



# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 28, 1979



# TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

### Moody work nearly complete

Construction on the two-story Moody College classroom and laboratory building could be completed as early as April 15, almost four months ahead of schedule, report college officials. Gary Merkel, associate director of the Moody College Physical Plant, says the building will become the new headquarters for the college's administration, the fiscal offices, the Marine Engineering Department and portions of the General Academics Department and Biology Department. The new building is located on Pelican Island.

## STATE

### Clements signs bill for deep port

Gov. Bill Clements signed a bill into law Tuesday in Austin increasing state support for the Deepwater Port Authority. The bill, which caused considerable controversy in the House, appropriates a total of \$2.4 million to the port authority. The money is to be used to obtain a federal license and begin administration of a deepwater port near Galveston.

## NATION

### Slayer of boy gets death penalty

Housewife Linda May Burnett, convicted of shooting a 2-year-old boy who was abducted and slain with his parents last summer, received the death penalty in Beaumont Tuesday, becoming the only woman in Texas Death Row. Burnett, 31, was indicted along with boyfriend, Ovide Joseph Dugas, 32, who is awaiting trial. Dugas allegedly masterminded the killing of five people last July 1 in Woodward, Okla., out of anger about his divorce from a member of the boy's family.

### Space shuttle trip delayed again

The space shuttle Columbia took off Tuesday from Edwards Air Force Base for a brief piggyback test flight over the California desert but weather conditions may again delay its trip to Florida. The test flight had been questionable because of a heavy rainstorm during the night, but skies cleared sufficiently before dawn to allow it to get underway. A NASA spokesman, Ralph Jackson, said weather conditions over the east of California were less than favorable and the shuttle-craft's two-day trip to Florida may be postponed. The Columbia is bolted atop a Boeing 747 for its trip to Florida.

### Six hurt in Jersey refinery blast

Six Exxon oil refinery workers were injured Tuesday in a processing unit fire and explosion in Linden, N. J., that jolted residents sleeping in homes up to four miles away. Flames and smoke shot hundreds of feet into the night sky from the burning 90-foot processing unit, part of a 1,500-acre refinery complex near the Goethals Bridge that connects New York's Staten Island and Elizabeth, N. J. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. At least six of the estimated 100 workers on duty in various parts of the complex were injured, a company spokesman said. Two were hurt seriously enough to require hospitalization. Firemen managed to prevent the flames from spreading from the burning processing unit to nearby oil storage tanks at the plant.

## WORLD

### 86 killed in fierce Iran fighting

At least 86 persons were killed in 38 hours of fierce fighting that put the Kurdish-dominated Iranian city of Sanandaj under siege Tuesday. The Kurds are demanding autonomy from the government of Ayatollah Khomeini. Chief spokesman for the government, Abbas Amir-Entezam, said the government was determined to crush the insurgency. Fighting began when Kurdish tribesmen were refused ammunition for an arsenal of smuggled weapons that were characteristic of the area even under the Shah's regime.

### Hanoi quiet on Chinese talks offer

Radio Hanoi broadcasts monitored in Bangkok, Thailand, celebrated a Vietnamese "victory" over the Chinese Tuesday, but failed to mention China's offer to hold peace talks. The Chinese offered, Monday, to open talks next Wednesday, in Hanoi. Earlier Vietnam suggested talks begin Friday in Hanoi or at the border. Western intelligence sources said Chinese forces appeared to have completed their withdrawal, but remained inside some territory claimed by Vietnam. The Vietnam News Agency said that as of last Saturday, Chinese forces retained control of 22 villages and rural areas up to 9.5 miles inside Vietnam. Hanoi also accused the Chinese of moving new border markers half a mile further into Vietnam than they should be.

## WEATHER

Cloudy and mild with a chance of thundershowers. High today 70 and a low of 60 with wind moving S.E. at 10-15 mph. 60% chance of rain decreasing to a 20% Thursday.

## THE BATTALION

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# Senators take action on own inflation ills

By STEVE GERSTEL  
United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A salary of \$57,500 plus a potential \$8,625 in moonlighting sounds like a decent enough annual income. Most could struggle through the year on that.

Not, however, members of the U.S. Senate who apparently cannot make ends meet on that sum in these days of spiraling inflation.

Blithely ignoring President Carter's suggestion that wage increases should be held to 7 percent this year, the Senate voted its members a 200 percent boost in allowable outside earned income.

Translated, that means \$25,000 in honorariums instead of \$8,625 for speeches,

### Commentary

lectures and all other permissible kinds of outside earned income.

Whether the increase is justified or not is debatable. Good points can be made on both sides.

But the way the Senate went about raising the income of its members — as it always does in this politically sensitive area — earns no one a chapter in any version of "Profiles in Courage."

The idea, spawned in the fertile minds of Sens. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., was cleared with Senate leaders who gave them the go-ahead and their backing.

What Stevens and Moynihan proposed was to postpone the effective date of the \$8,625 ceiling — adopted last year as part of a wide-ranging ethics code — from Jan. 1, 1979, to Jan. 1, 1983.

In the early evening hours of Wednesday, March 7, Stevens and Moynihan teamed to introduce their resolution. Byrd ruled that the vote would come around the middle of the day, Thursday.

Although three senators spoke against the change, there was — to no one's surprise — no demand for a rollcall vote.

As a result, any senator can tell an irate

constituent that he was against the increase all along. After all, who can prove him wrong.

The method used to put through the change disclosed a certain lack of courage but there is a hollow sound to the pious statements of some senators that they would have fought it to the bitter had they only known.

The Congressional Record, available to every senator on that Thursday morning, contained verbatim the remarks of Stevens and Moynihan. The four-page digest which is at the end of the Record, specifically stated that the vote would come no later than 12:30 p.m.

It is hard to believe that a senator or a member of his staff — no matter how busy — can ignore the Digest which lets him know what is going on in the Senate that day.

If that actually was the case, there are a number of senators who should clean house and get a new staff. One should be assigned to read the Digest.

Far more refreshing were the remarks of Senate Republican leader Howard Baker who was out of town on that day but told reporters on his return, "I would have voted for it and I commend Senators Stevens and Moynihan."

He freely acknowledged talking it over with Moynihan and Stevens and added, "It is far better to let them earn income from sources outside the government. I support what was done."

Asked if he also was comfortable with the method used to rush the change through the Senate, Baker said, "Yes, I support that too."

Speaker Thomas O'Neill and House Democratic leader Jim Wright have assured reporters that no such thing could or is going to happen in the House which is still stuck with the lower ceiling.

But there are those who believe that if senators don't get too much heat, members of the House will soon want a shot at a little moonlighting. After all, they have been hit by inflation, too.



## Women to have last say

Like most Americans, we never professed to understand Iran. Just when we thought we understood a little of what was going on behind the scenes, we discovered that Khomeini was not actually in control of his own revolution.

Then, just last week we discover another revolution within the revolution: Women! We should have known.

They staged a gigantic demonstration in downtown Tehran to protect Khomeini's order that women abandon Western-style clothing and go back to the traditional long robe, the chador.

These women of Iran, many of whom had fought against the Shah's army, were now telling Khomeini that he couldn't push them around. They want the freedom to choose their own dress. They also want equal rights on the job, in politics and in society.

Their message, if we read it correctly, is that they want no part of dictatorship, whether it be by an emperor or a high priest.

We'd like to make just one prediction: Khomeini will be unable to defeat the women, even though they are an army without guns in a nation ruled by rifles.

Pauktuck (R.I.) Evening Times

## Help yourself later by helping wildlife live now

By MIKE TEWES

National Wildlife Week is 42 years old with the 1979 observance, March 18-24. The 1979 Wildlife Week theme, "Conserve Our Wildlife," states a need that is just as pressing today as when Wildlife Week began in 1938 — perhaps more so.

The 1938 National Wildlife Restoration Week (as it was then called) featured a poster showing a bird soaring above a bar-

### Reader's Forum

ren, desolate landscape as if looking in vain for a place to light. "Where To Now?" the poster asks forlornly.

It was a commentary on destruction of habitat. This is still the biggest problem facing wildlife — the loss of habitat. Solving it would be the best thing we could do to conserve our wildlife.

Conservation means planning for the future, knowing the needs of man and wildlife and working to make sure those needs are met. It means making wise use of our natural resources. Wildlife conservation means research and study to learn the needs of animals. It means using this knowledge to manage our land to benefit man and animal so there will always be an abundance of wildlife.

If anyone is equipped for that task, it is the wildlife manager. He may be a researcher, biologist, refuge chief, state fish and game officer, or similar specialist. He knows how to help wildlife, how to improve habitat, how to help an endangered species survive, even how if necessary to reduce an animal population that has grown too large for its food supply to handle.

Everyone who cares about wildlife has a concern for conservation and wildlife management. Protecting habitat — the places where animals can find food, water and living space — is the key to healthy wildlife populations.

Look around where you live. Can more be done to improve habitat? Talk to local officials or any professor in the wildlife department about what you can do to help. Habitat protection conserves wildlife.

Mike Tewes is a senior wildlife and fisheries science major from Odem, Texas.

### Letters to the Editor

## Feathered friends fine, noisemakers not

Editor:  
I prefer birds, and whatever "mess" they may cause, to the high-pitched mechanical sounds and recurrent "cannon booms" used to "frighten them away."  
The birds belong to my world; the obnoxious mechanical devices used to frighten them do not.  
—Steven F. Philipp  
graduate student

## Carter's 'derring-do' makes it — barely

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — With a modesty that Henry Kissinger would not even try to affect, President Carter is accepting his well-earned praise for bringing Egypt and Israel to the point of signing a peace treaty.

The feeling in the country is rather like the one you get at the circus in the climactic moment of the death-defying routine of the Flying Carambas. The show has just released his grip on the wrists of his trapeze-swinging partner and is flying through space. He seems certain to crash to the floor, 60 feet below, when suddenly his "catcher" swoops down on the other trapeze, locks onto his wrists, and swings him up to safety.

Jimmy Carter has become a diplomatic Man on the Flying Trapeze. And if your first thought is, "Thank God he made it — thank God that Sadat caught him just when Begin let go," then your next thought has to be: "What the Dickens was the President of the United States doing out there in mid-air anyhow?"

The answer — offered neither in justification nor in criticism — is that he was fulfilling the national fantasy of what passes for world leadership in an age of Big Top politics.

The act has been building for almost three decades, since Dwight D. Eisenhower, the war-hero President, announced as the main plank of his foreign policy, "I shall go to Korea."

Most of the Presidents who followed him had trouble mastering the timing of this acrobatic summitry, but Kissinger, who always acted as though he were President for External Affairs, brought high-flying, international finagling to new heights.

Kissinger always said he wanted to "institutionalize" his concepts of world order, but what Kissinger really did was heighten the public's craving for diplomatic derring-do.

The same Jimmy Carter, who as a campaigner derided Kissinger's "Lone Ranger" style of diplomacy, has now eclipsed the old master of that art. And that is probably the most convincing proof that this is the only kind of leadership now available to American Presidents.

It is as obvious as anything can be that the tactics Carter used in the Middle East were a desperate invention. They were in



total contradiction to all the engineering analogies on which he nominally had built his approach to leadership. Careful preparation, strong institutional support, fail-safe mechanisms — none of these was possible on this daring venture.

Instead, Carter put the functional leadership of the executive branch of the American government aboard an airplane, and then bounced between foreign capitals on a mission whose substance, whose limits and whose prospects were, literally, unknown to anyone outside that small metallic capsule.

There was no safety net for this act. Had Carter slipped the grip of either Begin or Sadat, there would have been a ghastly injury to his presidency and the country.

But this is how leaders, in our atomistic politics, are driven to behave, for they find no other way to accomplish their ends — or win their fickle public's praise.

Not for them the slow, frustrating effort to mobilize public opinion, or inveigle the bureaucracies and leadership elites to bring an issue to the point of resolution. That is not their style — or their talent.

Having come to power as self-propelled, individual political entrepreneurs, such leaders like to advertise the fact that they are outsiders to the political, governmental and diplomatic establishment. In office, they quickly find it in their interest to escape those establishment bonds and deal directly with their counterparts in other lands.

Carter first smelled the smell of the greasepaint and heard the roar of the crowd when he descended from Camp David. He anticipated it again (and was somewhat disappointed) when he revealed the secret of his negotiations with Teng for recognition of China. And now he is savoring it again after the shuttle-for-peace.

It is truly fly-now-pay-later leadership, with Congress and the country learning after the fact exactly what has been traded and what has been committed.

But there is no point in complaining about it. That is precisely the kind of leadership we will have in a political system that relies on individual derring-do from nomination to election to on-the-job performance.

Just hope the Man on the Flying Trapeze doesn't slip.

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### 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

with graduate degrees who teach religion for college credit.

Six of my 15 hours of economics were taught not by Ph.D.s, but by graduate students who were wasting both their time and that of the students.

They lacked the degrees which Dr. Maxwell considers so crucial, and obvi-

ously had never been instructed in how to effectively teach.

Perhaps the College of Liberal Arts no longer uses graduate students as instructors, since evidently they do not meet the Dean's standards ...

—April Blaker Rayborn, '77  
graduate student