



VIEWPOINT

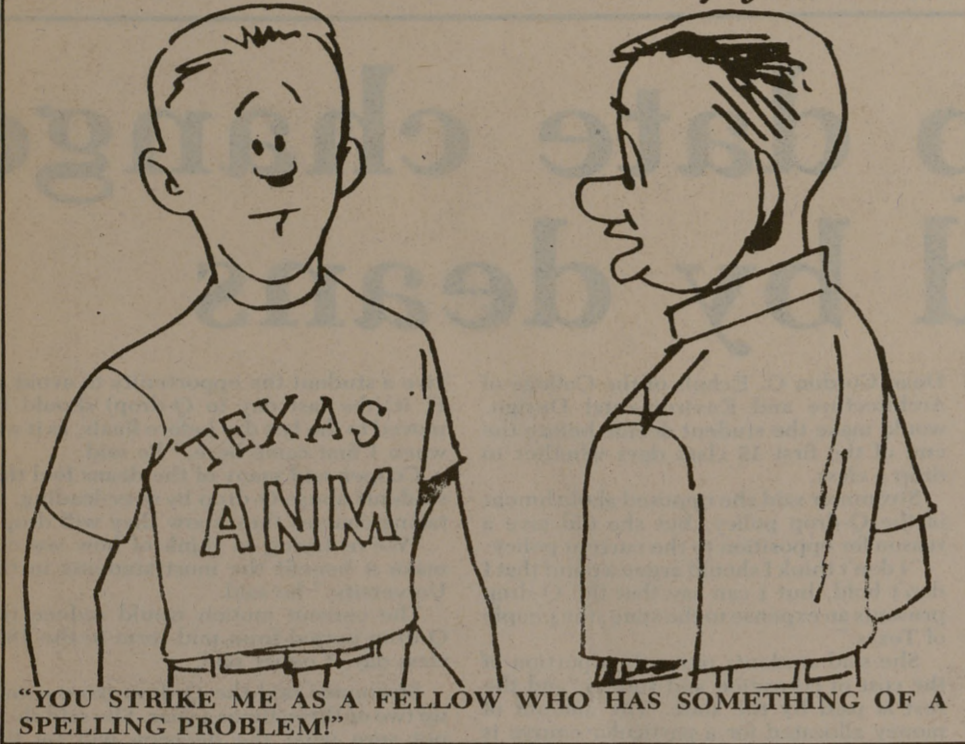


THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
MARCH 1, 1979

Slouch

By Jim Earle



'Big Daddy' Amin may be on way out

By CHARLES P. WALLACE
United Press International

NAIROBI, Kenya — The end may be in sight for Idi Amin Dada, Uganda's self-proclaimed president for life.

"It's just one man's opinion, but it appears to me that Amin is finished," said one diplomat.

The statement is surprising both for its finality, considering Amin's past capacity for survival, and for the sharp change it suggests has taken place in the last five months.

Analysts say though the 54-year-old former British army sergeant's fall may eventually be traced to internal forces, his failure to assess Tanzania's resolve to fight once provoked may hasten the end.

"The Tanzanians seem determined to see this thing through to the end — Amin's end, of course," one source said. "It seems improbable now that they will give up the fight as long as they have momentum behind them."

Amin's current troubles began in October when mutinies were reported spreading throughout the armed forces based in southern Uganda.

According to the available evidence, Amin was forced to send loyal troops into the area to suppress the disturbances.

In an attempt to cover up the internal strife and perhaps mollify his uneasy troops, Amin ordered an invasion of Tanzania's Kagera salient, which was annexed by Uganda for two weeks.

Amin in a characteristic fashion then reversed himself. He proclaimed affection for Tanzania and expressed hope there would be no further hostilities between the two neighbors.

Letters to the Editor

Tenant tow-tally disgusted

Editor:

As a tenant in one of the apartment complexes owned by Metro Properties, I am totally disgusted with the management of these complexes. Aside from the exorbitant prices, a particular incident at Scandia Apartment complex has caused a furor among several tenants.

There is an office parking lot directly in front of Scandia's main office. During office hours, anyone parked in this area is subject to towing. Fine. As of Feb. 23, a new towing contract was entered into by Metro Properties. Under the new agreement, cars can be towed anytime of the day or night, weekdays or weekends.

No warning was given to the tenants. Several cars were towed away over the weekend. Some were towed at 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning last Saturday. Some out-of-town visitors had their cars towed away, unaware of the parking situation. Another individual came home from church to change clothes and within a 20 minute span had his car towed off.

After the incident occurred, he tried to reach the apartment manager by calling four emergency numbers posted on the office door. No one answered.

After going door to door, he found the apartment manager. She informed us that she could do nothing. The police were then contacted. They had received several calls relating to the same type of incident.

According to the wrecking contract, from what we were told by the apartment manager, someone is supposed to be available

Corrections

In the "what's up at A&M" section of Wednesday's Battalion, it was incorrectly reported that Dan Ayre would be the guest speaker in tonight's Political Forum presentation, "Test Tube Babies and Human Ethics." The speaker is Dr. H. Tristram Engelhardt.

It was also incorrectly reported that Aggie Cinema will be showing "Patton" Friday night. "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" has been substituted and will be shown at 8 p.m. Friday, and 10:30 p.m. Saturday in Rudder Auditorium.

The Battalion regrets the errors.

Not so 'unimportant' New Hampshire

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The first presidential primary of 1980 is supposed to be held in just one year. It may be too late already for the candidates, especially the Republicans, to decide whether New Hampshire once again will get far more attention than it deserves.

Practically every Republican with an interest in the presidential nomination has been nosing around New Hampshire looking for 1980 support. Reps. Phil Crane and John Anderson, Sens. Howard Baker, Bob Dole and Lowell Weicker, George Bush and John Conally already have shown enough interest to suggest New Hampshire may be in for another primary free-for-all next winter.

The only real holdout has been Ronald Reagan. He is the acknowledged GOP frontrunner for the 1980 campaign, but his organization has shown little sign so far that he is going to run in New Hampshire.

At the risk of committing "The Sin of the Generals" — deciding how the next war will be fought from the history of the last one — there is an awful temptation to compare the developing 1980 GOP situation with what happened to the Democrats in 1976.

The frontrunning Democrat before the primaries three years ago was Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash.

Jackson had collected more money and hired the most respected professional campaign staff of any Democratic hopeful. He was regarded as the most influential member of the Senate, a favorite of organized labor and, with the possible ex-

ception of extreme doves in the party, a candidate acceptable to most Democrats.

Planning a campaign that would demonstrate Jackson's vote-getting power in states that would count in the general election, Jackson and his braintrust decided to pass the 1976 New Hampshire primary. Instead, they concentrated their opening effort on the Massachusetts primary, which was one week later.

There was unassailable logic in their decision. New Hampshire is a small state with only four electoral votes. There were very few of the traditional Democratic constituent groups (labor, minorities, ethnics) in its electorate.

It had only a so-so record in forecasting the presidential nominee of the party out of power: in the previous five primaries, New Hampshire voters had given their vote only twice to the candidate eventually nominated by the "outs" (John Kennedy in 1960; Richard Nixon in 1968).

So Jackson passed New Hampshire and expected the media as well as the political professionals to write it off as unimportant because Scoop was not running. He and his experts watched, with some irritation, as the likes of Jimmy Carter, Morris Udall, Birch Bayh and Fred Harris got tremendous attention fighting for 17 delegates. Carter led the field, winning 15 delegates.

The following week, Jackson beat everyone in Massachusetts, leaving Carter well behind both Udall and George Wallace. The Washington senator won twice as many delegates in Massachusetts as Carter had in New Hampshire. Much good it did him. Carter was on his way to the nomination and Jackson was on his way out of the contest.

It was here that Amin erred, the analysts said. He miscalculated, they said, the depth of feeling in Tanzania to seek revenge for the Kagera humiliation.

Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere — a close friend of Uganda's former President Milton Obote, who was ousted by Amin in 1971 — vowed to carry the war to Uganda.

Obote also appealed, from his exile in the Tanzanian port city of Dar Es Salaam, to Ugandans to topple Amin for turning their country into a "slaughterhouse."

News agencies in Nairobi received a Telex Monday saying Uganda's elite suicide regiment had renounced its oath to Amin and joined an invasion force from Tanzania that seized an important town in southern Uganda.

The Ugandans said the attackers were composed of Tanzanian troops, Ugandan exile forces and mercenaries.

Uganda said Tuesday its army had struck back and recaptured the key southern town of Masaka in heavy fighting.

The report, broadcast by the official Uganda radio, also denied the reports that the suicide regiment was fighting against the government.

Analysts said Amin not only underestimated Tanzania, but also failed to judge correctly the depth of feeling among his traditional friends in the Arab world and in eastern Europe.

According to diplomatic reports, in nearly every case they have decided to let their assistance taper off.

Without outside help and with the Uganda economy in tatters, Amin found support within his own army — considered crucial to his survival — is eroding.



The world's first turn-on

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — The 1870s surely must rank as the most creative decade in the history of this republic, and possibly of the world at large.

Within a three-year period, to mention just a few of its shining moments, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone and Thomas Alva Edison gave us the phonograph and the light bulb. In that order.

Not only was it ahead of the light bulb chronologically, the phonograph remained Edison's favorite invention. And who is to say he did not have his priorities straight?

Even today, a century later, the phonograph sometimes steals the show. We have an annual television program, the Grammy awards, that is a spinoff of the phonograph. But hardly any honors are handed out for outstanding performances with light bulbs.

This illustrates the difficulties facing the International Centennial of Light, which has charge of planning a fitting observance for the incandescent lamp's 100th birthday next October.

Part of the problem stems from Edison's apparent failure to utter a memorable quote when he turned on the world's first light bulb.

You may recall that in 1876, when we were observing the centennial of the telephone, the people in charge of that celebration made a big deal out of the first utterance transmitted by wire.

Bell's immortal words were: "Mr. Wat-

son, come here. I want you."

Then, in 1977, when we were observing the centennial of the phonograph, the festivities were built around the first recorded utterance.

Edison's immortal words were: "Mary had a little lamb." Which was a cut above some of the recorded lyrics heard on this year's Grammy awards program.

None of the reference books at my disposal mentions anything Edison said on Oct. 19, 1879, when he finally devised a light bulb that worked. He did, however, originate a tradition the International Centennial of Light might be able to feature in its commemorative programs.

I refer to the fact that Edison left the world's first light bulb on all night.

Indeed, it did not burn out until Edison increased the voltage at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 21.

This suggests that the most memorable words attending the birth of the light bulb might have been uttered by Edison's mother.

It may have been she who first uttered the classic line, "You forgot to turn the light off, dum-dum."

In any event, there's potentially a neat tie-in between the upcoming celebration and President Carter's energy conservation campaign.

Let the International Centennial of Light offer an award for the invention of a light bulb that, like Edison's phonograph, won't work until you wind it up.



TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Photographers vie for prizes

Collegiate photographers vie for cash prizes and ribbons in Salon '79, the March 31 photo contest at Texas A&M University. Open to students of all colleges and universities, Salon '79 will feature best of show awards in color and black-and-white and three place winners in 11 categories, sub-divided into color and black-and-white. Information and entry blanks are available from the Camera Committee, MSC Student Programs Office, Texas A&M University, College Station, 77843, or by phoning 845-1515 or 845-2768.

Mozart opera tonight at Rudder

One of Mozart's merriest operas, "Così Fan Tutte," will be presented by the Texas Opera Theater at 8:15 p.m. today at Texas A&M University. The two-hour production is about two young couples who fall prey to a cynical old bachelor determined to prove that all women are fickle. Tickets are on sale at the Memorial Student Center box office in Rudder Tower and will be available at the door tonight.

STATE

Murder defendant feared for life

Capital murder defendant Linda May Burnett admitted she was with Ovide Joseph Dugas, her co-defendant and lover, the night of July 14 when five of his in-laws were killed, but told police she cooperated with him because she feared for her life. She did not mention participating in the shooting deaths of five people whose bodies were later found in a common grave near Winnie, Texas. But Burnett did tell officers she was afraid she or her children would be killed if she failed to follow orders given her by Dugas, a 33-year-old Port Arthur refinery worker.

2 arrested for 'selling' aliens

Immigration agents arrested two men for attempting to "sell" 10 illegal aliens to undercover agents and searched for others believed involved in the ring that smuggled as many as 300 Mexican nationals into Texas each month. Agents from the Immigration and Naturalization Service posing as farmers arrested the pair Tuesday at a farm near Cleburne, Texas after arranging to buy 10 illegal aliens for \$100 each.

Polygraph results allowed in court

State District Judge George Walker has allowed the results of a lie detector test to be admitted as evidence in the trial of a man accused of attempted murder. Robert Moore, defense lawyer for John Patteson, said the admission of the polygraph results was possible because Walker is hearing the case without a jury. The 35-year-old Pasadena, Texas, defendant is accused of trying to kill a neighbor who was stabbed last Oct. 10.

Houston oilmen tried for swindle

A government prosecutor said Wednesday that a federal conspiracy and mail fraud trial, in which several Houston oil executives are defendants, involved \$2 million in bribes and kickbacks from 1973-74 fuel oil sales to Florida Power Corp. The defendants are John L. Burns, former vice president of Charter International Oil Corp. of Houston; Walter L. Ballard, a former executive of Signal Oil and Gas Co. of Houston; James Clark, president of Larcon Petroleum Corp.; Ronald Pruitt, a Houston attorney and part owner of Larcon, and Richard Raymond, former senior vice president of FPC. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Hoyer said the defendants used trusts, dummy corporations and an intricate web of paper transactions to jack up the prices paid by FPC.

NATION

Power plant X-rays 'doctored'

A former supervisor at a Kerr-McGee nuclear power plant in Crescent, Okla., testified in a secret deposition that Karen Silkwood, a plant worker killed in a 1974 auto accident, showed him falsified X-rays of substandard welds used in the facility's construction on Silkwood Estate, attorneys said Wednesday. Gerald Schreiber, Silkwood's supervisor at the Cimarron Nuclear Facility, gave a deposition Monday to Kerr-McGee and Silkwood attorneys in Los Alamos, N.M. Schreiber said Silkwood may have implied there were several other falsified X-rays. He said the X-rays had been doctored with magic marker.

Police defy court, picket again

Striking policemen in New Orleans defied a court order Wednesday and renewed picketing at garbage depots, but city officials said the post-Mardi Gras cleanup of tons of trash was unaffected. In suburban Metairie, where an estimated 1 million persons watched the biggest parades of the carnival, scavengers hunting aluminum cans raced cleanup crews to the garbage. Picketing ended Sunday because police union leaders told the strikers to obey an appeals court decision prohibiting the pickets. The picketing resumed without warning or explanation from union leaders.

WEATHER

Fair skies and mild temperatures with a chance of isolated showers Friday. High today 70, low tonight 50 with winds South Easterly at 5-10 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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