

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 1978

A few bad apples in the re-elected crop

House should preserve dignity, evict felons from its ranks

When the U.S. House of Representatives convenes in January, it will be faced with the question of what to do, if anything, about two re-elected members who have run afoul of the law. Rep. Charles Diggs of Michigan has been convicted in federal court of mail fraud and filing false payroll forms. Rep. Daniel Flood of Pennsylvania has been indicted on perjury and conspiracy charges by federal grand juries in Los Angeles and Washington. (Rep. Joshua Eilberg of Pennsylvania, also under indictment, was not re-elected.)

The case of Rep. Diggs is clearest. Mr. Diggs, having been convicted of crime, is not fit to be a member of the legislative body entrusted with making the laws, including the ones he has been found to have violated. Since there may be some doubt about the authority of the House to exclude a duly elected member who meets the constitutional requirements of age and citizenship, the House should exercise its undoubted authority to expel a member who has been convicted of conduct unbecoming the trust and duty of a lawmaker.

Unseemly as it will appear for Rep. Flood to take his seat in the House while under indictment, he at least enjoys the legal benefit of a presumption of innocence at this stage. If he should be convicted, however, he, too, should be promptly expelled. If appeals courts should reverse trial court findings of guilt in the case of either House member, each should be free, once cleared, to run again. Despite the possibility of a wrongful conviction, the House should not use that, however, as an excuse for disregarding the presence of convicted felons in its midst, thereby failing to uphold the integrity of its membership.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Choice of electorate questionable

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Washington properly takes a lot of heat from the rest of the country.

The national capital is often described as the seat of incompetence, confusion and corruption. The city and its citizens are pictured as parasites on the body politic, sucking up the public's hard earned wages and profits and spewing back red tape, ridiculous regulations and half-vast ideas.

But Washington has some grievances too. For example, it has very little to say about the quality of the crop of senators and House members that the people send to Congress every two years. And believe it, the voters sometimes send some sorry specimens to represent them in Washington.

Some years ago on the occasion of the inauguration of a president he did not like, the cartoonist Herblock drew a picture of a barber chair in front of a mirror on which was written "This Shop Gives New Presidents One Free Shave." It was at least a month before Herblock began harpooning the new occupant of the White House, despite ample provocation.

So it is with the new group of lawmakers who will be arriving in Washington this winter. Washington will assume they are equipped with at least average wisdom and probity, no matter how wild the ideas

or crude the campaign tactics they used to win office in November.

And some of them will not be intelligent, sober, decent people. Some of them will run hog wild. Some will hire staffs on the basis of political favoritism or sexual attraction. Some will require their employees to kick back part of their salaries. Some will take bribes and some will cast their votes in the expectation of bribes from those who benefit.

How do we know this? Easy. Some of the members of the last Congress were convicted or exposed for doing those kinds of things. Some admitted taking money from foreign businessmen. Some are known to be what used to be called "chasers." The voters sent them back to Washington anyway.

If there are more of the same in the new congressional crop, many eventually will be found out. Either the news media will expose them or their political opposition will blow the whistle. And, heaven help us, the blame almost surely will be placed on Washington for corrupting another good person.

Washington is and ought to be judged on the quality of the laws that are made here and the government that is provided for the rest of the country. Perhaps it also is time to judge the rest of the country on the quality of the people it sends to Washington to make the laws and run the government.

This week in the Texas Capitol...

Comptroller Bullock fires back at critics

By ROLAND LINDSEY
UPI Capitol Reporter

AUSTIN, Texas — Recent allegations of wrongdoing in the office of Comptroller Bob Bullock apparently have not caused Bullock to temper his responses to those who criticize him.

Texas Railroad Commission employee Rob Wilds, a former radio newsman, complained on election day that changes in the Texas Election Code prohibited him and his wife from expressing their opposition to Bullock by casting a write-in vote for someone else, unless the write-in candidate had filed with the secretary of state.

Bullock fired back a letter to Wilds, reportedly with copies to members of the Railroad Commission responsible for administration of the agency, saying, "I can

assure you that there will be another election day on which I will again be a candi-

Politics

date for either comptroller or another office.

"So that you will not again suffer the anguish of seeing me completely unopposed on the ballot, I invite you or your wife to run against me. I will gladly raise your filing fee for you."

Bill Collier and George Kuempel, two former Bullock aides who resigned positions in his tax information department and suggested Bullock resign in the face of what they called "inevitable scandal,"

are back in the news business.

Both worked for the Houston Chronicle's Capitol bureau before joining Bullock's staff.

Kuempel now is with the Capitol bureau of the Dallas News, and Collier will report on city hall activities for the Austin American-Statesman.

The 10 persons nominated by Sen. Lloyd Bentsen Jr., D-Texas, for federal judgeships may have surprised some Texas state legislators.

At least four senators or former members were considered prospects for judgeships, with Sen. Raul Longoria, D-Edinburg, generally regarded as the strongest possibility for such an appointment.

Others mentioned as prospects were Sens. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, and Tati Santiesteban, D-El Paso, along with former Sen. Don Adams, who resigned his office to join the governor's staff.

None of the four was included in Bentsen's list of nominees, however.

Members of the Legislative Budget Board are perhaps better prepared than ever before for that group's consideration of staff evaluations of state agencies.

Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby, chairman of the board, often sits in on staff sessions during which the reports are drafted.

And Speaker Bill Clayton leads meetings of House members on the boards to discuss the staff recommendations and prepare questions the night before the LBB's formal meetings.

Letters to the Editor

Football team's game plans up for bids

Editor: Well, we made fools of ourselves again on national television. It was a new book, but an old story. Incidentally Coach Wilson, is the draw the only running play you know? Coach Wilson is the only coach I've ever seen who doesn't try to establish a running attack until the third quarter when down 6-12 points!

Of course, that's what we all wanted, wasn't it? We wanted a wide open offense, with passing galore and no running on third and long. Well, we're throwing all right, when we have the football (which isn't too often against better teams since they are falling down laughing at such ignorant tactics).

Our defense should be commended for their performance Saturday, had they not stuck in for 60 minutes the score could have been worse.

It has been suggested by some (undoubtedly some member of the Houston Aggie Club) that we adopt a tradition of electing our head coach every two years. Which being a bad idea or not seems at least representative of the true situation at A&M. The university's administration seems to have little choice in these matters.

Just think — coaches would come in from all over and make speeches as to the

system they would run. Some would campaign on a passing offense platform. Others would run promising the use of the Houston Veer. Somebody could even get elected by saying "I'll run 30 percent flea flickers" or "I'll never run on third and long."

Stupid you say — no more than what is going on now, and certainly more open. The tragic thing is that after a few years of "wide open" coaches the cry might be for "sane football."

Someone like Emory Bellard could come in and get elected and stabilize the situation. He wouldn't last long though — the best anyone can hope for is a winning season and a bowl bid. That has never been enough for Aggie alumni.

—Scott Lane, '80

God's the key

Editor: I was very happy to read the letter printed in The Battalion on Nov. 16 by Steve Upham. He addressed his letter as a response to D. Valois' letter of Nov. 13. It is wonderful and uplifting to read a young person's witness of Jesus Christ as Savior. Not only that, but an actual invitation to share this witness (to the point of making time when necessary) on a personal basis. Certainly, Steve is to be exhorted and encouraged.

When Jesus was born, about 5 B.C., Palestine was a troublesome Roman province in the backwash of the empire. It was worn down by poverty, internal strife, cruelly high taxes, and a tyrannical ruler, Herod, king of the Jews but a puppet of

the Romans. Jesus was not a revolutionary political leader as some people would like to believe but was human, and he understood hunger, loneliness, and sorrow.

According to Genesis, Man is God's most important creation. God created the first woman, Eve, because "it is not good that man should be alone." Man's God-given ability to reason, his science, his art, his literature, have made him what he is today.

As for my comments concerning the issue involving homosexuality, it is a sad person who looks for sation for a lifestyle that he himself feels is somehow unacceptable. Our society makes changes for these people even though these changes come ever so slowly. Yet, God's word has remained unchanged in context and will yet stand even until the end of the world.

—Denese Jones
Former Tessie, '73
and wife of Aggie, '79

Coping with love

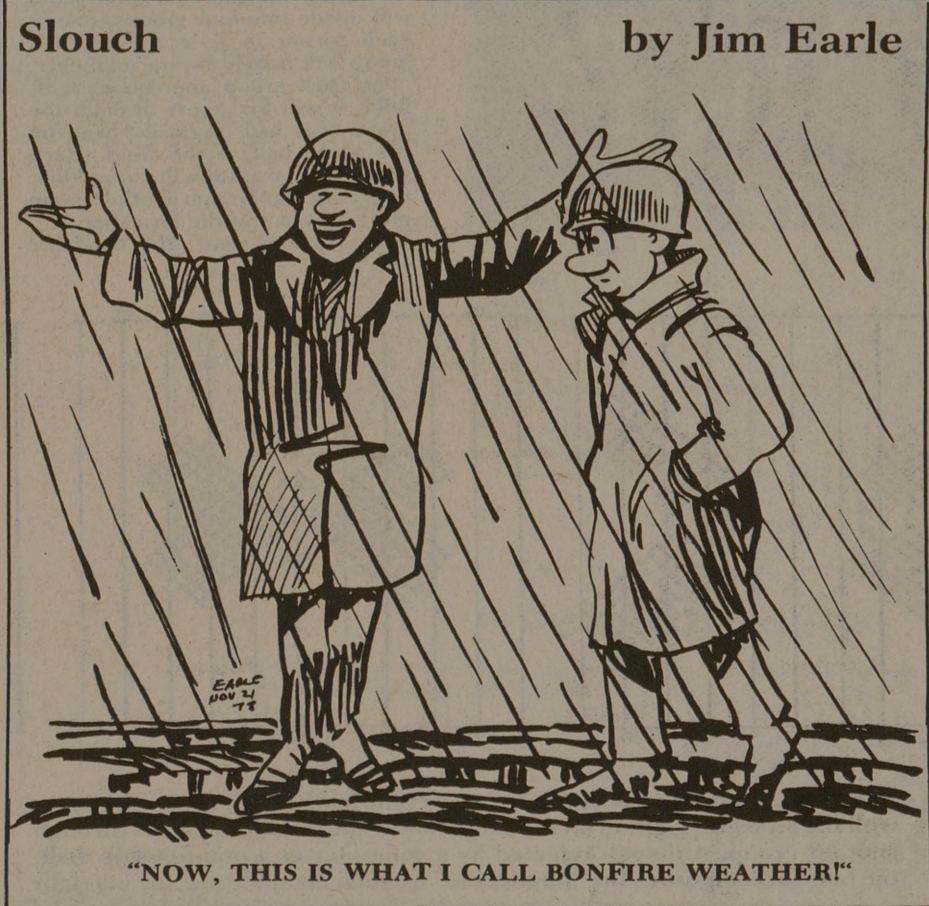
Editor: As I read through the letters to the editor of Nov. 16, I was a bit distressed at the approach Mr. Upman used in analyzing the gay lifestyle. Gays aren't the only people with problems. Everyone is confronted with problems of every nature and coping is a very large part of our lives.

Please consider the concept of love: unselfish concern is a good way to perceive it. Can one cope without love? I seriously doubt it.

I would like everyone to know that God loves you. Read John 3:16. He sent His only son to die for you! I can't help but love the One who loves me that much. Rest assured, God shows no partiality: He loves us one and all.

So show more love, see what you get in return and remember: God is Love.

—Andy Mattson, '78



Writing the editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. However, to be acceptable for publication these letters must meet certain criteria. They should:

- ✓ Not exceed 300 words or 1800 characters in length.
- ✓ Be neatly typed whenever possible. Hand-written letters are acceptable.
- ✓ Include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld on request.

Letters to the editor are printed as a service to our readers. Publication of a letter is never guaranteed. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters to remove grammatical errors and to avoid litigation.

Address letters to the editor to:
Letters to the Editor
The Battalion
Room 216
Reed McDonald Building
College Station, Texas 77843

Letters to Dr. Miller

The Battalion is offering a new reader's letter section to give students more access to the newspaper and to the University.

"Talk with Dr. Miller" is a forum for readers to address questions to the administration about University policies and procedures. Questions should be addressed to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, and should specify that they are to be used for this column. Names and phone numbers will be required on all questions and Dr. Miller has the option to decline to answer a question or request others on the staff or faculty to answer it.

Questions and answers will be published on the editorial page.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Silver Taps service scheduled

The Silver Taps Ceremony will be conducted in front of the Academic Building tonight at 10:30 in memory of Paul Harvey Krenzke and Geina Rena Wall who died last week in an automobile accident.

Police summoned by bomb threat

Some students and staff evacuated the Harrington Education Center Complex Monday morning after a bomb threat was made on the buildings to University Police. No bomb was found. Chief Russ McDonald said the threat was received at the police station on the emergency line at 9:46 a.m. "A girl, who didn't identify herself, said she'd been instructed to pass on the message there was a bomb in the Harrington Building," he said. University Police searched every floor of each building. Police did not order an evacuation, he said, but some people left anyway. The buildings were checked by 10:20 a.m. McDonald said.

Help needed to complete flu study

Volunteers between the ages 18-25 are needed for a vaccine study on Russian Flu that will begin Monday. Participants can earn about \$50-70. Informational meetings are scheduled for today at 3-4 p.m., 111 Heldenfels and Wednesday 12-1 p.m., 107 Biological Sciences Building East; or contact Dr. John M. Quarles at 845-1313.

STATE

Testimony found contradictory

Defense attorney Richard "Racehorse" Haynes and state witness David McCrory clashed repeatedly Monday in testimony about the informant's dealings with Texas millionaire T. Cullen Davis, on trial in Houston for trying to hire the murder of his divorce court judge. Haynes paraded back and forth from the lawyers' table to the witness chair pointing out to McCrory testimony the witness had given at Davis' Fort Worth bond hearing in August that contradicts what he has said in the Houston trial. At one point the exasperated McCrory said the testimony was not exactly consistent because Haynes had "shook up and confused" him in Fort Worth.

Houston utility rate hike granted

The Public Utility Commission in Austin Monday granted Houston Lighting & Power Co. a \$55 million increase in electricity rates. The company had wanted to increase its customers' bills by \$235 million, but the commission ruled the company's cost of service adjustment clause was unreasonable. It ordered the utility company to limit the fluctuating charge in the future to actual fuel costs, and not consider salaries, depreciation and other operating costs. The commission ordered the utility to give all customers the benefit of reduced winter rates — a discount previously extended only to customers using more than 700 kilowatt hours.

NATION

Carter serious about program

The President's Council on Wage and Price Stability indicated Monday in Dallas that the Carter Administration was prepared to boycott any company failing to voluntarily comply with Carter's anti-inflation program. In the first of 11 nationwide briefings on the program, aides distributed a statement from Carter in which he ordered federal agencies "to avoid purchasing goods and services from those firms that do not meet the pay and price standards." Robert Russell, deputy director of the council, said that Carter intended the program to work and would "use every tool at his disposal" to make sure it did. He said the wage-price council would monitor unions and business and use pressure on non-complying sectors.

Actor's son dead of overdose

Scott Newman, 28-year-old son of actor Paul Newman, was found dead in a Hollywood motel Monday, the victim of an overdose of drugs and alcohol, according to police. The younger Newman, a sometime actor and entertainer who worked in nightclubs under the name of William Scott, was pronounced dead at Los Angeles New Hospital. Police said a Los Angeles clinic had received a call for help from Newman at 9 o'clock Sunday night and that clinic associate Scott Steinberg took the stricken Newman to his room at a nearby motel. According to authorities, Steinberg called paramedics who took him to a hospital about midnight. Steinberg told police he thought Newman had taken valium, a tranquilizer, and a quantity of alcohol. Newman's mother was Jackie Witte, the actor's first wife. A family friend said the senior Newman was "somewhere in the Midwest involved in an auto race" and attempts were being made to notify him of his son's death.

Indians may file claims to land

Louisiana Attorney General William Guste in New Orleans said he is concerned that several Louisiana Indian tribes are considering filing claims to state-owned and private land. Guste said the matter will "not be treated lightly." Don Juneau, an Indian land claims attorney, said seven tribes could have legitimate claims for state and privately owned land. The problem is that none of the seven tribes is recognized by the federal government. Three recently applied to the Interior Department for formal recognition, and Juneau said that usually is the first legal step in the land claims process.

NATO-linking satellite launched

A communications satellite that will link the military forces of the 15-country North Atlantic Treaty Organization is on its way toward stationary orbit above the Atlantic. The NATO 3-C blasted off at 7:49 p.m. EST Saturday from Cape Canaveral, Fla., after a three-day delay caused by a conflict with a secret Trident missile firing that had priority.

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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