

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
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## Where have the heroes gone?

By JAMIE AITKEN

Three American businessmen-adventurers made history Thursday. They completed the first trans-Atlantic balloon crossing, almost reliving the epic flight of Charles Lindbergh fifty years ago.

The news of the accomplishment, of course, played over all the media. A fitting tribute in this day and age. But in days gone by there would have been so much more.

Used to be we had heroes. In the movies, on the athletic field, in real life. There were lots of heroes whose feats inspired a nation.

### Readers' forum

Charles Lindbergh was one. Through staunch determination he managed what had never been done before. In France he was treated like a king. Back in the States, he basked in tickertape parades. Those were the days when it was really worth it to be a hero. There was no doubt that the country you represented appreciated your efforts.

That's not quite the case these days. It seems every time we look around the spotlight is on what's bad in the world, and only a passing glance is given to those who are striving for something noble.

Tons of newspaper and hours of broadcast time is spent highlighting crooked politicians, dying cities and rising crime. How much have you seen lately for a noble cause?

It could be that people just aren't trying for noble causes anymore. From what we see and read daily, the world looks so hopeless that there's little to gain in the attempt.

But here in the last week we've seen two marathon swimmers who have tried and lost, and three marathon balloonists who have tried and won. They're all heroes. But except during the immediacy of their defeats and victories, not much is said about them.

Now I am in the news business, and I'm as much to blame for what the public sees and hears as anyone else. Maybe that's why I feel sorry for a nation without heroes. It's not all fun tracking down what's bad in life and reporting it, although I admit that in itself might be considered a noble profession.

But there's more than that. There's the exceptional effort. The extraordinary effort.

The three balloonists will probably get keys to a few cities, maybe a parade back home in New Mexico and perhaps a congratulatory letter from Jimmy Carter. But I rather doubt we'll see the mob-scene parade that Lindbergh experienced in the late '20s, or even as late as the '60s that Neil Armstrong received. It's too bad. We all could use a lift. And they deserve more than just a hand.

After all, not every American risks his or her neck to conquer the unknown.

There are damn few heroes around. . . like so many noble endeavors, it just doesn't seem to pay these days.

Aitken is a former editor of the Battalion.



## Sometimes politics takes a back seat

By DAVID S. BRODER

CHICAGO — Do not speak to me of unimportant things. I have been to Wrigley Field and seen the Cubs. More, I have been to Wrigley Field and seen the Cubs win. Nothing like that has happened for a long time. Not since the Eisenhower administration, to be exact.

I moved to Washington back then, and watched the Senators, until they were kidnapped to Texas. Occasionally, on political reporting trips to Illinois, I would play hooky and get to Wrigley Field. In the late '60s and early '70s, I saw the Cubs lose to the Cardinals, the Giants and, once, even to the Mets.

BUT MONDAY was my day. In the morning, I earned my pass by listening, straight-faced, as Gov. Jim Thompson solemnly vowed to veto an off-track betting bill. He said he could not bear the thought that the youth of Chicago might be corrupted by the sight of a "betting parlor" on every corner.

That was an extraordinary statement from a man of mature years who had actually grown up in Chicago. But having determined, before noon, that Thompson is at least the equal of Jimmy Carter when it comes to spouting political pieties, and therefore a worthy contender for the Republican presidential nomination, I felt no pang of conscience in cutting out for Beautiful Wrigley Field.

Parking my car illegally in a nearby alley

(as I had seen my elders do in my own corrupted youth), I bought a ticket and found myself in a happy throng of some 27,000 people, lured there on a warm, sunny afternoon by the promise of free batting helmets for (uncorrupted) kids and a game with the Atlanta Braves, a team the Cubs (or anyone else) figured to beat.

THE BALL PARK was blessedly unimproved — a dirt infield, real grass, ivy and red brick. The Andy Frain ushers were in the same uniforms I remembered from the days when my friends and I would ride the Illinois Central to Randolph Street and then take the "El" to Addison Street for a Sunday double-header. We kept enough of our spending money to buy a hamburger and a milk shake for 12 cents each at Wimpy's on Randolph on the way back home.

At the ball park, I was happy to see, the hot dogs are still Oscar Mayer and the beer is — what else? — Old Style.

The game was, of course, a classic. The Cubs jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning, and the man behind me, in the boxes on the first base line, turned to his neighbor, a white-haired black man, and asked whether he was retired or just taking the afternoon off.

"Retired 17 years ago," the man said. "I was 67 then. Worked 49 years for Bowman Dairy."

"IS THAT your son?" the first man asked, pointing to the youth of ten with his

blue batting helmet on his head. "Nope," said the retiree. "I never got married. Lots of kidding around, but no kids, if you know what I mean. That boy's mama is a friend of mine, so I brought him with me to the game." And then he added, as if it cleared up everything, "He's got two brothers. I bring them sometimes, too."

Meantime, something wonderful was happening in the Cub second. Two singles and two walks, sandwiched around a pair of infield outs, brought Dave Kingman to bat with the bases loaded.

The big outfielder took two huge swings and had two quick strikes.

"He's done for now," said the man in the next seat. "Two strikes and he's gone. I knew just what he meant. In my days, the Cubs had an outfielder like that named Big Bill Nicholson. Homers or strikeouts was his rule; nothing in between. Mostly strikeouts. His nickname was 'Swish.' No reflection on his manhood, just his technique."

But Kingman crossed us up and got his second consecutive double to left, and there were two more hits and an error, and it was 7-0 after two.

IF YOU are a Cub fan, you know what will happen in a game like that — a classic game. Your pitcher collapses. In the third, our starter, Dave Robert gave up a walk between two outs, and then Gary Matthews hit a homer into the left-field bleachers, where all those boys and girls

sit, stripped down, improving their tans.

Roberts next pitched to Jeff Burroughs, who homered into the left-field bleachers, about three rows further up. He then pitched to Bob Horner, who homered into the left-field bleachers, about six rows further up, and almost out of the park.

The bleachers people were complaining that all the homers were shading them from the sun. Behind me, the little boy was asking the retired milkman if something should be done about Mr. Roberts. But Cub managers do not panic, and Roberts eventually broke his streak with a strikeout.

THUS IT WAS not until the fourth inning that a pair of walks got him lifted. By then the Cubs had increased their lead to 9-4, and a great sense of well-being prevailed the stands.

The sun had come around to bathe the first-base boxes in its warmth, and the Old Style I had drunk was sweating back out of me. Jim Thompson, Jimmy Carter and their fears for the moral standards of our youth seemed a long way away.

Naturally, the Cubs won. It was 13-7, a classic score, baseball or football. The last Cub relief pitcher, nursing a slim six-run lead, managed to walk the bases full in the ninth, before finally retiring the side. That, too, was just as it should have been.

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## The dying donkey?

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Sometimes it looks like it is the Democrats who have the dying political party in this country.

A Democrat occupies the White House, but the president cannot persuade, wheedle or bully Congress to pass many of his highest-priority legislative proposals. Tax, welfare and civil service reform are just three examples.

The Democrats hold almost two-thirds of both the House and Senate, but the party leaders in Congress are unable to pass either the president's program or alternative legislation without extended bickering and dickering. Look no farther than energy.

The Democrats control three-quarters of the nation's governorships, but those governors are a nominal force within the party and practically no help to the president in selling his programs. See all of above.

The Democrats have controlling majorities in four-fifths of the legislatures,

but a major party commitment, the Equal Rights Amendment, cannot be pushed through even three of 13 Democratic-controlled legislatures which to date have refused to ratify the ERA.

The Democratic National Committee operates on a skin-tight budget in rented offices and remains \$1.5 billion in debt from campaigns back to 1968. The GOP has plenty of money and is preparing to buy the building it occupies on Capitol Hill.

However, these are not the symptoms of an organization that is about to self-destruct. They illustrate once again what a major American political party is not — an organization of individuals who agree on a single ideology. They also define what appears to be the actual role of the two parties: to provide ballot labels for candidates.

Some might object to that description as cynical or simplistic. But, except for the question of who should fill elective offices, one is hard-pressed to find an issue of public policy on which every Democrat will disagree with every Republican.

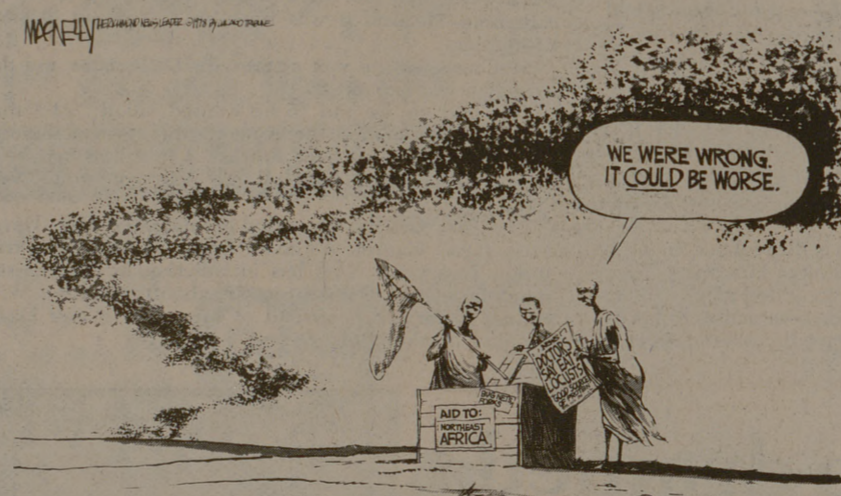
The explanation for all this may be in the present nature of the two-party system in the United States.

Seymour Martin Lipset, in the editor's summary of the book "Emerging Coalitions in American Politics," observes that the "plurality wins" electoral system in this country encourages pre-election coalitions of differing or even competing interests that share little except the desire to win public office.

In systems where proportional representation is built into the electoral process, political parties can afford to be more doctrinaire about their positions during the campaigns and form their coalitions after the elections.

Comparing electoral arrangements is the stuff of all-night arguments. The vital question is whether the political system provides workable government acceptable to a majority of the people.

There are those who believe the system in this country now is falling short of that mark. If so, what has happened before in American politics may happen again — a realignment of the party system to accommodate coalitions that can govern successfully.



## Kodak winning film war

By KAZUO MIKAMI

United Press International

NEW YORK — The U.S. market is a lucrative one for Japanese color film makers, but they face a major sales block: most Americans think photographic film comes in a yellow package marked Kodak.

The continued rise of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar makes it all the more difficult to increase sales here, according to the U.S. subsidiary of Konishiroku Photo Industry Co., Japan's second largest photographic manufacturer.

"In such difficult circumstances," a Konishiroku U.S.A. spokesman said, "what is most important is to keep our present share."

The world amateur color film market now is shared by four companies — Eastman Kodak, the Japanese Fuji Photo and Konishiroku, and Agfa-Gevaert of West Germany.

Among them, Kodak commands the lion's share of 80 percent, industry analysts report.

"The yen's rise has put Kodak in a stronger position in the fierce competition for a larger share of the profitable color film market," said Brenda Lee Landry, a vice president of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith.

"However, it would be difficult for Kodak to expand its share substantially," she said, pointing to Japanese technological expertise and quality.

The three competitors already are staging a price war in the Japanese market, in which Kodak's share is a mere 10 percent compared with 70 percent for Fuji and 20 percent for Konishiroku.

The Japanese, however, have a headache even in the domestic market. That is a reduction in import tariff, which makes it possible for Kodak to reduce the price of its products without loss.

When the Japanese government decided to lower the tariff rate on color film from the 16 percent in effect at the first of the year to 11 percent in March (and an expected 4 percent by the end of the year) the industry raised a strong objection: the tariff cut and the higher yen would "result in a flood of imports" into the Japanese market.

According to customs clearance statistics, Japan's 1976 exports of film and print paper to the United States totaled \$87.2 million and imports \$92 million. During January-September 1977, exports came to \$63.6 million and imports \$68.5 million.

"The trade is thus well balanced, although Japan has an excess of imports," an industry spokesman said.

## TOP OF THE NEWS LOCAL

Apply for degree by Sept. 5

Texas A&M University students planning to complete degree requirements during the fall semester must make a formal application for a degree by Friday, Sept. 8. An \$8 graduation fee must be paid in the Coke Building Fiscal Office before filing the degree application. Undergraduates apply in 105 Heaton Hall and graduate students report to the Graduate College, 125 Teague. Fall semester commencements are set for Dec. 8 and 9.

### Vet School graduation Friday

Dr. William L. "Dub" Anderson of Dallas will be commencement speaker for Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine Friday night at 7 in Rudder Auditorium. Anderson is immediate past president of the 27,000-member American Veterinary Medical Association. He has three veterinary clinics in the Dallas area and is a 1952 graduate of Texas A&M.

### 29th MSC open house set

The 29th annual Memorial Student Center open house and reception will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday. The MSC Council and Directorate sponsor the open house to introduce new students to administrators, faculty, student leaders and former students of Texas A&M.

## STATE Inmate gives birth

Julie Marie Catley hopes she will be out of prison by December so she can care for her infant daughter born Monday at the Harris County Jail. The woman, serving a two-year term for theft, surprised officials by giving birth to a 7-pound baby girl in the jail's medical ward. Capt. C.R. Gaines said the woman was experiencing labor pains every four minutes, leading medical personnel to believe she was not ready to give birth. "But we surprised them, yes we did," the woman said from her hospital bed. "My baby was ready to be born and she decided to be born at jail."

### Democratic party meetings set

State Democratic chairman Calvin Guest in Austin Tuesday called special meetings of party committees in two congressional districts to choose candidates to replace one office holder who resigned and another removed from office. Guest said the 16th congressional district meeting will be Sept. 9 in Van Horn to choose a Democratic candidate for the State Board of Education. Woodrow W. Bean of El Paso, the current officeholder, has resigned. The 3rd congressional district committee will meet Thursday in Palestine to pick a nominee for district attorney. Billy Ray Green was removed from office after his conviction on a public lewdness charge in Austin.

### Exam suggested for teachers

Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, said Tuesday in Austin that he will sponsor legislation next year to require prospective teachers to pass tests before taking jobs in public schools. "I was shocked and astounded to read that approximately 50 percent of the Dallas Independent School District's teachers failed a test aimed at high school students," he said. Kubiak said a certification program similar to licensing procedures required for attorneys, doctors and dentists would be a good idea for new teachers and teachers moving to Texas from other areas.

### Topless sunbathers allowed

City park police in Denver say because of the questionable constitutionality of an ordinance prohibiting topless women in public, they will have to let women continue to sunbathe and frolic in the parks barechested. Richard Fischer, a parks police supervisor, said he had received instructions from the city attorney's office not to enforce the law until a case testing its legality was settled through the state's appellate court system. He said he expected an increased number of young women basking in the parks.

### Skateboarder goes 77 miles

Inspired by Albuquerque's famous trans-Atlantic balloonists, a 13-year-old boy Tuesday traveled the 77 miles from Albuquerque to Socorro, N.M., on a skateboard. To a news reporter who pulled alongside his skateboard during the seven-hour, 21-minute trip, Ruben Garcia Jr. spoke of his admiration for balloonists Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman. "I'd sure like to be able to meet them when they get back," said Ruben. The skateboard trip, which began at 4 a.m. and ended at 11:21 a.m., "was pretty rough at times," Ruben said. "I've got blisters on my toes, but they'll be okay."

## WORLD

### Kenya's president dies

Jomo Kenyatta, leader of the Mau Mau black rebellion of the 1950s who went on to become president of one of the most moderate nations in Africa, died peacefully in his sleep Tuesday, the government announced in Nairobi, Kenya. He was about 85 though his exact birthdate was never established. His death left the battle for the nation's leadership wide open. Once described by British colonial Governor Sir Patrick Renison as a "leader to darkness and death," Kenyatta, the last of Africa's modern nationalist politicians, became president on Kenya's independence in 1963 and confounded his white critics by keeping the East African nation firmly in the Western camp.

## WEATHER

Partly cloudy and hot today and Thursday. High today in the upper 90s and low in the mid-70s. South wind at 6 to 12 mph. Probability of precipitation near 0.

## THE BATTALION

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