

## Too much sun

President Carter's recent vacation had seemed like a good idea, giving both the president and the country a rest. But somebody must have left Mr. Carter out in the sun too long.

The president may offer to station American troops on the West Bank of the Jordan River to beef up Middle East peace negotiations, Press Secretary Jody Powell said Wednesday. That offer would be meant as encouragement for the Sadat-Begin peace summit Carter has scheduled for Camp David Sept. 5.

Such an offer must have been conceived in a sun-addled mind. The day of American marines ready to break up any fight anywhere in the world is over. American troops sitting on the West Bank would be perfect targets for terrorists trying to escalate that conflict.

Consider this scenario. American troops are killed by terrorists. More troops move in to reinforce those troops and "protect American lives." More fighting. Presidential warnings. Fighting. A call for troops to fight another undeclared war.

Sound familiar?  
Please, somebody get Mr. Carter into the shade before he makes any rash offers.  
L.R.L.

## "D.C." power deserves no separate equality

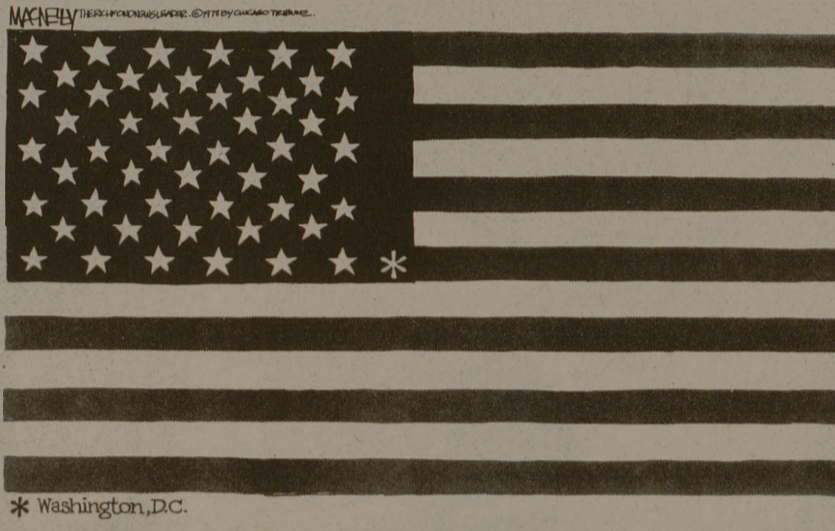
We've had black power, brown power, woman power and gay power. Now a new "minority" is demanding more representation.

It's the "D.C. power" movement, born and nurtured by residents of Washington D.C. who believe they're not getting an equal voice in national government.

But this movement's members have convinced both the House and Senate to approve a Constitutional amendment that would give the District of Columbia's 710,000-plus residents the right to elect two senators and a congressman. That proposal will become the 27th Amendment to the Constitution if it is ratified by 38 of the states.

It's an amendment that richly deserves to be rejected.

The city now has one delegate to the House of Representatives who can vote on committee decisions, but can not vote on the House floor. Proponents of the amendment say this isn't enough, arguing that they receive no direct voice on national legislation, yet are larger than some states.



\* Washington, D.C.

The city does have a larger population than 10 other states, primarily because its 67 square miles hold a population many times denser than that of any state.

But Washington's population — or at least its voting population — contains a very high percentage of federal employees. The national representatives proposed for the city would be serving more as labor representatives for a select group of bureaucrats than as defenders of the interests of all the city's residents.

And if Washington's three-quarters of a million people deserve individual representation, why shouldn't the nation's 11 larger cities receive the same treatment. Houston, Dallas and San Antonio all out-rank the national city in population.

Washington D.C. wasn't founded to be the equal of any state. It was specifically established as a "national city" — separate from all states.

It needs to stay that way — without its own senators and congressman.  
L.R.L.

## China's Great Wall opening to U.S.

By HELEN THOMAS  
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — The Chinese are breaking out of their self-imposed wall and prospects are growing that President Carter may be able to fulfill a foreign policy goal next year and establish diplomatic relations with mainland China.

White House officials have been saying privately that Carter has a two-pronged plan for handling the China question. He hopes to work out an arrangement whereby the United States will recognize China, but at the same time continue trade with Taiwan and military supply of the Nationalist government. The strategy is the same as Japan has managed to establish in its relations with China.

There are many signs that a diplomatic breakthrough is in the making. China has signed a new treaty with Japan and Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng is traveling all over eastern Europe cementing new friendships with other communist

nations. The Chinese leader is also visiting Iran on the borders of the Soviet Union.

To say that Soviets view Hua Kuo-feng's state visits in their European sphere of influence is provocative is to say the least. The new Chinese outreach has demonstrated the complete schism in the Com-

### Washington Window

unist world between the two superpowers. It also indicates that China needs allies as border enemy with the Soviet Union continues.

One of the most amazing of the new gestures on the part of China was a decision to have its delegates sit down at the same international conference with representatives from Taiwan.

Diplomatic observers said the appearance of physicists from both China and Taiwan at a scientific meeting in Tokyo

signaled a major policy change.

In the past, China has refused to have its own representatives sit down with delegates from Taiwan and it only joined the United Nations when Taiwan was ousted.

The Tokyo meeting is considered the most prominent demonstration of a new flexibility in Chinese diplomacy.

Much as Carter may have wanted to recognize China from the outset of his administration, Taiwan supporters in the United States would have put up howls. First, Carter took on another controversial foreign policy goal by winning ratification of the Panama Canal treaties by a one-vote margin. In many respects the treaties did not add to his popularity or support for his administration, although he firmly believes in their necessity and their validity.

The same politicians who charged he was giving away the Panama Canal would be the first to condemn any breaks in the long-time relationship with Taiwan.

National Security Affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski visited China several months ago and apparently laid the ground work for an improved relationship.

Since then, there have been several high-level delegations, including top level government officials traveling to China in a steady stream.

The Soviets also see this new step-up in U.S.-Chinese exchanges as part of a diabolical plot by Brzezinski and a buildup against Russia.

But U.S. officials believe the need for diplomatic recognition of China as inevitable. And if Carter mangles the almost impossible — to get a peace agreement in the Middle East at the Camp David summit between Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian Prime Minister Anwar Sadat, he teases that he may just try for another summit between Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev and Hua Kuo-feng.

## Fingerprints replacing signatures

By LeROY POPE  
UPI Business Writer

NEW YORK — Chances are you'll be fingerprinted one of these days whether or not you ever commit a crime.

The use of fingerprints to combat check forging and to confirm identification on many other kinds of documents is bound to grow rapidly, says Oscar Pieper, president of Identifier Corp. of San Bruno, Calif.

Pieper's company makes a little fingerprinting device that looks like a doorknob and is being used by a score of the company's biggest banks and many other businesses to deter forger and impersonators.

Called Touchsignature, it has been on the market two years and several other companies are making similar devices.

Unlike the standard fingerprint system, it doesn't use messy printer's ink or leave any residue on your hands. Two inkless colors, yellow and orange, are blended by

pressing a finger to one and then the other. But the colors leave a mark only on paper.

Touchsignature is not a system of submitting finger prints to be filed. If you are asked to put a thumbprint on a personal check and the check is good you get the print back on your cancelled check. But if

### Business

something's wrong, the print can be compared with police records.

Its big advantage is as a deterrent. No forger or check passer would dare leave a fingerprint on a bad check and once he learns that a particular bank or store uses Touchsignature he will shun that place, Pieper said.

"Since most of the estimated \$4 billion a year bad check loss of American business

is reaped by professional forgers and passers, Touchsignature could prove a powerful deterrent," he said.

Touchsignature is not intended for routine identification. The banks that use it do require it for opening new accounts and for what are called "officer referral items," any check or other money document on which the teller cannot verify identification satisfactorily by ordinary means.

Drivers licenses are the most common means of identification and the American Bankers Association claims 97 percent of all losses in the opening of new accounts with bad checks and many other bad check losses are accomplished by means of forged driving licenses.

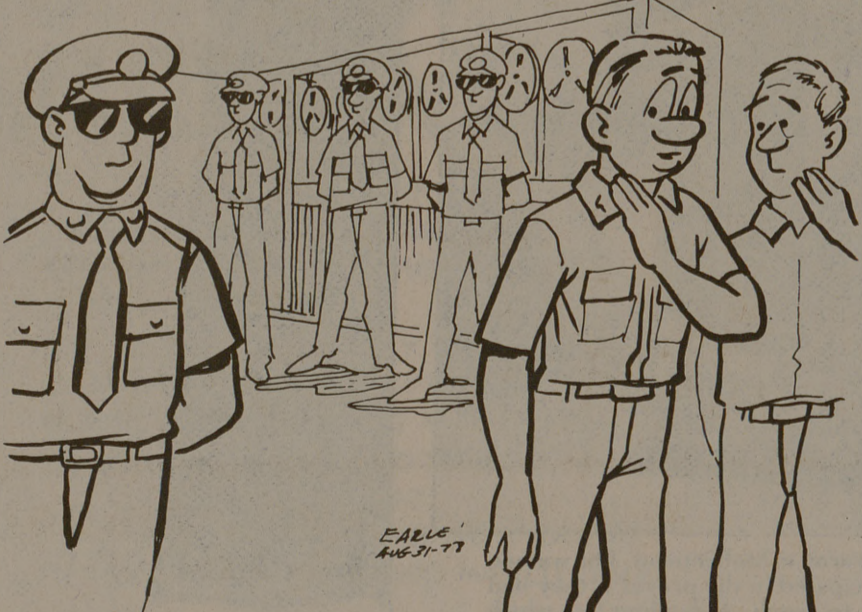
Pieper said Touchsignature and competing devices are being used as deterrents to fraudulent identification on credit cards, cash and credit refund vouchers, employment applications, merchandise pickup orders, narcotic drug prescriptions, safety

deposit box entry, gun registrations, customs declarations, hospital admissions, auto rental agreements, air passenger identification and a number of uses when circumstances of doubt arise.

Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., of New York, and various other users in the Midwest and far west have asked some thousands of shoppers and bank depositors if they objected to inkless fingerprint identification and found fewer than 25 percent have any objections.

Pieper said there is one tremendous public misconception about fingerprint identification. People think it is entirely a modern science.

It is true that it has come into widespread use in Europe and the United States in only the past 75 years. But Pieper said convincing evidence now has been found that the Chinese had a fairly good knowledge of fingerprint identification as long ago as 200 B.C. and even the ancient Babylonians appear to have had a rudimentary knowledge of the science.



"I HEAR THAT THEY'RE HAVING TO GUARD THE COMPUTER UNTIL REGISTRATION IS OVER AND THE PREVAILING HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD IT IS UNDER CONTROL!"

## Powell refuses to block hearings

Dallas School Superintendent Nolan Estes knew "it was a long shot" that Supreme Court Justice Powell would block further hearings on desegregation of Dallas schools. The school district said the existing system was a "unique and innovative remedy" for eliminating constitutional flaws in the system. The problem involves some one-race schools in the Dallas area. U.S. District Judge W.M. Taylor drew up the desegregation plan put into effect in 1976. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered Taylor to look at the one-race schools permitted in his plan. The 5th Circuit also said Taylor erred in not providing for busing of students who chose a majority-to-minority transfer option.

## Midair collision injures two

A midair collision of two U.S. Navy training jets sent two pilots to a hospital in Victoria Wednesday afternoon. The pilots were in stable condition and were to be transferred to the Naval hospital in Corpus Christi yesterday. The planes were involved in three-plane training maneuvers when the collision occurred. A special crash unit from Chase air station is scheduled to investigate the accident.

## Oak Cliff residents 'gassed out'

More than 1,000 apartment residents in suburban Oak Cliff were allowed to return home after gas from an overturned truck was cleaned up. Gasoline spilled from the gas truck which overturned as the driver attempted to turn around on a slope. Emergency teams from the city of Dallas and 64 firefighters flushed the estimated 3,000 gallons of spilled gas down the storm sewers, dammed the creeks and vacuumed it out.

## NATION

### Helicopter crashes in Gulf, 4 dead

A helicopter ferrying workers to an offshore drilling platform crashed in the Gulf of Mexico killing all four persons aboard Wednesday. The crash was the second in less than a month for Petroleum Helicopters, Inc. The company shuttles hundreds of workers to offshore platforms daily.

### Bank extortion suspect arrested

An Oklahoma man was arrested by FBI agents for his involvement in Texas bank extortions. Immigration officials arrested John Wayne Young at O'Hare Airport and turned him over to FBI officials who sought his extradition to Texas. A Dallas federal grand jury returned an indictment July 25 charging Young with conspiracy to extort money from the Commonwealth National Bank and White Rock National Bank in Dallas. Young is charged with abducting Nelda Pittman, wife of the president of the Commonwealth Bank, to extort money from the bank. Young could face a maximum sentence of 40 years if convicted on both counts.

## WORLD

### Two killed in riot shooting

Riot police fired on brick-throwing demonstrators in Mahad, Iran yesterday killing two persons and seriously wounding another. The disorder broke out after nearly 40,000 persons marched peacefully through the city in mourning for the victims of a previous clash 40 days earlier. Demonstrators provoked police into using tear gas which in turn was answered with brick-throwing. Police opened fire shortly after. Shops and public installations around the area were damaged and troops moved into the area after police failed to quell the riot.

### Newscaster's home bombed again

A bomb destroyed the apartment of a French television newscaster early Thursday injuring people but leaving the newscaster unhurt. The "Franco-Arab Refusal Section" claimed responsibility for the explosion. "Yves Mourousi is paying for his Jewish ties and for the obstinacy of the fascist Jean Dutoir," said the telephone caller. The Refusal Section said a third attack was being planned which "will draw much more attention."

### East-West in flap over hijacking

The hijacking of a Polish airliner to West Berlin and subsequent pleas for political asylum by 10 East German passengers have created an East-West diplomatic flap. The Soviet Union demanded the hijacker be extradited to East Berlin. The State Department said the hijacker would almost certainly be prosecuted in West Berlin. The East German Foreign Ministry claimed that the passengers were pressured into asking for asylum. Although the Washington has urged that all hijackers be returned to their homelands to face justice, the hijackers will probably be prosecuted in West Berlin due to the agreement of the Hague Convention which states that hijackers be brought to justice there.

## WEATHER

Considerable cloudiness today with chance of showers and thundershowers. High today near 90s and low in the low 70s. Easty and southerly wind at 5 to 10 mph. Probability of rain 40% today and 30% tomorrow.

## Letter to the editor

### Academy not oldest

Editors:

I compliment the staff and their talents in compiling the Back-To-School issue of "The Battalion" (Monday Aug. 28). As a freshman and a newcomer to Bryan-College Station, I appreciated the information on campus problems and activities, local entertainment spots along with the general history of the area.

However, the story on Allen Academy contains a fallacy which stands to be corrected. The article states that Allen Academy is "in its 92nd year as the oldest college preparatory school in Texas." I am afraid the authors heard this propaganda straight from the school P.R. man's mouth, because a small amount of investigation would have quickly dispelled the validity of this claim.

I graduated from Ursuline Academy, a female college preparatory in San Antonio, Texas. Established in 1851, it is now entering its 127th year, an obvious 35 years

older than the Allen Academy. Though I am not doubting the prestige of Allen as possibly being the oldest male college prep in Texas, I definitely feel a correction is necessary.  
— Nancy Ann Butler, '82

### 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

## 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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