar Robert A. Lacey said Friday. The total includes 9,072 students enrolled on the main campus, 35 at the marine laboratory in Galveston and 178 aboard the Texas Clipper for the Summer School at Sea.

Extra announcements available

Extra graduation announcements for August 19 graduates of Texas A&M University will go on sale Monday, July 24 in 217 MSC. The announcements will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STATE

Trial for bribes opens

A suburban New Orleans contractor and two of his employees Monday went to trial in Houston on charges they bribed public officials to overlook the balking of a Louisiana parish on sewer construction projects. A six-man, six-woman jury was chosen Monday to try Robert J. L'Hoste and two of his employees on federal conspiracy, racketeering and mail fraud charges in the case moved from New Orleans.

Deputy indicted

A Cook County deputy was indicted Monday on charges he assaulted a prisoner in the Gainesville city jail. Herman Herendt was released on \$1,500 bond and will be placed on probation pending his trial, said Sheriff Bill Pratt. The charges followed a grand jury investigation into the alleged beating July 10 of Clyde Wesley Wages, 24, Denton, Texas. Wages alleged he was beaten in his cell after his arrest on a charge of driving while intoxicated. Wages was hospitalized July 11 for head and kidney injuries.

Revolt leader advises Briscoe

A leader of a new tax revolt group said Monday in San Antonio that Gov. Dolph Briscoe ought to keep the legislature in special session all year until it approves initiative and referendum to give Texans more say in taxation. "The major issue of this special session and the next special session is taxpayer control of taxes," Ken Hendrix told a group of organizers for the Tax Relief Coalition.

NATION

Grain reserve up

The size of the nation's three-year, farmer-owned grain reserve has taken another climb upward, reaching a level of nearly 564 million bushels as of July 21, the Agriculture Department in Washington said Monday. A week earlier, grains on reserve were nearly 552 million bushels. This past week there were nearly 371 million bushels of wheat on reserve, 120 million bushels of corn, 29 million bushels of oats, 26 million bushels of barley and more than 17 million bushels of sorghum.

Pot plants found

Sheriff's deputies, acting on an anonymous tip, discovered 450 marijuana plants, some nearly 6 feet high, growing in a residential backyard in Lakewood, Calif., Saturday and made an arrest. The officers said the plants ranged in size from six inches to nearly 6 feet. Deputies also found scales, sifters and cigarette rollers at the home. Bail was set at \$25,000. The deputies estimated the value of the loose marijuana at \$10,000 but could not guess the worth of the plants.

WORLD

Dollar value plunges

The reeling dollar plunged down below the 200-yen level in Tokyo Monday for the first time since World War II, sparking a worldwide selling spree that pushed the U.S. currency to record lows across Europe. The dollar's steep drop reflected fears that OPEC nations may abandon the American currency as the basis for oil prices. Financial experts also said there was a widespread belief that Western leaders failed to solve global currency problems at the Bonn economic summit last week.

Women won't give up babies

Two mothers who took the wrong babies home from the hospital in Haifa, Israel now refuse to give them up, a report on government television said Sunday. Blood tests proved the babies were switched six weeks ago but the mothers insist on keeping them, the report said. The snafu was blamed on lost identification tags, but spokesmen for Rambam Hospital and the Health Ministry declined to comment on the case, calling it too sensitive, legally and emotionally.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warm today with a slight chance of mainly afternoon and evening thundershowers. High today mid-90s, low tonight mid-70s. High tomorrow mid-90s. Winds from the south-southeast at 10-15 mph. 30% chance of rain today, 20% tonight and 30% tomorrow.

THE BATTALION

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LETTERS POLICY

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.

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

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 Tuesday through Thursday.

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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Put money to work

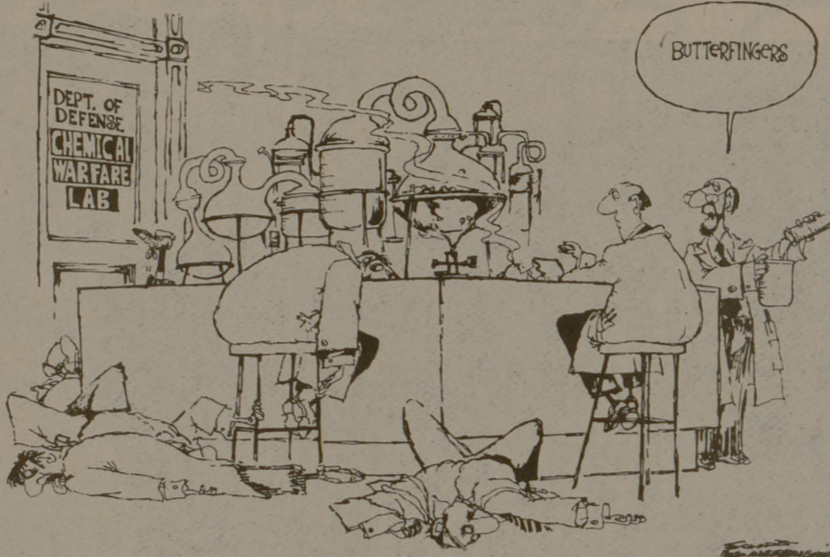
Perhaps the most popular stand congressmen can take in light of the "taxpayers' revolt" is to vote against foreign aid expenditures. Public sentiment today definitely seems to favor keeping our money at home.

There is no question that huge sums of foreign aid money did go down the drain over the years. Nevertheless, this is no time to turn our backs completely on the poorer developing countries.

It is from these countries that the United States now depends for 45 percent of its oil, 85 percent of its bauxite, 93 percent of its tin, 59 percent of its zinc ore and 36 percent of its iron ore. Besides, U.S. trade with these countries has become more significant than our exports to Japan and Europe.

Obviously what is needed is a reasonable approach to our foreign aid expenditures so that American dollars are not wasted and that they are spent where they will do the most good.

Parkersburg (W.Va.) Sentinel



Looking for missing middle-of-the-roaders

By DAVID S. BRODER

ST. PAUL, MINN. — A man I know who once worked in the White House, two or three administrations ago, had a story he liked to tell.

He had been a teacher and when his former students came to see him, protesting, as students did then, whatever was the current governmental outrage, he would do his best to construct a rationalization for the policy that had upset them.

HE DID IT, he said, knowing that they took his arguments simply as a demonstration of bureaucratic or political loyalty. But actually, he said, there was another reason.

"If I had told them the truth, that the decision that upset them was really just something that got by us until it was too late to stop, they would have been terrified. Young people are prepared to deal with malevolence; they're not prepared to deal with the idea that no one is in charge."

I have been reminded of this several times in the last few weeks, as I have heard some of the brightest young people in American politics — of strikingly different political backgrounds and views — talking independently of what has become their new focus: rebuilding of the shattered center of our political consensus.

I heard it eloquently put by John P. Sears, the young lawyer who, before he was 30, had played a key role in putting Richard Nixon in the White House. He

saw how that chance to "bring us together" was lost, and then moved on to direct Ronald Reagan's almost successful, but highly divisive, bid for the 1976 Republican presidential nomination.

Sears is, in conventional terms, a strong conservative. But his main goal now, he says, is to find and elect a president who can re-define and enunciate the missing center of American politics.

I HEARD THE SAME view from two young men of the left, in St. Paul for a conference and reunion of some of the radical antiwar and civil rights activists of the 1960s.

Sam Brown, who came out of the McCarthy campaign to lead the Vietnam Moratorium protests a decade ago, is now the head of the Action agency, running the Peace Corps and the Vista volunteers.

In 1968, he was a dump-Johnson leader, but now he is advising against a dump-Carter movement. That is easily understood terms of bureaucratic and political loyalty. But, like my friend from an earlier administration, Brown has another reason for his rationalizing. He has perceived the danger of the shattered center.

"I'm not sure it was a mistake in the 1960s," he said, "but it's a pattern you can't afford to continue. There is no liberal center in Washington — in the executive branch or in Congress. And what that means is that any five people who want to say no to anything can say no."

THE FINAL UNSOLICITED testi-

mony came from the most surprising source of all — Tom Hayden. Hayden was a leader of Students for a Democratic Society, a defendant in the Chicago Seven trial, a thoroughly disruptive radical force in the 1960s.

But now, he told his fellow activists, "I'm more concerned about the failure of the center than the rise of the right. Our moderate-liberal-populist president isn't doing very well. In fact, his administration is disintegrating."

Later, he mused more broadly on why this might be. "Sometimes," he said, "it seems to me the country can't be governed right now by anybody because there's no consensus."

"We had stable presidencies roughly from 1900 to 1960," he said, "but no one under 18 remembers (or more accurately, has lived in) a normal presidency. For a long time, the country had a roughly bipartisan consensus — the New Deal at home and the Cold War abroad. But that fell apart in the 1960s, with the civil rights movement, the women's movement, and the war in Vietnam, all started by liberals."

"With that consensus in shreds, it becomes harder to be President. I think Carter and all of them recognize that, but they approach it as a public relations problem for Gerald Ruffoon to solve. I read (pollster) Pat Caddell's memo — the one he wrote Carter a month after the election — where he said the big problem is to create a new consensus because the country has

no sense of purpose.

"Well, you don't chop a sense of purpose out of the typewriter 'cause you need it. It's either there or it's not there, and right now, it's not there."

"THE COUNTRY has no glue . . . Liberalism has no substance any more, because most of its goals have been achieved . . . Everybody is adrift, putting together their own 10 percent or 20 percent of the action. But we don't have a proportional government. We have a system that depends on a 51 percent presidential majority. But 51 percent of the people don't agree on anything. They were for Carter, yes, but not for any particular reason. So he becomes president, and they don't have (Gerald) Ford to kick around, and his 51 percent starts falling apart."

"I used to be absolutely sure I knew where things were going, but now I don't know . . . I only know the stalemate is for real."

There are no easy answers coming from Sears or Brown or Hayden. But somehow I found more hope than I expected in the fact that three such talented and diverse young men at least have got the question right.

As Brown put it, "Since a lot of us helped to create the rubble, it's only fair that now we help put the building back together."

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Slouch

by Jim Earle

Vietnam changes tune

BY ALAN DAWSON

United Press International

BANGKOK, Thailand — Long a self-proclaimed world leader of revolution, Vietnam has sheathed its big stick and changed its tune.

Its chief spokesman, on an extended foreign tour, has been Vice Foreign Minister Phan Hien, Vietnam's international trouble-shooter.

But area ambassadors, recently recalled to Hanoi apparently for new important instructions, also are at the forefront of the changed policy.

In Tokyo, Phan Hien spoke softly of possible diplomatic relations with the United States and of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a five-member non-Communist regional grouping.

The reasons for all this, of course, hinges on the Hanoi disputes with China and Cambodia, and with Vietnamese attempts to remain basically independent of Moscow.

Relations with Washington would provide a counterbalance to the Russians in Hanoi, while peace with ASEAN could undercut China's all-out support for the five-nation bloc.

"Times change," an American diplomat said. "Vietnam is trying to change with them."

The softening and apparent turnaround on the United States has been startling. A year ago, Hanoi's official Communist party newspaper Nhan Dan said:

"The stand of the government of Vietnam is so just and clear. We stand for

an over-all, package deal solution to three questions which are closely interrelated."

The three issues are diplomatic relations, the U.S. "obligation" to aid Vietnam, and accounting for U.S. war missing.

As late as last January, Prime Minister Phan Van Dong told a news conference in Sri Lanka that his country "insists on a package deal solution."

But July 10 in Tokyo, Phan Hien indicated the package idea may have been discarded, and Hanoi may be moving toward the stand of the Carter Administration for diplomatic relations with no aid commitment.

Commentary

"New bright developments may prevail," he said. "Even if the U.S. Congress rejects reconstruction aid, we look forward to establishing full diplomatic ties."

Even more stunning is Vietnam's turnaround on ASEAN, the five-country grouping of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Less than a year ago, Vietnam pilloried ASEAN as an American-dominated bulwark of imperialism.

A Nhan Dan editorial declared, "ASEAN leaders boast of their independence and neutrality, while allowing U.S. imperialists to set up military bases, request U.S. troops to remain in Southeast Asia and asked for U.S. weapons and dollars."

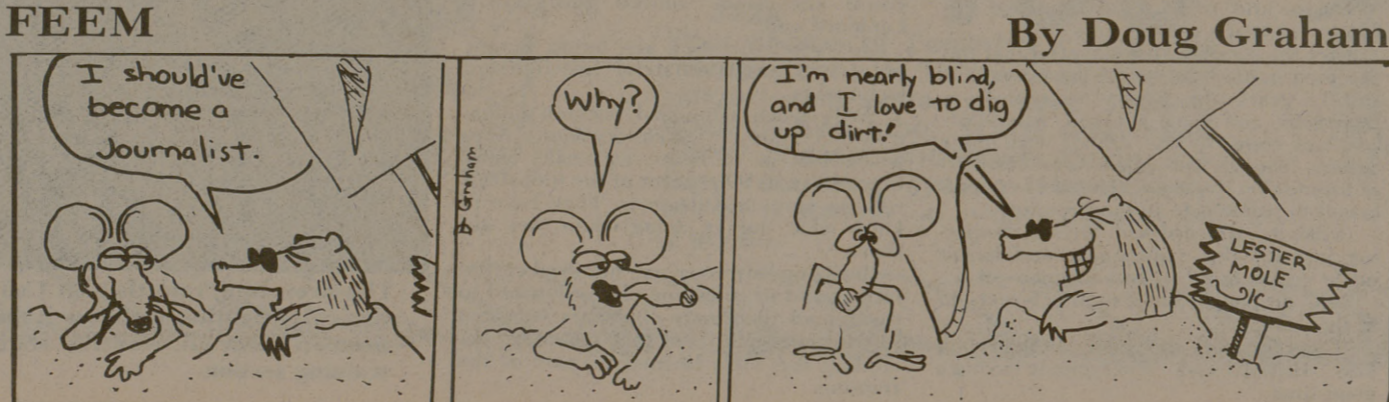
But in past weeks, Hien has visited Singapore and Thailand and planned a Malaysian visit (along with his Tokyo, Sydney and Wellington stopovers), while Vietnamese ambassadors in Thailand and Indonesia have delivered letters to government heads assuring them Vietnam supports ASEAN's peaceful policies.

Vietnam itself has proposed a zone of peace and neutrality in the area (an official ASEAN goal) and Vietnamese officials have indicated Hanoi may attend future ASEAN meetings as observers.

All this was unthinkable just last year.

— Gail Hawley, 78

By Doug Graham



"I should've become a Journalist."

"Why?"

"I'm nearly blind, and I love to dig up dirt!"



"IT'S HARD TO MAKE A BUCK WHEN YOU'RE IN BUSINESS WITH MOTHER NATURE."

Letter to the editor

'Principle of the thing'

Editor: I can not believe the campus police. Five dollars is five dollars, but it's not just the principle of the thing, but also the way they handled the situation.

Last Monday and Tuesday, my mom and sister were here for Freshman Orientation. As I am taking a 5-hour course in Brenham that lasts from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., there is not reason for my car to be registered this semester. The first day of orientation, my mom used my car and parked it at the MSC. When she got back, she had gotten a ticket.

Someone told her to give it to someone in charge at orientation, but she wanted to make sure to do it right so she took it herself to the police station and explained the situation. Not only were they unbelievably rude, but they made a visitor pay a parking ticket! I assume it was because they believed it was really mine, but it is very difficult to be two places at once.

I am not very happy to see anyone treated so unjustly and especially so rudely. That's not the A&M I know and I certainly don't want that image portrayed to visitors to the campus.

If the University police need the money

so badly, I honestly feel there are better sources than getting it that way. And no matter what, they could certainly use some lessons on their manners — at least to our visitors.

FEEM