

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY  
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## Carter warms up for '80

By HELEN THOMAS  
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — Judging from recent campaign appearances, President Carter is becoming a more confident and traditional politician.

In campaigning for congressional candidates, Carter appears to be warming up for his own 1980 re-election campaign. In the aftermath of the Camp David Middle East summit — which apparently will climax with a separate Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty — he has encountered more responsive and enthusiastic audiences.

As a president accused of lacking leadership, Carter has found it important to tout his own horn. Somewhere in the background hovers former television advertising man Jerry Rafshoon, his image maker, who appears to be masterminding the new Carter.

Now, in the tradition of Lyndon Johnson, Carter is more apt to say, "As the President of the United States," or, "As your president."

The imperial trappings are back. "Hail to the Chief," played on a phonograph, sets off the crowd. Carter bestows his favors by inviting certain politicians — and not others — to ride with him from the airport to the rally.

And he uses the politician's prerogative of boasting.

"When I was elected President, we had 10 million Americans, 10 million Americans who could not get a fulltime job," he told the party faithful in Nashville, Tenn. "We had 7 million Americans who couldn't get a job at all. But we have put America back to work. We have had, since I have been in office, an increase of 6 million net new jobs for America."

He makes the most of his accomplishments toward Middle East peace.

Since his modest reference to the Mideast in Wichita, Kan., recently triggered a standing ovation, he has poured it on, using the political stage to announce each new rosy development in the peace talks between Egypt and Israel.

He also made the most of his decision to sign the tax bill, asking a crowd of Miami supporters if they wanted their taxes cut. When they roared their approval, he said for the first time that he would sign the bill.

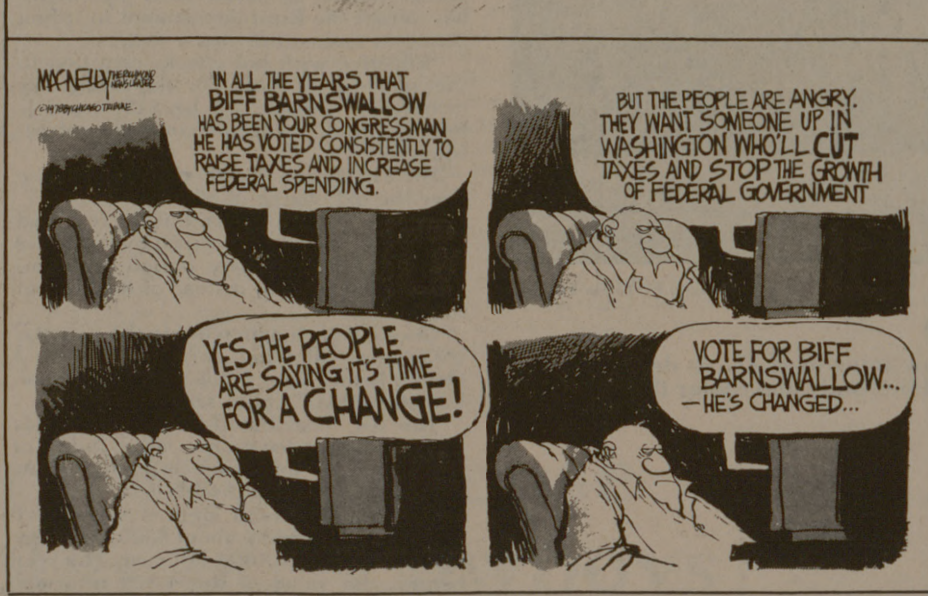
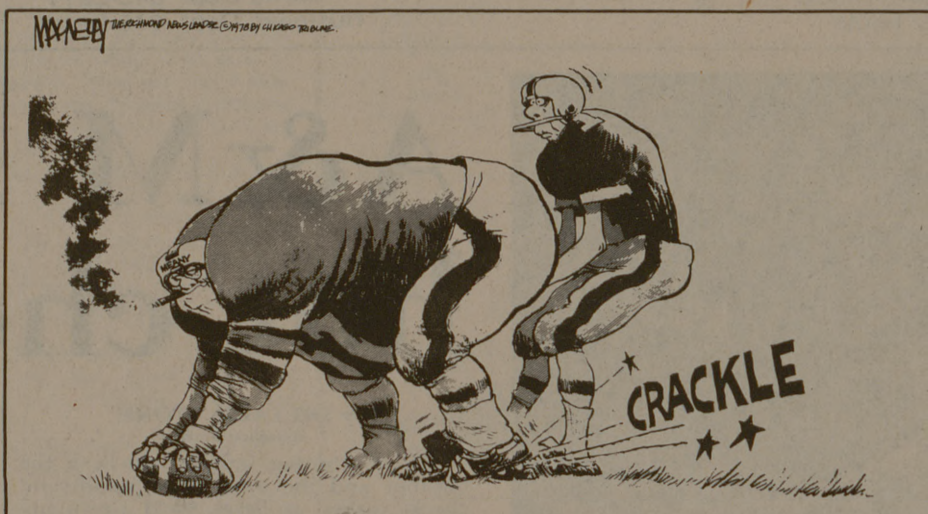
He also holds out the promise that his programs will solve the nation's energy problems, end corruption in government, and, with the cooperation of labor and business, control inflation. More and more he is stressing his frugality and budget cutting.

Carter is trying to create a constituency stronger than the loose following of his 1976 election. The goal is to transform many of the original perceptions of Carter — not the least of which he created himself — with jeans in the Cabinet room and a cardigan sweater for his "fireside chat."

Even his once ultra-casual staff is changing, wearing vested suits for White House duty.

"The presidency of the United States is not an easy job," Carter said in a recent campaign speech. "But I feel at ease with it, in spite of the difficulties, in spite of the challenges, in spite of the promises that need to be kept, in spite of the problems that face me every day, because I cast my lot with you when I ran for president. I also stood on street corners, in factory shift lines, went through city halls and courthouses, met you on the street, shook hands, asked for your advice and your support."

So it is easy to see that "in spite of" Carter is running again, and the congressional campaign is only a practice run.



## Death education in the school is debated

By PATRICIA McCORMACK  
UPI Education Editor

Do schools have any business teaching the facts of death in the lower grades?

The question is controversial — putting it in a class with sex education, facts-of-life instruction.

Reports in "Phi Delta Kappan," prestigious journal of the national education honorary society, focus on two sides of death education.

"I Taught About Death and Dying" details experiences of James M. Mueller Jr., a fifth grade teacher at Buchanan Elementary School, Lancaster, Pa.

"Death and Dying in Three Days" is a report from Jayne Freeman, teacher at Seth Lewelling Elementary School, Milwaukie, Ore. Freeman, mother of seven who has taught all elementary grades except second, opposes unvarnished facts of death for elementary school youngsters — a la Mueller's course.

Mueller saturated the curriculum with death and dying topics for three days. In math students measured themselves for a coffin, using metrics. A language exercise required them to write their obituaries or compose wording for their tombstones.

In music, songs integrated into the course included "You and Me Against the

World" by Helen Reddy. This is a song about a mother and her daughter enjoying life but knowing that someday one will die and the other will remain behind.

Another song was "That's Life" by Frank Sinatra. The song explains the need to continue living and what this person would do if life were not worthwhile," Mueller noted.

### Education

A discussion exercise followed the reading of "The Man Who Gave Himself Away." "This beautiful story tells about an old man who gives himself back to nature when he finds out that he is near death," Mueller said.

Other happenings during the cram course on death and dying:

—Reports on a choice of topics: mummies, pyres, cryonics, embalming, cremation and stone for graves.

—A spelling test used such terms as undertaker, corpse, morgue, dying, tomb, wake, cemetery, bury, mourn, mortician, life, grief.

—In social studies there was talk about

how humans begin to die when they are born, about pacemakers and modern science. "Students decided that we should enjoy each day we are alive."

—Children listed ways to die: disease, suffocation, suicide, murder, old age, drowning, earthquake and 40 other ways.

"They voted that the best way to die is of old age in bed. The worst way to die is by beating or whipping, a choice probably influenced by viewing 'Roots.'"

—A 75-word story on "How I Died." "Many of the stories told of violent deaths, heroic deaths, and experiences after death."

—Students were asked what they would die for? Live for? They would die for parents, families, friends, to protect someone special and for their country. They would live for enjoyment, to continue the family and to learn about life.

Students also told how death education struck them. Two said it was worthwhile but too short. Two said it wasn't worthwhile "because the subject shouldn't be studied now."

Two others wrote "yes and no" because "it made us feel sad."

Others said it was worthwhile. Reasons included:

— "Makes it easier to understand about

a death in the family."

—"We should learn how to take death."

—"We can understand life to enjoy life while we can."

—"Now we're not afraid of dying as much as we were."

Freeman questions Mueller's treatment of the subject, describing it as "a shotgun approach" and doubting that children can acquire mature insights into death and dying in three days.

"The mental picture of 10 year olds measuring themselves or each other for coffins frightens even me and I have witnessed several deaths," she said.

"Many of the subjects Mueller offers for discussion seem beyond the knowledge and maturity level of the students."

"Which is better — cremation or burial? That is a question with both religious and sociological implications and it is pretty heavy for fifth graders."

"Research on mummies, pyres, cryonics seems more grisly than enlightening."

"When one is only 10, school should focus more directly on acceptance of the loss of loved ones than on one's certain mortality."

"Let's introduce the concepts at this age — 10 — and develop them more fully later, perhaps in high school."

### Letters to the Editor

## Newspaper shouldn't be 'oppressive'

Editor: Last Friday, Carol Austin berated The Battalion for printing an ad that SMU students bought to advertise the game. Carol, let me make a few repulsive statements of my own:

1. Razorbacks are number one.
2. Orange is a nice color.
3. The Corps is a farce.
4. The non-regs are worse.
5. Beer doesn't really taste that good.
6. Football should be replaced with cockfighting.

If the SMU ad repulsed you, I imagine you are now rolling on the floor with nausea. But when you recover, think for a

moment what it would be like if there was a policy that barred any possibly controversial statements from the paper.

Not only would it be a boring paper, it would be an oppressive one. We might never know that there actually are people in existence that maintain one or more of the above opinions.

You know the standard retorts to the statements above by heart. But when you get older, Miss Austin, you'll find it getting more and more difficult to surround yourself with a nice, secure blanket of majority opinion.

Contrary to what you implied in your letter, a community doesn't think, indi-

viduals do. You can't avoid everyone who doesn't think that Texas A&M is some sort of informal religion.

I suggest (with apologies to the staff) that you quit reading the Batt and devote your reading time to the TAMU brochures found in your dean's office. Highway 6 does run both ways, but so does the sidewalk down to the newsstand.

— Kyle Scarborough, '78

### A matter of rights

Editor: Hopefully, I will be allowed to speak my views, as have many others, on a subject that transcends its circumstances.

I have a specific "bone to pick" with Greg Coulter and others like him (Battalion, Monday Oct. 30). Mr. Coulter, you asserted in your discourse that the question about sitting on the MSC grass was not one of tradition but rather one of fundamental democratic principles.

Mr. Scoggins, "in open violation" of the desires of the multitude around him was asked in a variety of ways to get off the grass, to which he understandably objected.

Your argument, however, undermines the most basic of principles upon which this country was established. The right to dissent, or better said, to disagree with the status quo. Mr. Scoggins' actions certainly did not violate the rights of any of the other persons involved, so your argument is without foundation. I rest my case.

— Steve Tennyson, '81

### Well-worn Hwy. 6

Editor: In Friday's Batt (Nov. 3, 1978), Carol Austin repeated an "oft quoted" Highway 6 runs both way."

Well, concerning this fine phrase, which truly represents the Aggie way of life, I have a few comments.

First, after making an empirical study of all the highways in the great state of Texas, I've found that each and every one does, in fact, "run" both ways.

Second, an even more in-depth study which tested concrete surface hardness, durability, and concrete speed and velocity, a few associates and I discovered three amazing things: 1. All highways are stationary, non-moving surfaces. 2. All highways rest in a somewhat parallel line to the ground surface it lies on. 3. NO highway, not a single one, has ever risen from its stationary position to run "both ways" or any way.

Third, and probably most crucial, using the phrase "Highway 6 runs both ways" is simply unkind, unjust, and unreal. It is unkind in that Highway 6 leads into Waco and Houston, the two cities which pride themselves in being the homes of football teams which beat A&M this year.

It is unjust in that the phrase makes the user "lord and guardian" over all Aggies, to determine the fate of their future at this institution, and it allows the user to be momentarily cruel by "stickin' it" to a fellow Ag.

Finally, it is unreal because the phrase means absolutely nothing; it is logically fallible, grammatically incorrect, and definitely representative of the famed Aggie ignorance.

All in all, "Highway 6 runs both ways" is tawdry, banal, and pitheoid, it is an outdated term, an ignorant phrase, and a bad reflection on Aggie character. To all of you who disagree, all I can say is, "The River Styx flows both ways."

— George R. Gagnon, '80

Editor's note: this letter was accompanied by 47 other signatures.

### 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

# TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

## Bridge tournament scheduled

The Bridge Committee, a division of the MSC Recreation Committee, will hold their ACU-I Championship preliminary game on Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. in Room 212 of the Memorial Student Center. The top eligible finishers will advance to the regional games which will be held at North Texas State University in Denton. To be eligible, both members of a partnership must be full-time students not on scholastic probation with fewer than 900 ACBL master points. For more information, call Stuart Walker at 846-3849 or Scott Haring at 845-6466.

## Pre-registration begins Monday

Pre-registration for spring semester classes begins next Monday, but most of the University — some 77 departments — have scheduled specific days for registration of their students. Class schedules are available at Heaton Hall on Ross Street across from Sbis Dining Hall. Students should see their academic advisers this week to avoid the rush.

## Firemen avert butane explosion

High winds blew a large butane tank off its foundation at the J.H. Stockton residence on Texas A&M University property off F&B Road at 2:45 p.m. Monday, according to the College Station Fire Department. No injuries were reported, but Lt. Tim Fickey, spokesman for the fire department, said the overturned tank was a potential danger because of the highly flammable butane gas. The main feeder line of the overturned tank broke and firemen evacuated one family due to escaping gas, Fickey said. The tank belonged to Cal-Gas Co. and was uprighted by fireman and gas company employees, he said.

# STATE

## LULAC decries 'Tortilla Curtain'

The state executive board of the League of United Latin American Citizens in Houston approved a resolution Monday demanding that the Immigrant and Naturalization Service abandon plans to build the so-called "Tortilla Curtain" along the U.S.-Mexico border. LULAC leaders termed the proposed steel and wire-mesh fences at El Paso, San Diego, Calif., and San Luis, Ariz., "a symbolic fortress of oppression which must be dismantled."

## Influential philanthropist dies

Charles David Tandy started with an interest in selling leather goods and ended up as the head of a multi-million international conglomerate, a strong financial supporter of conservative politicians and one of the most influential men in Fort Worth. The 60-year-old millionaire philanthropist and civic leader died Saturday at his home, apparently suffering a heart attack. Tandy's financial empire, Tandy Corp., grew to include Radio Shack, Tandycrafts Inc., Leonard's Department Stores, Wolfe Nurseries and Color Tile stores. Annual retail sales from the stores totaled more than \$1 billion. Funeral services were Monday.

# NATION

## Fire toll blamed on buildings

Fire officials blame unsafe buildings for the high death toll in blazes that swept through a department store in Des Moines, Iowa, and a hotel in Honesdale, Pa., killing at least 19 people Sunday. Des Moines district fire chief Tony Defino said a sprinkler system in the Younkers Department Store would have helped contain the flash fire that destroyed the store. Ten bodies were found in the rubble and firemen were searching for other possible victims today. "The building was constructed before the code required sprinkler systems," Defino said. "It would have kept the fire from getting away from fire fighters."

# WORLD

## Facility rejected after completion

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Vienna Monday shouldered full responsibility for Sunday's referendum defeat of a controversial nuclear power station and promised to announce whether he will make good his vow to resign. "It was my idea to stage the referendum and the defeat is my exclusive responsibility," Kreisky told a hastily summoned news conference. Sunday, 50.5 percent of the Austrian electorate voted to scrap the nation's first nuclear power facility, completed recently in Zwentendorf, 18 miles northwest of Vienna.

## Tanzanian head threatens Amin

Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere said Monday in Dar Es Salaam that after the territory captured by Ugandan troops last week is recovered, Idi Amin would be toppled from power thus ending the "sad story" of his dictatorship in Uganda. The Tanzanian government also began reactivating former soldiers as the first step toward a general mobilization of its population in the week-old fighting with its northern neighbor.

# WEATHER

Mostly cloudy this morning changing from clear and cool this afternoon. High today 60, low tonight near 40. Winds will be northerly at 12-20 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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