

### Beware the Brezhnev Doctrine

Even by the standards of the 20th century, a terrible crime was committed 10 years ago this week when Soviet and Warsaw Pact armies invaded Czechoslovakia to stamp out "communism with a human face."

On the surface the crushing of reformist communism has been successful. The liberal Alexander Dubcek was replaced by pro-Moscow Gustav Husak. No more heresy is heard about civil and political rights. The country is cowed, docile and apathetic, an ideal vassal state.

Nevertheless Russia has paid a heavy price for restraining Prague in an ideological straitjacket. Romania and Yugoslavia, fearful of being next, are ready to fight for their independence. A nervous China moved to achieve a new relationship with the United States.

The worst setback was in Western Europe, where the legend of democratic communism was accepted before August 1968. Now ex-communist intellectuals form the core of the 'new philosophers' who argue persuasively that repression and dictatorship are an integral part of Marxism.

The ideological justification for the rape of Prague was the Brezhnev Doctrine. Stripped of its prevarications, it states grimly that once a government becomes communist, it must remain so and Moscow reserves the right to intervene if there is any backsliding.

These days communist parties — "reformed" and "democratic" ones, of course — are striving to enter governments in France, Italy, Spain and Portugal. They pledge to play according to the rules and to yield power if the voters so decide.



The peoples of those nations would do well to reflect on the fate of Dubcek's regime. The Brezhnev Doctrine isn't dead; it's only sleeping.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

### Lots of new faces at Governors Club

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — At the end of the recent National Governors Association conference, chairman William Milliken of Michigan intoned a long list of names — members of the NGA who were attending their last meeting.

There are 24 states that limit governors to two terms, five that forbid governors to seek a second consecutive term. With the governors whose tenure is expiring, plus primary defeats and personal decisions to seek other office or just pack it in, 14 current governors will not be on hand when the association meets again.

THAT DOES NOT include incumbents who will be retired by the voters in November, so it is entirely possible that 20

or more of 50 NGA members will be freshmen at the next national meeting.

That may be another reason that the nation's governors as a group have had problems exercising the political clout that their status and numbers seemingly should provide.

It is the conventional political wisdom that members of the Senate have had an advantage in presidential selection because of their access to the national media. That certainly is a factor, but the continuity that a couple of six-year Senate terms provide also helps establish a politician's image.

For the governors, there is also a problem of consensus. Collectively, they represent the same constituency as the president, but the trick is to get the governors

to do something collectively.

It is true that in recent years the NGA has been able to mobilize an effective governors' bloc to fight for specific legislation such as revenue sharing and welfare reform to help states.

BUT IN ADDITION to the basic liberal-conservative philosophical split of American politics, the governors, as should be expected, remain a bastion of states' rights sentiment.

That means that many of them are suspicious of any federal solution to domestic problems, which often makes it difficult for them to unite on any single alternative. When the governors speak on national issues, they frequently seem to be saying no more than "leave us alone."

To some, that seems to be a pity be-

cause it has been the states that have provided the United States with some of its most creative government. In the first part of this century it was unemployment compensation and public service regulation; more recently it has been environmental and consumer protection, and criminal justice reform.

HOWEVER, IT MAY BE public realization that good government can be found in the state capitals as well as in Washington that has, after several decades of obscurity, propelled governors into the front ranks of presidential contention.

The problem obviously is whether an executive whose perspectives were formed in state government can apply those ideas and skills successfully to national government. We are testing that proposition now.

## NATION

### Gunman wounds five at match

A gunman fired six to 10 shots into a crowd of about 250 spectators at an Ecorse, Mich. high school soccer match late Sunday. Five persons were wounded, three critically. Early Monday police arrested an 18-year-old suspect. The suspect, not immediately identified, was held on charges of assault with intent to commit murder. Lt. John Williams of the Ecorse Police Department said. Police also were seeking "at least one other" suspect, identified only as a male, he said.

### 'Ella' shifts from E. Coast

Hurricane Ella sped through the North Atlantic Monday, its 115 mph winds a threat only to shipping in the Cape Hatteras, N.C. area. The storm's forward speed accelerated during the night to 30 mph, but the National Hurricane Center said its strength should begin to weaken today. Monday at 6 a.m. EDT, Ella was centered about 430 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia and moving on a northeasterly course. The shift away from the East Coast cleared the way for thousands of Labor Day tourists to take advantage of sunny beaches and rolling surf.

### Orleans strike under attack

The Orleans Parish school board Monday began taking steps to convince teachers to end a three-day strike that has crippled instruction to 90,000 students in New Orleans. The union said such "strikebreaking tactics" would fail. School superintendent Gene Geisert said he would release a statement about 9 p.m. outlining what disciplinary action the board will take against the strikers. Geisert's plans were formulated in a closed session with the school board Sunday. He refused to disclose specifics.

## WORLD

### Cosmonauts return safely

Two cosmonauts who made a weeklong visit to the orbiting Salyut 6 space lab returned to a hero's welcome on Earth Monday, leaving behind two Soviet spacemen on the verge of a space-endurance record. Soviet Commander Valery Bykovsky, 44, and East German cosmonaut Sigmund Jaehn, 41, made a soft-landing Sunday in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan. The Tass news agency said. Tass said the crew stepped from the capsule, sat down a moment to catch their breath, then scrawled their signatures in chalk on the side of the dark, sooty spacecraft.

### 15,000 drowned in India

More than 15,000 people were feared drowned in flash floods in West Bengal state, and authorities began moving villagers from flood-threatened areas near New Delhi, India, it was reported Monday. The Statesmen newspaper reported hundreds of bodies floating in the swollen Kangsabati and Silabati rivers. Officials said New Delhi and 25 villages along the Jamuna River, which flows by New Delhi, were faced with a flood of "unprecedented magnitude" and began moving more than 200,000 people from the area.

## WEATHER

Partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow. High in the mid-90s and low in the upper 60s. Wind lightly variable. Probability of rain 20% for today and tomorrow.

## 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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### More women working, fewer marrying

## Census Bureau reports America changing

By PATRICK J. KILLEN  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Putting off marriage and children longer, today's women are gaining an ever-increasing share of America's jobs and now make up 41 percent of the total labor force, the Census Bureau has reported.

Profiling the U.S. population, the bureau said the labor force topped the 100 million mark for the first time in 1977 with a gain of nearly 14.7 million workers from 1970 to 1977. Women accounted for 57 percent of that growth and now hold 41 million jobs.

In 1960, the bureau reported, 38 percent of all American women were employed, while in 1977, 48 percent of the

women had jobs. During the same period the proportion of men working dropped from 83 to 80 percent.

The ratio of males to females in the civilian labor force declined from 2-to-1 in 1960 to 1.44-to-1 in 1977.

The bureau said the number of working wives continued to increase, rising from 40.5 percent in 1970 to 46.4 percent in 1977.

Young women are delaying marriage and childbearing longer. About 43 percent of the women married in the 20-24 age group in 1977 had not borne children, compared to 36 percent in 1970 and 24 percent in 1960.

The number of women in their early 20s who have not married went from 36 to 45

percent between 1970 and 1977.

Based on interviews with some 53,000 households interviewed monthly, the report pulls together assorted population figures mentioned in earlier surveys. The survey reported:

An estimated 1,914,000 unmarried adults of the opposite sex were living together in 1977, an 83 percent increase since 1970.

The marriage rate went up marginally from 9.9 per 1,000 in 1976 to 10.1 in 1977, but was still below the peak of 11.0 in 1972. The number of marriages in 1977 was 2,176,000, nearly twice the number of divorces, 1,097,000.

About 38 percent of the first marriages of women in their late 20s may eventually end in divorce, the bureau estimated. It said women in the same group with an incomplete college education had a greater chance of being divorced — 49 percent, than those with exactly four years of college — 29 percent.

The average size of an American household has declined from 3.14 persons in 1970 to 2.86 in 1977.

Median or mid-point family income in 1976 (the only figure available,) in constant dollars, was \$14,960, about \$500 higher

than in 1970, and was 3 percent higher in 1976 than in 1975.

White families had a median income in 1976 of \$15,540, black families \$9,240 and Spanish origin families \$10,260. Families headed by females had a median income of only \$7,210, compared with a husband-wife family whose median income was \$16,200.

In 1976, about 25 million persons or 12 percent of the population were below the poverty level, with blacks making up 30 percent and Hispanics 11 percent of the poor people. The elderly accounted for another 13 percent.

There were 24.5 million blacks in the population in March 1977, representing 11.5 percent of the total. Persons of Spanish origin numbered 11.3 million. Their total included 6.55 million persons of Mexican origin, 1.74 million from Puerto Rico, 680,000 from Cuba, and 2.30 million from Central or South America or other Spanish locations.

The 1977 birthrate was 15.3 per 1,000 population, up from 14.7 in 1976 and 1975. The death rate edged downward to "a historic low" of 8.8 per 1,000, compared with 8.9 in 1976 and 1975.

## Slouch

by Jim Earle



JIM EARLE  
SEP 5 '78

"YOUR FIRST JOB IN COLLEGE IS TO ESTABLISH YOUR PRIORITIES, FISH JETHRO, AND GETTING YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS OUT MIGHT BE A LOWER PRIORITY FOR THE TIME BEING!"

### Letter to the editor

## The most sacred tradition

Editor: We wish to take this time before the first Silver Taps of the year to inform all the new Aggies about this most sacred of traditions at Texas A&M.

By definition, Silver Taps is that final tribute paid to an Aggie who at the time of his death was enrolled in undergraduate or graduate classes at Texas A&M. The notice is posted at the base of the flagpole in front of the Academic Building.

Essentially, Silver Taps is a memorial service and should be treated as such. It begins at 10:30 on a scheduled Tuesday night after a student passes on. Aggies gather around the mall in front of the Academic Building. The Ross Volunteer firing squad marches to Lawrence Sullivan Ross' statue and fires a twenty-one gun sa-

lute. This is followed by three renditions of silver taps played by members of the Texas Aggie Band.

Common practices associated with Silver Taps are that lights in buildings throughout the campus are extinguished until the following morning and that complete silence is maintained out of respect towards the deceased Aggie. Also, please do not bring cameras with flash attachments or other light sources.

Silver Taps. A memorial, a sobering experience, an honorable way to remember a fallen comrade.

—Steve Manley, Corps P.R. Officer, '79  
—Dean C. Murray, Corps P.R. Sergeant, '80