

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 1978

Time for hard dealing at Camp David

The Mideast summit meeting is one conference that must not be permitted to fail. When ambassadors meet and disagree, there is recourse to foreign ministers. When foreign ministers fall into deadlock, a meeting of heads of state is a safety net. When heads of state fail, there is no higher court of appeal, and the generals start dusting off their contingency plans. Thus there is high risk in Carter's diplomatic rescue mission. Yet he had no other choice. Begin and Sadat, through inflexibility and error, had brought the peace process to a halt. Before Carter proposed a last-ditch effort at Camp David, Egypt had been studying its military options. On the surface there is little ground to expect a settlement.

Carter ought to tell Begin and Sadat the blunt truth, which comprises the following: —The American people are sick of seemingly endless hostilities in the Middle East. They are willing to contribute financially to the area in the context of peace, but they are tired of helping to finance wars between Israel and Egypt. —If Begin thinks he can achieve peace with the Arabs while continuing to occupy the territory overrun in 1967, he is out of his mind. America is committed to Israel's security within its old borders, not to Begin's territorial appetites. —If Sadat thinks Israel will, or should, withdraw from the occupied territories without ironclad arrangements for its security, he is being

as shortsighted as Begin.

—Any idiot or blunderer can make war in the Middle East; it is that easy. It is time for Sadat and Begin to strive for statesmanship, to move toward the peace their peoples yearn for, but do not know how to achieve. And as long as we are delivering unsolicited advice, we have some for the political set in Washington that enjoys carving up Jimmy Carter: lay off him about the Mideast as he tries to avert another Arab-Israeli war. Criticism of his diplomacy won't help at this time. When a man is trying to defuse a time bomb, don't jostle him.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

When 'only good news' bad news

By ANDY WILLIAMS
Battalion Campus Editor

There was nothing particularly alarming about the incident itself. Things like it happen every day on college campuses, always with a will. After consulting several sources, this is the story that emerged: Shortly after midnight Sept. 7, 18 students broke into another man's dormitory room. Angered by a remark he'd made about an organization they were in, they'd decided to teach him a lesson. The man was bound, gagged, and carried from the room towards the stairs. While he was being gagged, he felt fingers slip into his mouth—he bit them and was slugged in the face. As the group got to the staircase, the man's neighbors were roused by the racket and rushed from their rooms. Surprised, the men dropped him on the stairs and ran. The man's friends took him to the University clinic, where he was treated for what the doctor in charge called "multiple superficial abrasions and a swollen right foot." In other words, he wasn't badly

hurt. There were no deep cuts, no fractures, and no concussion. Discipline was enforced—the man who hit the victim was placed on "conduct probation" by the University, and the other 17 were required to stay in their dorms for the following three weekends. Nothing unusual—yet.

Commentary

At most universities, the incident would have been routinely reported to the local media by authorities; it would have rated a small story on an inside page of the newspaper and little or no mention by broadcasters. Probably less than half the people in the community would have remembered the incident the next day. And, except for one factor, that is doubtless the sequence of events that would have followed at Texas A&M University. But these men were in the Corps of Cadets, and that made all the difference. The victim's name is Kevin Cotton. He's a senior. Somehow he was indiscreet

enough to criticize another outfit of the Corps—the Cavalry—and be overheard. The Battalion heard of the incident the same way students did: through rumor, and with considerable exaggeration. It was never reported by any official, and we heard nothing about it until four days after the fact. The first, and mistaken, understanding was that 18 men had gone to Cotton's room, hauled him out of bed, punched him around, and deliberately thrown him down the stairs. Actually, Bob Kamensky, the Corps commander (who was not involved in the incident but who made his own investigation), says the intent of the Cavalry members was to take Cotton well away from the campus, strip him and tie his clothes to a horse. The practice is called "hauling off," and was outlawed four years ago, though it still goes on with some regularity, Kamensky said. Subsequent attempts by a Battalion reporter to discover the details of the incident were blocked. The Guard Room refused to give her Cotton's phone number, although that is

one of its normal functions. Corps Commandant James R. Woodall told her the incident was a "Corps affair," and said it was none of her business. A cadet named Cotten, contacted by mistake, claimed that he was Kevin Cotton and demanded that nothing be written about the hauling off. And Kamensky, finally invited Wednesday night to a parley with Battalion editors by the reporter, said he was "proud" his men had refused to speak to reporters. While he gave out the information freely, he asked that the Battalion not print anything about the incident. The suppression of information from the media is ugly. It leads to what it led to here: rumors. And it balloons—from this beginning, it would be easy to believe the Corps, or any other group that fears negative publicity, would be willing to cover up more serious matters. It indicates an almost paranoid fear of letting anything defamatory, however slight, get into the public's view. And that is alarming.

The early bird

By HELEN THOMAS
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — All signs indicate President Carter is running for reelection. And the most prominent indication is the way he is transforming his new White House staff into a mini-campaign operation. The hiring of image-maker and advertising expert Gerald Rafshoon was the kickoff. Rafshoon's changes in the White House setup already are becoming evident as he digs in. AROUND THE TIME that Rafshoon moved into Richard Nixon's hideaway office in the Executive Office Building, appointments secretary Tim Kraft took over a political liaison position.

Washington Window

From his office near the Oval Office, Kraft has organized a series of White House sessions with Carter and other administration aides on a state-by-state basis for Democratic leaders and rank and file party members to improve the lines of communication. On such days, lunch for all is held at Blair House, the president's guest house. Rafshoon also has become a chief coordinator in helping the president to put his best foot forward. First to come on board was Anne Wexler, a Democratic party worker since the days of Harry Truman. An early Carter supporter, it has been her job to line up support for the president's programs — and the president — among various groups in the country. TO ENHANCE HIS sagging prestige with Jewish leaders and the Jewish community, Carter has hired Los Angeles lawyer Edward Sanders to be his liaison chief. He has an office in the White House and an office in the State Department,

keeping tabs on administration policy so that there is no further alienation from Jewish voters. The \$50,000-a-year job was created by Carter, but Sanders has been put on the State Department payroll. Former Democratic National Committee vice chairman Louis Martin also has been named to be Carter's chief link with black leaders and the black community. Martin is a political pro and well liked in black circles. Carter has a lot of fence-mending to do with black leaders who were the first to complain that he was not living up to his campaign promises. The president also dropped Midge Costanza, former vice mayor of Rochester, N.Y., who was on his senior staff and was of his first political supporters, and replaced her with Sarah Weddington, first named as general counsel in the Agriculture Department. Weddington, a former member of the Texas legislature, has been given her marching orders — to win ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and to be in charge of women's affairs. ON ANOTHER FRONT, Carter has been holding a series of White House dinners, at the behest of Rafshoon, for the top executives of newspapers, newspaper chains and television networks. Since he took office he also has invited out-of-town editors and broadcast correspondents to a Friday interview every two weeks or so. At the end of such sessions, he poses for a photograph with each editor. The president and his wife also have a heavy campaign travel schedule this fall in support of Democratic candidates, and these efforts may pay off in 1980. At some point, there will be the question of whether an aide is devoting full-time to politics or to serving the government. Apparently, that comes later. Carter so far has declined to tip his hand. But it is beginning to look as if he is putting his political house in order.



Letters to the editor

Band is for men—only

Editor: In reference to the letter written by Miss Elizabeth Stephens appearing in the September 13 issue of the Battalion: Miss Stephens, from the gist of your letter, you must not realize the long-held traditions at this university, one of which is connected specifically with the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. The band has always, and hopefully will always, consist exclusively of male members. Aggies take pride in this unit and its outstandingly unique style, which in the opinion of many is beyond compare to any other band. If you honestly feel that you are not receiving a fair shake, why not consider looking into another university. Believe it or not, honey, Highway 6 runs both ways. —Cindy Childress, '80
Robin Parker, '80

being put out on campus. I enjoyed the paper immensely last year and appreciated the different articles it contained. —Anne Tadlock, '81

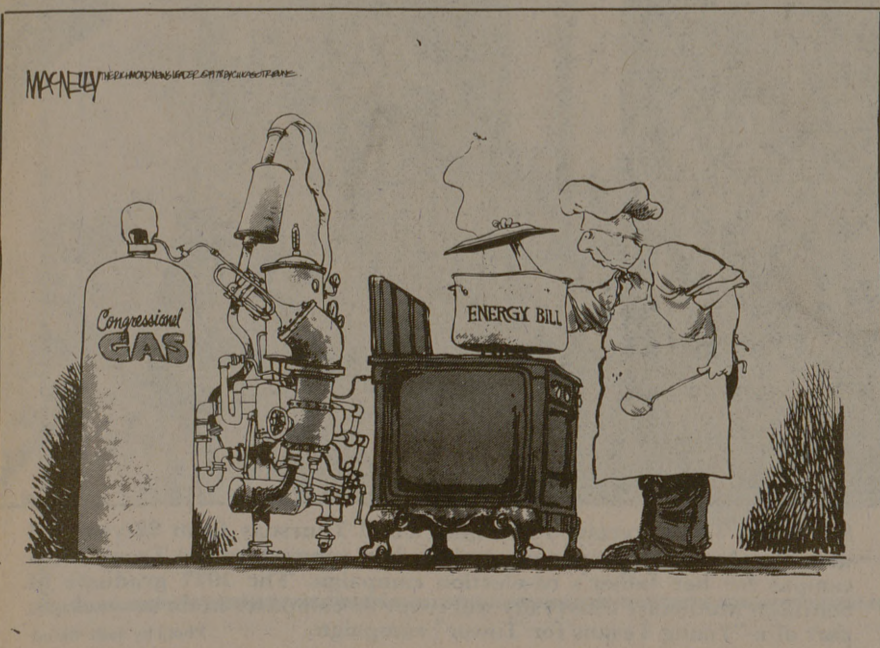
Spirit dying

Editor: As Aggie Seniors, recent events have caused us to become concerned about trends at Aggieland. There is a long standing Aggie tradition that has been nearly forgotten. That is, "HOWDY!" Doesn't anyone around here know what it means? It's rare enough that you get a smile from anyone—much less a "Howdy!" If you say "Howdy!" to someone around here these days, a "none of your business" look usually results. Even c.t.'s (who are supposed to embody the Spirit of Aggieland) are guilty of ignoring this tradition in great numbers. Unless things change soon, we are convinced the Aggie Spirit is dying, and this campus is turning into a t.u.—at College Station. Another Aggie tradition is being ignored, seniority. Now sophomores share red sticker status with the juniors and seniors, and seniors are having to park out where they parked when they were fish (lot 40). If they're going to break the parking lots up into freshmen and upperclassmen, why don't they go ahead and break it up completely into the academic classifications—letting seniors have the closest spaces to the dorms, letting juniors have the next closest, etc. The way things are going, if we're lucky, senior football tickets may actually be in the stands this year...

—Jim Guerra, '79
Frank Dunn, '79
David Phillips, '79
Bruce P. Cummings, '79
Michael A. Deck, '79
Daryl E. Taraba, '79
Bill Ellington, '79

'Student' is back

Editor: This letter is in response to the distribution of Today's Student at Texas A&M this fall. I am glad the newspaper is again



TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Football highlights for new faculty

New faculty are invited to view films of highlights of the 1977 Aggie football season. The screening is set for 8 p.m. Thursday in the lounge at Wofford Cain Hall. If members of new faculty have made reservations, they are asked to confirm them with the dean of faculties office. Other new faculty also may make reservations with that office.

Israeli aide to speak at A&M

Arthur Avnon, Israeli vice consul, will speak at Political Forum's first program Tuesday. Avnon will discuss "Israel's Future—Swords or Flowshares." The program will begin at 8 p.m. in Room 601 of Rudder Tower.

STATE

Mob linked to Houston arson

Houston authorities Thursday disclosed suspicion of organized crime links to a dozen local arson cases. W. M. Rothgeb, local agent in charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said he sees an organized crime influence in some of the arsons. Leonard H. Mikeska, Houston's chief arson investigator, testified Wednesday before a U.S. Senate Subcommittee investigating arsons. Mikeska said, "You can find an arsonist to burn down anything in Houston at any number of bars in town." Mikeska blamed insurance companies for overinsuring clients and prosecutors for putting inexperienced lawyers on arson cases. He said arson was "out of control" and blamed organized crime for 30 percent of it.

Houston men linked to oil fraud

Four Houston businessmen, along with three Florida businessmen, were indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury on charges of participating in an illegal scheme to inflate fuel oil prices to a Florida-based utility outfit during the 1973-1974 oil crises. The four men, James B. Clark, president of Larcen Petroleum Corp. Houston; Ronald Pruitt, Houston attorney; John L. Burns, former executive with charter International Oil Corp. Houston; and Raymond F. Grandlund, Houston oil broker, were charged with 12 counts of mail fraud and fraud by wire. The indictment charges the defendants with raising oil prices that was sold to a Florida power plant.

Cons may be heading for Texas

Two of the four Tennessee convicts, who shot their way to freedom during a prison bowling outing in Dickson, Tenn., Wednesday were captured near the Missouri border. The two men, George Bonds, 24, and Floyd Brewer, 28, tried to crash their way through a police roadblock. The other two missing convicts, Ronald Lyons and Larry Chism, were believed to be headed toward Texas.

NATION

Congressman faces payoff charges

The House Ethics Committee filed charges Wednesday against Democratic representative Joshua Eilberg of Pennsylvania. The committee filed a three-count "statement of alleged violations" accusing Eilberg of improper conduct in receiving more than \$100,000 as a payoff for helping guide federal funds to a Philadelphia hospital.

Consulates moving to Houston

The closing of New Orleans' third largest consulate was announced Wednesday by Consul General Peter van Resburg during a meeting of the International House Board of Directors. South African officials said they will close their consulate in January and move to Houston. Ecuador also announced their intention of moving to Houston. One Houston official said the moving of the South African and Ecuadorian consulates was a complete surprise.

WORLD

Castro meets guerrilla chief

Rhodesian guerrilla leader Joshua Nkomo arrived Thursday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa for talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro. The escalating war in Rhodesia was the expected topic of discussion.

Manila plane crash kills 30

A Philippine presidential plane carrying celebrators from President Marcos' birthday party crashed near Manila airport Thursday, killing 30 people. A presidential spokesman said neither Marcos nor any of his family were aboard the plane. Witnesses said the plane was trying to land in a rainstorm when it clipped the tops of four trees and crashed through 20 homes and exploded a mile short of the runway.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy today with showers and thundershowers. High near 90s and low in the mid-70s. Southerly wind at 10 mph. Probability of rain 60% today, 20% tonight and 30% tomorrow.

THE BATTALION

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. United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

MEMBER

Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor Kim Dyer
Managing Editor Liz Noel
Assistant Managing Editor Karen Rogge
Sports Editor David Berg
City Editor Jamie Alder
Campus Editor Andy Williams
News Editors Carolyn Blosser
Debbie Parsons
Editorial Director Lee B. Leschper Jr.

Cartoonist Doug Graham
Staff Writers Mark Patterson, Andrew Valls, Scott Pendleton, Sean Petty, Michelle Scudder, Marilyn Faulkenberry

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of

Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.