

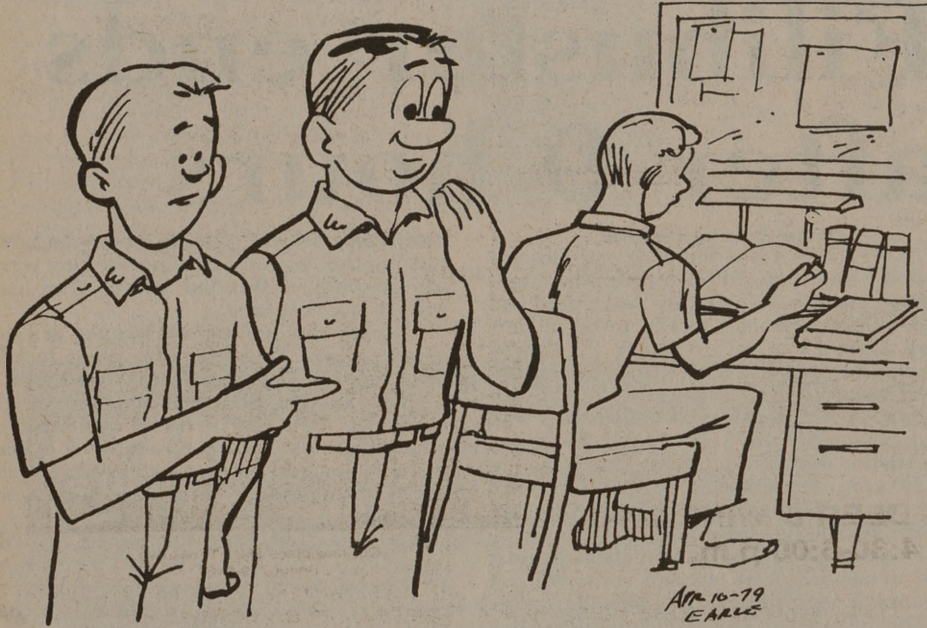
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
APRIL 10, 1979

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"Now get this! He's getting his notes in order, reviewing his previous tests, and then he's going to systematically study for his final examinations so he won't have a last minute crunch. Do you think he has completely cracked up?"

A solar 'terror' lurks

By DAVID NISSMAN

MARS — We are all witnessing the "horrors" of a nuclear reactor mishap and are saying there must be a better solution to the energy dilemma. Many say turn to solar energy.

Now stop for a moment and think about the horrors of solar energy. It has been

Humor

said that a couple of square miles of land covered with solar panels would supply the energy of a 1000 MW reactor. But imagine the plight of a domestic airline flight over this area. The glare off the glass panels would be blinding and should the pilot be looking down God only knows what might happen!

Take for instance the plan to put a multi-acred solar collector satellite in orbit

and beam the energy down by microwave. The dangers of this are two-fold. Should the satellite's orbit go awry it would first be beaming microwaves indiscriminately making TV dinners out of tens, hundreds, even thousands of us.

Along with the failure of many mechanical pacemaker units being the direct cause of the deaths of untold many. And then as the orbit decays and this gargantuan object comes hurtling out of the sky to crash on a major metropolis, possibly causing the annihilation of the greater urban centers of the world — New York, Dallas, Los Angeles, London, Moscow or worst of all Luckenbach!

The dangers are as real and imminent as those the proponents of a nuclear ban fear so greatly.

Are you willing to subject your children to this? I say "no." Advocate the abolition of solar energy. (Live in the dark.)

David Nissman is a sophomore at Texas A&M.

Revolt backstabs states

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — One of the most painful lessons of our time is that "reforms" have unintended consequences. The liberals have littered the landscape with programs famous for the perversity of their effects. To cite but two examples: In the 1960s, "urban renewal" left great scars on the heart of cities; and in the 1970s, campaign finance "reforms" spurred a flood of special-interest contributions.

Not to be outdone, the conservatives, in this time of growing influence, are proving that they can be every bit as short-sighted in the causes they espouse. As a case in point, consider the mounting evidence that the great conservative "tax revolt" may very well spur a new centralization of government power.

Proposition 13 in California has been hailed as the herald of a conservative charge against free-spending bureaucrats. But the main effect of the rollback in local property taxes has been to send local officials scrambling to Sacramento, seeking state funds to finance vital local services.

The upshot: A setback for home rule and local responsibility, and an increase in the authority of the state government.

A similar result may come from the current conservative drive for a balanced federal budget. Just as Proposition 13 shifted spending decisions, and therefore governmental power, from the localities to Sacramento, the balanced-budget drive is fueling a shift of power from the states to Washington, D.C. It is doing by posing an imminent threat to one of the few federal programs of recent years, designed to increase, rather than hamper, local decision-making.

That program is general revenue-sharing, which currently sends about \$4.6 billion a year of no-strings aid to localities and \$2.3 billion of unencumbered money to the states.

The state portion of revenue-sharing is a prime target for his year's budget-cutting drive. Both Democrats and Republicans on the House Budget Committee have recommended its elimination from the fiscal 1980 budget. And insiders on the Senate Budget Committee think it likely to be trimmed, if not eliminated, there.

The argument is that with all states being able to balance their budgets this year and many showing a surplus, it makes no sense for the deficit-ridden federal government to pump money into their coffers. That argument is coming not only from liberals who have opposed revenue-sharing ever since Richard Nixon pushed it into law in 1972, but from many budget-balancing conservatives.

Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), the rank-

ing Republican on the House Budget Committee, says: "I've supported revenue-sharing in the past, but we're at the point where we don't really have any revenues to share." Sen. Henry Bellmon (R-Okla.), the ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, another long-time supporter, says: "My position now is that revenue-sharing is a good idea that didn't work. The state legislatures are telling us to balance the budget, and we have to take that mandate seriously."

Both Regula and Bellmon said they would prefer to make the cuts in the categorical-aid programs. These programs comprise the vast bulk of the \$80 billion of aid Washington sends to state and local governments. But the programs — replete with guidelines and directives and legislative mandates manufactured in Washington — are, predictably, not the ones the Washington legislators or bureaucrats want to eliminate.

As Senate Budget Committee Chairman Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), another long-time supporter of general revenue-sharing, concedes, "it will be a very tempting target," because the simplicity of this program makes it easier to save money faster than in those programs where dollars take a long time passing through the bureaucratic maze.

What is forgotten — or minimized — in the current debate is that general revenue-sharing had a philosophical as well as a fiscal rationale. The idea behind it was to reverse the flow of money and power to Washington by diverting a small portion of the proceeds of the federal income tax to the states and cities, for them to spend as they saw fit, rather than as Washington officials ordered.

Sen. Richard C. Lugar (R-Ind.), one of the few balanced-budget advocates who is still a proponent of revenue-sharing, argues that the threat to that program is "just part of the huffing and bluffing the spenders do to make the bad dream (of a balanced budget) go away."

Lugar may be right philosophically, but political trends are likely to prove him wrong. State governors believe they can muster the political clout to keep revenue-sharing alive through 1980. But even they are not optimistic about what will happen then. Sooner or later, the balanced-budget "reform" will almost certainly doom revenue-sharing and accelerate the centralization of spending power in Washington.

Ironic, yes. But that's the way it is with "reforms."

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TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Zachry to address group tonight

The Texas A&M University Business Student Council's Spring Seminar will be 7-9 tonight in Rudder Theater. The keynote speaker will be H.B. "Pat" Zachry, addressing the topic "Ingredients of Success." Also appearing will be Dr. William V. Muse, incoming dean in business administration. Muse will discuss developments in education in the College of Business, changes in the business environment, and the effect of those changes on today's student. There will be a question and answer period in the theater immediately following the talks.

Man dies of heart attack at A&M

Henry L. Alsmeyer Sr., 84, of 600 Woodson Drive, Bryan, died Monday morning of an apparent heart attack in Heaton Hall at Texas A&M University. The former Rio Grande Valley vocational agriculture teacher became Cameron County agent in 1925 and retired in 1952. In 1952 he went overseas as agricultural advisor in the Point Four Program. After moving back to Bryan he was named Bryan-College Station's Outstanding Senior Citizen in 1972. The 1923 A&M graduate was the father of two sons and one daughter. One son, Henry L. Alsmeyer Jr., is a former associate director of Sterling C. Evens Library.

NATION

GOP hopefuls begin campaigns

The Republican campaign for New Hampshire's crucial first-in-the-nation presidential primary officially began this weekend as six announced or potential presidential candidates jostled for national attention and supporters. About 500 party faithful paid \$100 per plate fund raiser in Concord to see and hear announced candidates Rep. Philip Crane of Illinois, former Texas Gov. John Connally and former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota. They were joined by Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, Rep. John Anderson of Illinois and former U.S. envoy and CIA director George Bush.

One strike ends, two continue

A four-hour Pan American World Airways strike ended in a settlement, and negotiators have scheduled new talks in the Teamsters strike-lockout which entered its tenth day today. But a third strike shutting down United Airlines, the nation's largest commercial air carrier, is deadlocked and the line's officials have stopped taking reservations through June 7. The Teamsters and the trucking industry have agreed to resume negotiations Monday. The talks broke off Friday after both sides refused to compromise on the money issues that prompted the strike — and the retaliatory lockout by the companies — last week.

Official testifies in Silkwood suit

A smashed thumb was considered a more serious injury than exposure to radiation at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant where Karen Silkwood worked, a company official testified Monday in the federal court trial in Oklahoma City of an \$11.5 million lawsuit. Wayne Norwood, former head of health and safety at the plant, testified the company was praised several times by the Oklahoma Safety Council and the National Safety Council for not having any employees off work because of on-the-job accidents. The testimony opened the sixth week of the trial of a lawsuit filed by Silkwood's family against Kerr-McGee, owner of the nuclear fuel processing plant near Crescent. The lawsuit alleges Kerr-McGee negligence caused Silkwood to become contaminated with cancer-causing plutonium, the substance processed at the plant until it closed in 1975.

Guard patrols Camden, Ark.

National Guard troops, armed to prevent looting, Monday patrolled a mile-wide path of destruction left by weekend tornadoes that destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses in Camden, Ark. A tornado hit Camden late Sunday, injuring 27 persons and destroying 75 homes. An elementary school and a shopping center were extensively damaged. A few hours later a second tornado struck Hamburg about 70 miles to the southeast, injuring 10 persons and destroying 150 homes. Another 500 homes in the town of 3,200 population were damaged. Gov. Bill Clinton declared Camden, population 16,009, a disaster area Sunday night.

WORLD

Earthquake shakes Yugoslavia

A strong earthquake jolted a wide area of Montenegro State in southern Yugoslavia early Monday, sending panicky residents in their nightclothes fleeing their homes, police said. There was no serious damage or injuries, according to initial police reports. The quake was also strongly felt in Igalo, a seaside resort near central Herceg Novi, where President Josip Broz Tito is now staying. No details of possible damage to Tito's residence were available, police said. The quake measured 5.0 on the open-ended Richter scale and hit the area at 9:11 p.m. EST Sunday, a spokesman at the Belgrade Meteorological Station said.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. High today in the mid 70's and a low of 58. Winds will be N.E. at 10-15 mph. 30% chance of rain today.

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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Letters to the Editor

Individuals shouldn't claim SG credit

Editor: Besides the excess of signs, flyers and campaign promises, election time brings around the usual petty squabbles between candidates. That was something I was hoping not to be involved in but a letter to the editor by another candidate, John Groce, has forced me to write some type of response.

John was disappointed that The Battalion endorsed me for vice president of student services and felt The Battalion had overlooked some of his qualifications. His letter Monday was a rebuttal to that endorsement for not giving him credit for ideas he claimed were his.

I know John is a hard worker and has been involved in researching some good ideas for the student services committee next year. Yet no one can claim ownership to ideas that came from our whole committee. Those ideas come from a lot of hard work by last year's committee members, this year's members, other senators as well as John and me.

Neither John nor I can pull out an idea or project and say "it's mine," even though both of us have been extensively researching it. Some ideas I've done more research on, some John's done more research on and various committee members have worked very hard on most others. It's not important where they came from.

The fact is the student services committee has a lot of good ideas for what future projects will be and what they involve. What is important is to have a good leader next year to finally organize the committee to see some action on these ideas and not just another year of research.

Hopefully whichever one of the candidates is chosen for the vice president of student services will realize it's not important who can take credit for the ideas, but it is important to have a combined committee effort to see the idea turned into action.

I think this little argument on who did what is ridiculous and I'm sorry the student body of Texas A&M has to listen to it. —Brad Smith, '81

Editor's note: John Groce's letter, which appeared in Monday's April 9 Battalion, was printed to give him a chance to answer The Battalion's endorsements printed Friday. The Battalion apologizes for not allowing Brad Smith to run his answer to John Groce's letter the same day.

The Battalion still supports its endorsement of Brad Smith for vice president of student services in student government.

'Aggie credit' due

Editor: I believe that many students will agree with me in saying that the present system

of getting football tickets is unfair to students who have attended Texas A&M throughout their college career. Why, for example, should a student who enters A&M as a junior (by transferring hours from another university) receive any better seats at a football game than an incoming freshman?

One might argue that the transfer student has already suffered the disadvantages of being an underclassman. I doubt, however, that very many transfer students have previously experienced the competition for good football tickets that exists at A&M.

Why should a graduate student who got his B.S. at Cougar High be sitting on the 50 yard line when he doesn't even know the yells, while the junior who has earned all of his credit hours at A&M is still in the horseshoe right behind the goal post?

The system of getting ticket booklets should be arranged so as to weight A&M credit hours much higher than transferred credit hours. It seems that the present system was originally intended to categorize Aggies according to their academic classification. Wouldn't a more fair system

offer equal privileges to students serving equal academic time as Aggies? —Carl Strain, '80

Seniors, go vote

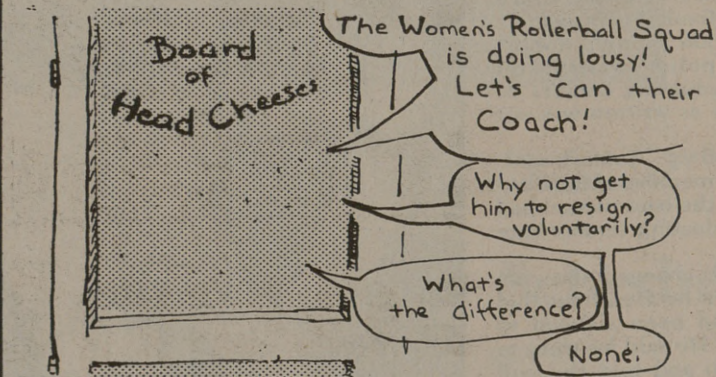
Editor: I want to let TAMU seniors know that they are allowed to vote.

Monday, unfortunately many of us (myself included) were told that we were not allowed to vote (in campus elections). In past years seniors have been allowed to vote. Also, nowhere in the Election Regulations does it state that seniors are not allowed to vote.

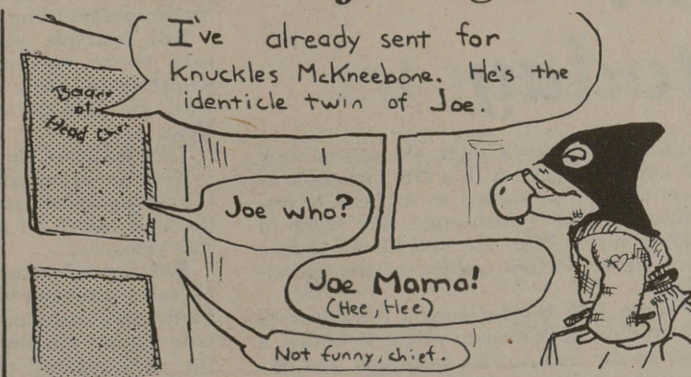
Monday afternoon after numerous complaints, the Election Commission decided to start letting seniors vote. I was fortunately informed of this, but am aware that many seniors may not know about the change in policy.

Therefore, seniors, go out and vote. You have one day left to make one of your last contributions to the student body while still a student. The right to vote is a very basic one and one that should be utilized. —Laura Brockman, '79

Thotz



By Doug Graham



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