



VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
MARCH 5, 1979



TOP OF THE NEWS

LOCAL

Sorority gives \$500 to hospital

St. Joseph Hospital Auxiliary is \$500 closer to purchasing needed supplies and equipment, thanks to a recent gift from the Xi Kappa chapter of Chi Omega at Texas A&M University. The gift was from profits from the first annual Songfest, a singing competition organized and sponsored by Chi Omega for other sorority and fraternity members last November. Participants in the first competition included Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Phi, Delta Zeta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Mu and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities, and Delta Tau Delta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternities. Plans for part of the gift include purchase of books for the pediatrics ward to make the hospital stays of young patients more endurable. "Every child and parents and children at the hospital will be indebted to these college students for their generosity and kindness," said Mrs. Clarence C. Andrews, president of the auxiliary.

Presnal named to national groups

State Rep. Bill Presnal of Bryan has been asked to serve on committees of two national legislative organizations by Speaker of the House Bill Clayton. Presnal will have responsibilities on the Science and Technology Legislative Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Fiscal Affairs and Government Operations Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC). The NCSL panel will undertake studies of state legislatures' ability to deal with scientific and technological issues. It provides guidance to the scientific and technological activities of the Conference. These projects include MISTIC, the State Science, Engineering and Technology Program, and the Science and Technology Newsletter. The SLC committee is composed of legislators from the 16 southern states in the conference. The committee identifies and studies issues and problems facing the states. Presnal is serving his sixth term in the House. He is chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

NATION

Jury selection begins in influence trial

South Korean rice dealer *Tongsun Park*, the key government witness in the bribery and income tax evasion trial of former Rep. Otis Passman, D-La., is expected to be on hand today for the beginning jury selection. Park was the free-spending businessman who allegedly paid Passman \$98,000 in bribes for his help in steering additional shipments of U.S. rice to South Korea in the early 1970s. Park testified last year he doled out \$800,000 to several current and former congressmen, including Passman, as a private citizen and as a representative of the South Korean government. Attorneys will agree on a 12-member jury before the trial begins this week. Monroe, La. Passman, 78, was indicted by a federal grand jury last year of conspiring to accept \$213,000 from Park in exchange for his clout in sending additional shipments of rice to South Korea.

WORLD

Amin loses, then regains vital town

Uganda Saturday admitted opponents of President Idi Amin seized the key border town of Tororo, but said loyal troops recaptured the town and massacred the invaders. Diplomatic sources said Amin's troops captured and executed on the spot at least six Ugandan exiles who took part in the attack. Three guerrillas who escaped the scene was a bloodbath. Despite that victory for Amin, the embattled dictator faced another threat from the south, where Tanzanian troops have captured the Ugandan cities of Masaka and Mbarara and were reported to be marching north toward the capital, Kampala, without resistance. Three guerrillas escaped across the border from Tororo into Kenya after Ugandan forces recaptured the town Friday night with warplanes, tanks and armored personnel carriers. The said their force of Ugandan exiles had attacked from Tanzania, crossing Lake Victoria in boats. They seized control of Tororo with the help of mutinous troops belonging to Uganda's Air and Seaboard Regiment based there. The successful counterattack by Ugandan troops, who were believed to have been rushed from the town of Jinja, near the capital of Kampala, provided Amin with some critical breathing space to cope with advancing Tanzanian forces moving to the capital from the south. Tororo is vital to Amin's survival in office because virtually all traffic from the Kenyan port of Mombasa must pass through there to reach Kampala.

Venezuela to increase oil prices

The price of Venezuelan crude oil will be raised by 52 cents a barrel beginning April 1 in accordance with the recently adopted pricing formula of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. An additional \$1.20 a barrel premium will take effect on the same day due to the present market situation as a result of the Iranian oil shutdown. Energy and Mines Minister Valentine Hernandez said Saturday in Caracas, Venezuela. Under the pricing formula adopted at OPEC's ministerial conference in Abu Dhabi last December, the cartel's base price for 1979 will be boosted by 14.5 percent. OPEC's current standard price is \$13.40 a barrel. Venezuela, South America's largest oil exporter, is a major source of U.S. foreign oil supplies. Approximately one million barrels a day of Venezuelan crude and refined products are shipped to the U.S. Eastern Seaboard market for home and industrial use. Another 250,000 barrels a day goes to Canada.

THE BATTALION

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Slouch By Jim Earle



"AND RAREST OF ALL IS MY QUART OF ORIGINAL, UNOPENED GASOLINE, 29.9c PER GALLON VINTAGE!"

Oil, the universal recognition factor

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — The great national debate over who lost Iran is now in full cry, especially among presidential candidates who are notoriously attentive to details of that sort. But despite the vast number of presidential candidates, it is doubtful the debate over who lost Iran will match the intensity of the post-World War II debate over who lost China. Losing a country like China is not the kind of thing that is easily explained away. It is nothing like losing a set of keys, or losing a pack of Cub Scouts. When a country like China is lost, it causes psychological paroxysms bordering on trauma. In this case the shock was such that it was almost 30 years before the United States was again able to recognize China. "It's that great big country over there just south of Mongolia, the one with the wall," the British and French would say, ever eager to be helpful. Whereupon the United States would squint its eyes and peer as hard as it could in an easterly direction. But we could never recognize anything fitting that description. "You must be talking about that island over there just north of the Philippines," the United States would say. "That looks like China to us." Part of the identity crisis was a language problem. There was an old Chinese saying that "As Chiang goes, so goes China." When Chiang moved to Taiwan, the saying was translated to read: "Where Chiang goes, so goes China." Losing Iran is not expected to be that disorienting. It is true that the United States once subscribed to an old Arabic saying that "As the shah goes, so goes Iran." However, the United States is unlikely to recognize Morocco as Iran. For one thing, Morocco is a part of Africa, which is a different continent from Asia, which was the home continent of the Iran we used to know and love. Moreover, when Chiang Kaishek took up residence in Taiwan, he took a large part of the Chinese army with him. The presence of all those troops was one reason the United States kept recognizing Taiwan as China. But when the shah fled to Morocco, he left behind not only the army but also the oil. About all the shah took with him was the passbook to his Swiss bank accounts. In the absence of a large body of Iranian troops, or a large deposit of Iranian oil, Morocco stands little chance of being recognized as Iran. Indeed, some debaters argue that Iran wasn't lost at all, but merely slipped between the cracks in Soviet-American détente. Thus it remains recognizable, even if out of reach.

Letters to the Editor

Don't fumble the Q-drops

Editor: I have just finished reading your headline article (Battalion, March 1) on the possibility of doing away with Q-drops, and I am outraged that anyone would consider abolishing the Q-drop option. The present Q-drop system is perfect; you can select a heavy load of classes and if "mid-terms" suggest that the load is too heavy, you can still Q-drop without hurting your grade point average. It is virtually impossible to predict how you will do in the first 18 days of classes, because those first 18 days are not representative of the total semester, and I, for one, hope that the Q-drops are not abolished. I have never had to use the Q-drop option (and hope I never have to) but it's nice to know that it's there to fall back on. I just hope it will still be there to fall back on when I'm a senior. —Billy Henry, '80

Unlike cities in other parts of the country, most cities in the south take pride in the hospitality they afford their visitors. My College Station experience was one I'll long remember and was not indicative of true southern hospitality. If the twofold policy of the College Station "Policy Department" is permitted to continue, I would suggest that all future visitors to College Station do everything possible to avoid passing through its city limits. —Robert S. Filarowicz, 6337 Inca Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76116

Fire fuss not valid

Editor: This is in response to a statement made by Bill Pruitt in the March 2 issue of *The Battalion* concerning the fire in the Old Board of Directors Quarters. Pruitt was irritated because he thought the fire could have been contained more quickly than it was. He said, "They took at least five to seven minutes to get the water on after they were hooked up." Any time there is an emergency of this type, seconds seem like minutes and minutes like hours. Perhaps Mr. Pruitt and others who were critical of our tactics don't understand the operations that need to be done at a fire of that size and type. We began by attacking the blaze from the inside, where it would be the most effective. Mr. Pruitt was not along side us searching for the most advantageous way in, dragging 500 feet of hose and setting up ladders. Nor was he performing search and rescue amid black smoke, extreme heat, explosive flammables and debris falling from ceilings and walls while water was being applied to the fire. While our first-in firefighters were accomplishing all of this, other larger lines by the second and third crews were being laid, charged and put into use — a well-executed fire operation. The chiefs, lieutenants, dispatcher, and fellow firefighters of College Station are highly dedicated and trained. I'm very proud to work with them, whether at the station or at the scene of a fire or medical emergency. I have seen these men risk their lives for the lives of citizens, fellow firefighters, and property. Under the conditions, I could not individually thank all the students, Texas A&M maintenance people, REACT, and others who assisted us in various ways. But I'd like to thank them now. It makes me proud to work with and to serve good citizens like these. —William H. Riley, firefighter, College Station, Tx. 77840

Senate scuffles over possible A&I regent

By ANN ARNOLD
UPI Capital Reporter

AUSTIN — Former Gov. Dolph Briscoe's last minute nomination of a little-known Arlington man to a minor spot on the South Texas University System board has stirred the hottest Senate controversy of the 1979 Legislature and rekindled some animosity about the power senators wield over appointments to state boards. The Senate deferred action on Briscoe's nomination of Joe Bishop of Arlington until Thursday when Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, is expected to be back in the Capitol. The debate is expected to be so heated several senators suggested it might be better to act before Truan's return in order to avoid any recurrence of the heart attack that sidelined the Corpus Christi senator Jan. 24. Truan, however, had indicated he wanted to be present to fight approval of the appointment he contends was made by Briscoe "to spite me." And Sen. Carl Parker, D-Fort Arthur, who indignantly castigated Bishop's critics at Senate Nominations Committee hearings, also asked to have the vote delayed so he can be present to defend the former lobbyist and Democratic fund raiser. Appointees normally are officially sponsored and at least nominally defended by the senator in whose district they reside, but Bishop's senator, Sen. Betty Andujar, R-Fort Worth, says she is having trouble deciding how to vote herself. "I feel this is like a bunch of garbage put on my doorstep and I don't like it a bit," Mrs. Andujar said. "I feel very uncomfortable and harassed about it." Mrs. Andujar said Briscoe could have found far better candidates to serve on the board that oversees operations of Texas A&I University at Kingsville, Corpus Christi State University and Laredo State University. "I think undoubtedly it was a political payoff. Bishop is as a big fund raiser for Democrats," she said. "They certainly could have gotten a better candidate if they had tried. This man's not a quality man." The controversy is complicated, however, by continuing resentment in some circles against Truan for rejecting Briscoe's earlier attempt to name Corpus Christi attorney J. Michael Mahaffey to the post. Truan urged Briscoe to name a Mexican-American to the open seat. "I heard that there were two that he busted because they were Anglos," Mrs. Andujar said. "I don't want to be used in the hands of some other senator to bludgeon somebody. There's a great deal of politics in this. I don't want to be used to settle somebody else's political problems." The Senate traditionally rejects the appointment — usually in a unanimous vote — of any nominee submitted by the governor that does not meet the approval of the senator in whose district the nominee resides.

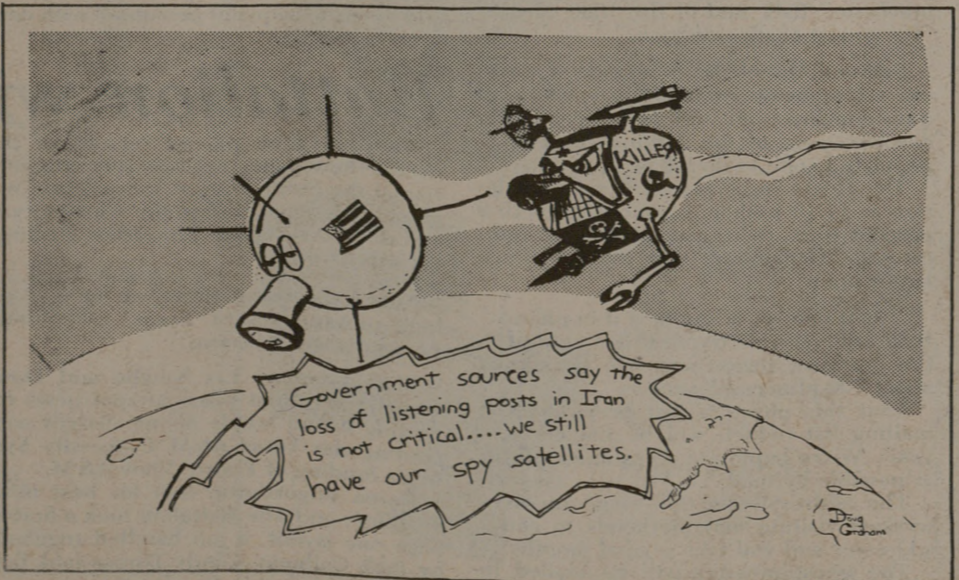
"There's no question in my mind if Carlos hadn't rejected two previous appointees for his own purposes this would not have occurred," Mrs. Andujar said. When Briscoe called her in his final hours in office to see if she would object to Bishop's appointment, she said she cleared the nomination although she did not know the Dallas-based securities dealer who recently moved to Arlington. Announcement of the appointment spurred a deluge of calls and letters to Mrs. Andujar from Kingsville faculty members protesting the selection of the man who served as executive director of the Texas A&I alumni association in 1968-73 and as vice chancellor of the university system in 1973-75. "I've been drawn into this against my will," Mrs. Andujar said. Critics accused Bishop of mishandling alumni funds and running up large debts at the association and continuing to draw partial pay from the association for three months after he went on the state payroll as vice chancellor. Two former presidents of the association, however, appeared at Nominations Committee hearings to defend Bishop and say he acted under their directions. "They apparently let the man do just about anything that he wanted to do," Mrs. Andujar said. "(But) I wouldn't say there aren't people already serving who haven't done the same thing."

Mrs. Andujar, the only woman in the 31-member Senate, said she was surprised her male colleagues were so little concerned at questions raised about Bishop's morals and an incident involving a co-ed while he was vice chancellor of the South Texas University System. "I thought they would be shocked, but their attitude was very nonchalant," said Mrs. Andujar, who distributed to senators a petition from 77 Texas A&I faculty members opposing Bishop and copies of a letter from a former professor accusing Bishop of improper personal conduct. "This didn't boil down to a question of was he the best man for this post. The discussion was, was he felonious or wasn't he. Not really proving that he had done anything criminal they seemed ready to accept him," she said.

Clayton says primary wish is early — only

By ROLAND LINDSEY
UPI Capital Reporter

AUSTIN — Speaker Bill Clayton is hinting that if he cannot push through legislation establishing an early presidential primary date for Texas in 1980, he may opt for a bill blocking any presidential primaries at all. Clayton and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby have backed a bill setting the presidential primary in March, but opposition to that plan is growing. "I'd like to see Texas with its 26 electoral votes be a trend state," Clayton says. "I think we're an important state and I would like to see us be first in showing who might be the leading candidates." Republicans have indicated they plan to conduct a presidential primary next year even if the Legislature fails to agree on new legislation. That expression is apparently what prompted Clayton to suggest his second alternative: a ban on all primaries. "This would just ensure that we didn't have part of the people saying they have a primary and the others don't," he said. "Everybody would just be in the same boat again." When the House State Affairs Committee last week considered legislation giving the governor authority to appoint a budget overseer for each state agency, some members expressed concern that the budget supervision would also carry with it the power to affect policy decisions. "This state operates under the golden rule," said Rep. Emmett Whitehead, D-Rusk. "He who controls the gold makes the rules." — Rep. Clay Smothers, D-Dallas, was irate last week because a reporter who overheard his conversation with another lawmaker quoted him as saying he hated United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young and referring to Young as a "son of a b." Rep. Craig Washington, D-Houston, suggested the House General Investigating Committee look into the issue of whether conversations between legislators were public statements, and Rep. W.S. Heatly, D-Paducah, who was presiding at the time, told Washington to discuss the matter with investigating committee chairman Rep. Dick Slack, D-Pecos. "Will my conversation with him be subject to being printed in the newspaper?" Washington asked. "Possibly, if you say it loud enough," Heatly responded. Sen. A.R. Schwartz, D-Galveston, surprised some of his Senate colleagues last week by beginning a filibuster against a bill he opposed. Filibusters ordinarily are effective only in the closing days of the legislative session, and some senators questioned why Schwartz, one of the Legislature's more talkative members, would attempt to talk a bill to death with three months left in the session. "Schwartz just does it because he loves it," Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said.



Unhospitable tow

Editor: During a recent business trip to the College Station area, my car lost all power on a street adjacent to the Texas A&M campus. I managed to roll the car to the nearest curb and on foot sought out the nearest service station. Since the incident took place on a Sunday evening, I was informed by the station attendant that I would have to wait until Monday morning for towing and repair service. I concurred and authorized the service station to accomplish the towing and the repair work on my car. On the following morning, I rented a car to accomplish my business. After passing by the spot where I had left my car the night before, I noticed that my car was missing. I stopped by the service station and to my astonishment learned that station had not picked up the car by that time and that shortly after the breakdown the College Station police department had summoned a Bryan wrecking company to tow it away. To make matters worse, later that day the Bryan wrecking company presented me with a bill for \$35 (they asked for cash only) for towing charges. In my opinion, the bill was totally unfair and exorbitant.