

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1978

## Teachers—a matter of supply and demand

Striking teachers and those thinking about walking out to protest less-than-generous pay raises would do well, in the parlance of poker players, to check their hole cards.

What they find there might not be reassuring. Every year, U.S. colleges graduate from 80,000 to 100,000 more qualified teachers than there are teaching jobs available. The total U.S. teacher surplus is about 500,000. If some teachers walk out, there are apparently plenty of potential teachers willing to walk in.

We do not mean to take lightly the struggle by teachers to keep their pay at least in step with the rising cost of living. In fact, our sympathies are with the classroom teachers, those who actually do the teaching, take the papers home to grade, cope with the disciplinary problems and challenge our youngsters to learn and excel.

Our complaint is with the increasingly bureaucratic school system, which employs more and more administrators and front office people, many of whom never darken the door of a classroom. And our complaint is also against a teaching system more and more dependent on glossy equipment and experimental techniques and new curricula, which captivate the educational theorists but have proven of dubious value in teaching basic skills.

Nevertheless, the bitter truth is that there is a teacher surplus. All public employees who ignore the taxpayer revolt and the realities of public finance go out on strike at their own peril. Particularly teachers.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers



## The charge card to politics

By CLAY F. RICHARDS  
UPI Political Reporter

WASHINGTON — It soon will be possible to support your favorite political candidate by calling a toll-free number and charging the contribution on your credit card.

Larry Schwartz, who for years has been the guy at the end of the telephone when television viewers call up to buy a set of golden oldie records or a miracle six-way kitchen gadget, is going into politics.

"Until now a candidate has just used television to build his image," he said in an interview. "Now he can use it to build grass roots support."

Based on his experience in other fields, Schwartz said using a telephone call-in system to raise money is three times more effective than a politician who concludes his advertisement with a plea that a check be mailed to his campaign.

The Democratic National Committee used credit card pledging on its national fundraising telethons in the past but Schwartz may be the first to offer such service to individual candidates.

He has four candidates for governor or Senate under contract now and plans to have about 20 this year. His company, National Order Systems Inc. of New York, is the only one in the political contributions business, he said.

### Politics

Schwartz has 400 telephone operators answering calls on toll-free lines. They take down the amount of the contribution, the caller's name, address and other information required by law, and either the credit card number, or the amount of a pledge if the viewer wants to be billed.

"It's so fantastically simple — the viewer doesn't have to find a pen, or an envelope, all he has to do is call in and give his credit card number," Schwartz said.

The operator also can ask callers for their telephone numbers in case the candidate later wants to contact them to work in the campaign.

Schwartz doesn't coach candidates on

what to say or how to raise money. He does show them videotapes of other television ads that have raised large amounts of money.

He said he developed the system because federal election laws now limit contributions by individuals to \$1,000 per person, cutting out the big givers who often were the largest source of campaign funds.

"Thus grassroots support is more important than ever, and television is the best way to reach the grassroots," Schwartz said.

He hasn't been in the political business long enough to show any results. But he says it's worth the gamble for the politician, since he charges a flat rate per contribution.

And the candidate gets the benefit of the television exposure anyway.

Schwartz charges from \$1 to \$3 per contribution, depending on how much service is required. When the three percent credit card charge made by the bank is added on, he estimates the total cost to the candidate would average five percent of con-

tributions.

For \$1 the candidate gets a simple credit card transaction. For more money the name and address of the contributor is fed into a computer and the next morning a "personalized" Mailgram from the candidate thanking the giver, along with a bill, is on the contributor's desk.

One benefit to the candidate is fast delivery of the money. A credit card slip from a contribution telephoned in can be taken to the bank the next morning and converted to cash. There is no waiting to the check to arrive in the mail, and to clear the bank.

There is another benefit to the candidate. He has exclusive rights to the mailing list of contributors that have given money to his campaign — a list which he can reuse in subsequent fundraising.

In response to Schwartz' request, his system has been declared legal by 21 states. The others haven't answered yet, except Utah which has a law prohibiting political contributions by credit card.

The Federal Election Commission has also been asked its opinion of the system.

## Lobbyists squeaking around Congress

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Over the years, members of Congress have become quite adept at pointing with pride, and about seven times out of 10 will direct attention to something truly noteworthy.

But when it comes to viewing with alarm, myopia tends to set in.

More often than not, the source of a lawgiver's anxiety will be a minor or secondary peril, which, by pre-empting the congressional purview, leaves a more serious threat undescribed.

A classic example is Sen. William Proxmire's alarm over the "legions of mice" that have penetrated the Dirksen Office Building.

Proxmire, whose threshold of apprehension is among the lowest on Capitol

Hill, arose on the Senate floor recently to warn of the mouse menace.

"From the sixth floor to the sub-basement," he reported, the Dirksen building "has been invaded by a marauding battalion of scurrying, foraging rodents."

### The Lighter Side

The accuracy of the Wisconsin Democrat's observations is not being challenged here. What I question are his priorities.

More deserving of alarm viewing, I submit, is the infestation of congressional buildings by scurrying, foraging hordes of lobbyists.

Proxmire told his colleagues the vermin invaders include "brown mice, white

mice, soft furry mice, spotted mice, shorttailed mice, long-tailed mice, bluntnosed mice."

That is truly a variegated inventory, but it doesn't begin to match the varieties of lobbyists that throng Capitol corridors, hideaways and sanctum sanctorum.

In just one room in the Dirksen building I once spotted oil lobbyists, gas lobbyists, coal lobbyists; airline, auto, truck, rail and public transportation lobbyists; labor, education and consumer lobbyists; farm, steel, highway and shipyard lobbyists; and civil rights, equal rights, pro-abortion and anti-smoking lobbyists.

And that was at a routine subcommittee hearing on a noncontroversial supplemental appropriations bill.

Proxmire said the mice slip into the building through radiator pipe holes in the walls.

I have not definitely established what mode of ingress lobbyists use, but I suspect they slip in through tax loopholes.

If the mouse holes were plugged, Proxmire said, "there would be so much extra room" it would not be necessary to finish the \$122 million Hart Office Building now under construction.

Yes, and if the space now being taken up by lobbyists were reclaimed, they could close the Dirksen building and move everyone into the old Russell Office Building.

The mice, Proxmire declared, "are a brazen crew, entirely without fear. No room is inviolate, no conference so weighty as to be spared their squeaky presence."

I certainly wouldn't say that about the lobbyists, however.

As a rule, lobbyists don't squeak.

### Letters to the Editor

## Ads should observe A&M traditions

Editor:

Last Thursday and Friday's Battalion presented an advertisement from Shear Class Hairdressers with the caption "Shear Class Backs The Aggies" on pages 7 both days. We were stunned to notice that the picture was taken in front of the statue at the MSC and that the staff was standing on the grounds that were declared a memorial to the former students who gave their lives in the service of our nation.

Before this organization declares their support for our school they should take time to learn our traditions and honor them. We have no objections to photographs taken at landmarks on our campus but our memorials should be respected not abused for personal financial gains.

-Paul Pausky, '78  
-Ted Simmons, '78  
-Amando Ramirez, '78

### Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR POT PLANT? IT'S BEEN SICK EVER SINCE YOU TOOK UP CHEWING TOBACCO."

### Please explain

Editor:

I've been here for 5 years and will graduate in December, but I am still confused as to some of the terminology used on campus. The term in question is "non-reg." Maybe some of our fine, outstanding leaders of tomorrow (s khaki fashion shows) can clarify the meaning for me.

I can only find two definitions. In the first context it could be that all of the students on campus are "not regular." Is this in reference to defecation regularity and sanitation practices? I do not doubt that our Kaki Klad Komrades keep such valuable statistics.

The other possibility is that, it is referring to those individuals on campus that are not regular in appearance and dress. Hummm! The way I see it, being part of the "regulars" (25,000 strong), there are only 2,000 or so "non-regulars" or irregulars on campus. It is time to correct this obvious misnomer so that regular individuals visiting our campus will not be misled about the majority of students in attendance at A&M.

Please clarify or correct my interpretation. I am extremely anxious to read those letters containing references about tradition, bonfire, football, apple pie, and don't forget...chevrolet.

J. Spencer Wendt

### Please vote

Editor:

This fall elections will be held to determine the next governor of our state and many other vital offices including a senator and congressmen. The participatory democracy our country was established

upon depends on citizens to register and vote.

As I have traveled across the state to colleges and universities, I have continued to be tremendously proud of the Aggies. I'm proud because Aggies are loyal to their school and take an active part in its organizations and traditions. Because Aggies do this on our own campus it would follow that you would want to extend this participation to your own government.

Part of college life is learning to cope with and handle the responsibilities of adult life. One of the most important responsibilities is to help determine who will lead us in the coming years. I urge you all to register and vote. Whether you're a freshman, graduate student or faculty member, please register now. Voter registration cards are available now in the Student Government office and various other places on campus. The deadline for registering is Oct. 6th. Please don't be caught without being registered.

Take part in your government as Aggies, as responsible citizens, so that we can continue to be proud of A&M and its graduates. Why not start a new tradition of being the Texas college or university with the largest number of registered voters??

-Laura Brockman, '79

Off-Campus Undergraduate Senator

### Correction

It was inaccurately reported to the Battalion that the winner of the Corps bash Jalapeno contest was from Squadron 6 (Battalion, Sept. 25). The winner is in Squadron 7.

## TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

### Bible study to begin Wednesday

The Lutheran Ministries are sponsoring a seven-week Bible Institute beginning Wednesday at University Lutheran Campus Ministry, 315 N. College Main in College Station. The institute will include a series of selected sections of the Scripture. The courses will be offered twice each evening: 7-8:15 p.m. and 8:30-9:45 p.m. For more information, call 846-6687 or 846-6016.

## STATE

### One seriously injured in crash

A twin-engine airplane carrying 19 passengers crash-landed Sunday near Hobby Airport, seriously injuring one person aboard. Officials said an engine malfunctioned on the Continental Oil Company airplane shortly before it arrived in Houston from Ponca City, Okla. Conoco spokesman Al Amsden said none of the other 16 passengers nor three crew members was seriously hurt.

### NASA to award space medals

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration will observe its 20th anniversary Sunday by honoring six former astronauts at Cape Canaveral, Fla. President Carter will present the Congressional Space Medal of Honor to Neil Armstrong, Frank Borman, Charles "Pete" Conrad, John H. Glenn and Alan B. Shepard. In addition, one medal will be presented posthumously to Virgil I. Grissom, who was killed in the 1967 Apollo 1 fire. Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon as commander of Apollo 11. Borman commanded Gemini 7 in 1965 and the 1968 flight of Apollo 8. Conrad participated in four space flights from 1965 to 1973 when he commanded the Skylab 1 mission. Glenn was the first American to orbit Earth, and Grissom was the second American in space. He also commanded the first two-man Gemini mission in 1965 and was killed in a flash fire at what then was Cape Kennedy in the Apollo 1 spacecraft during ground tests in 1967. Shepard was the first American in space and commanded the Apollo 14 moon flight.

## NATION

### Adair extinguishes gas well fire

Red Adair successfully smothered the largest natural gas well fire in Ohio history Monday using a mixture of mud chemicals and salt water. The high pressure gas well caught fire during capping efforts last Friday burning eight men, three seriously. The fire consumed \$20,000 worth of natural gas daily and spewed flames as high as 60 feet in the air and 100 feet along the ground.

### Kissinger may run for senate

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Monday in Washington he may run for Sen. Jacob Javits' seat if the New York Republican retires. But Kissinger said he has done "absolutely nothing" about trying to get the GOP nomination. "My view is that as long as Javits is playing tennis, he's going to run for the Senate," Kissinger said. "And he's still playing tennis."

## WORLD

### Prisoner exchange plans negotiated

A second round of negotiations between American and Turkish officials on a prisoner exchange treaty begins in Ankara this week, the Oregon Journal in Portland reported Sunday. If an agreement is reached, five Americans might be brought back to the United States by Christmas. All the Americans in Turkish jails are being held on drug charges. Two other Americans in Turkish jails and seven Turkish nationals in U.S. jails could be exchanged if a treaty is signed.

### Indonesia to shelter refugees

Indonesian officials announced today temporary shelter will be given to more than 1,200 Vietnamese boat people who endured 11 days at sea while nations in the area argued over their fate. A foreign ministry official in Jakarta said Monday the refugees, including more than 500 children, would be given transit status and sheltered in the Jakarta Rambutan Refugee Camp or in the Tanjungpinang Camp in the Malacca Strait. He added that Indonesia has received promises from Australia and the United States that they will eventually accept the Vietnamese.

## WEATHER

Partly cloudy with mild temperature. Some showers and thundershowers expected for this evening. High today mid-80s low in the mid-60s. Probability of rain 20% for today and 40% for tomorrow. Winds will be east and northeasterly at 10 to 15 mph.

## 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.

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