

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
MAY 9, 1979

## Carter windfall tax not as tough as expected

By DON PHILLIPS  
WASHINGTON — President Carter seems to have learned one big lesson in dealing with Congress: pick your fights carefully and then don't hold any punches in trying to get your way.  
As a general rule, as long as the fight doesn't get personal, the grizzled politicians of Capitol Hill will respect a gut fighter and won't hold a victory against the winner.  
But when he brought up his tax on oil company windfall profits, Carter forgot a basic lesson in dealing with the public: don't build expectations beyond what you intend to deliver.  
In short, the windfall profits tax that Carter ballyhooed to the country in his very effective effort to sell Congress on the idea was, to say the least, a puffed up version of the tax that he eventually sent to Congress.

The prevailing wisdom in Congress when Carter first mentioned the tax was that it couldn't pass.  
But Carter took his case to the people. Mincing no words, he whipped up public support by castigating the oil companies and pointing out the tremendous profits they would reap when he decontrolled the price of oil — an action mandated by Congress itself.  
He was helped along by a twist of fate which must have oil company public relations officers still kicking their desks. A few days after his announcement, oil company quarterly reports showed a tremendous increase in profits.  
Seemingly overnight, the mood in Congress shifted, and it seemed that the battle would not be over whether to have a windfall profits tax, but over how much would be returned to oil companies as a "plow back" for money they spent in actual

exploration and development of energy sources.  
Again, Carter went to the public and marshalled his forces on Capitol Hill, and it appeared once again that he would prevail and kill any plowback scheme.  
But then a funny thing happened on the road to victory. Carter revealed the details of his plan and it turned out not to be as tough a tax as he had built it up to be.  
In fact, over three years it is estimated that the tax will collect only about \$3.7 billion of the estimated \$14 billion in excess profits that will flow from decontrol as the price of controlled domestic oil rises to the world market level.  
The tax was so mild that almost everyone jumped at the chance to support it, and oil state congressmen said privately that it was about the best they could hope for, given the mood of the country. Plowback talk almost vanished.

The major reason that the tax was so mild was that the excess profits taxes paid by oil companies may be taken as a business deduction against regular income taxes.  
Since the corporate tax rate on profits is 46 percent, every dollar of deductions is worth 46 cents. In short, allowing the windfall profits tax to be a deduction against the corporate income tax cuts the effect of the windfall profits tax by 46 percent in one swoop.  
Perhaps, in practical terms, Carter's strategy will result in the best possible deal he could get from Congress.  
Perhaps he will gain support by first frightening oil state legislators and oil companies with a tough-sounding tax, then relieving them by asking for less.  
But such strategy may also fertilize the seeds of cynicism that already are planted deep in the minds of the American people.

## Ronstadt, Brown may as well have stay home

By DICK WEST  
WASHINGTON — I like public opinion polls that really get to the bottom of situations, as opposed to those that merely skim the surface.  
You can see what I mean in a survey by Public Opinion Research, a local polling firm, regarding California Gov. Edmund Brown's recent trip to Africa with singer Linda Ronstadt.  
The first question posed was: "In your opinion, as a result of the trip, would you be more or less likely to consider Governor Brown as a possible presidential candidate?"  
The significance of that inquiry can hardly be exaggerated insofar as the 1980 presidential race is concerned.  
Had the poll shown a sharp upsurge of consideration for Brown, Miss Ronstadt would have been inundated with safari invitations.  
As it was, 12 percent of those tabulated did indeed

represent themselves as "more likely" to consider Miss Ronstadt as a traveling companion.  
As I suggested earlier, some polls which have plumbed the public psyche for the political implications of Brown's travels might have dropped the subject there. Not this one.  
After sampling how the public felt about Brown going on such a trip with Miss Ronstadt, this one proceeded to the next logical question: How did the public feel about Miss Ronstadt going on such a trip with Brown?  
Ten percent thought more highly of Miss Ronstadt for having accompanied the governor, and 15 percent thought "less of her." There was a 61 percent majority whose regard for Miss Ronstadt was unchanged, and 14 percent had no opinion.  
As I analyze the survey, voyaging with a governor doesn't do much more for a singing career than voyaging with a rock star does for a political career.  
Poll-wise, it's almost as if they never left home.

So don't look for any wholesale competition to enlist Miss Ronstadt as a traveling companion.  
As I suggested earlier, some polls which have plumbed the public psyche for the political implications of Brown's travels might have dropped the subject there. Not this one.  
After sampling how the public felt about Brown going on such a trip with Miss Ronstadt, this one proceeded to the next logical question: How did the public feel about Miss Ronstadt going on such a trip with Brown?  
Ten percent thought more highly of Miss Ronstadt for having accompanied the governor, and 15 percent thought "less of her." There was a 61 percent majority whose regard for Miss Ronstadt was unchanged, and 14 percent had no opinion.  
As I analyze the survey, voyaging with a governor doesn't do much more for a singing career than voyaging with a rock star does for a political career.  
Poll-wise, it's almost as if they never left home.

## Letters to the Editor

### Cops and kids again

Editor:  
I would like to comment on Mr. Stone's letter and on those sent in retaliation. There are some parts to Mr. Stone's letter that have truth to them. I wish that those students who read the letter would read it again with an open mind.  
Concerning Ronald O. Bucchi's letter to Mr. Stone: You really had a lot to say but only reinforced my stereotype of the rich kid. Look who's talking about tones of letters relating to IQ! You stuck your foot in your mouth.  
Now to Robert Hafernik's letter. Do you really think it is the policeman's idea to not ticket certain areas?  
I'm happy with the KK's job. I really wonder how many tickets they write are in actuality "undeserved." I would also like the students to remember the tickets they get out of with made-up stories, of which I am no exception.  
Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Stone for his letter. It's been a long time since the letters to the editors have been interesting to read.  
— Paul A. Hayes, '81

### Parents grateful

where I park it — it's the only means of transportation that is always available to me.  
Second, I've never ignored a ticket, nor have I called home for "daddy" to help pay for one — I wasn't brought up that way. (Although I do know he would not hesitate to help me out in time of need, should I ever ask.)  
Third, since you bring up the subjects of the real world and of money in such closely related context, I might bring it to your attention that it is not so uncommon for money to "talk" out there as much, if not more so, than on our campus. (I won't talk about what goes on in the upper echelons.)  
Fourth, I've had vast experience with my car not starting. And since College Station servicemen often won't bother to come help start your car when you need them, I've found it best to call on a friend (but then you probably don't know what that is, do you?).  
And since you don't appear chivalrous enough to aid a lady when she calls upon you, I might point out that next year, the ladies will be parking across the tracks, just like the gentlemen — equal rights and all. So you better get out quick before a thousand girls want a ride to their dorms. I might also mention that judging from the tone of your letter, we students are more mature than you appear to be.  
Lastly, let me state that if you are unhappy in your present economic stratum, why did you choose the career you chose? Obviously, you've decided it's not the thing for you. And as far as you finding students "unfriendly and hostile" goes, you instigated that reaction yourself, not we. If you would try being more friendly and less sarcastic, you might find that people can be quite amiable. That's the real world.  
— Dwain Handley, '82

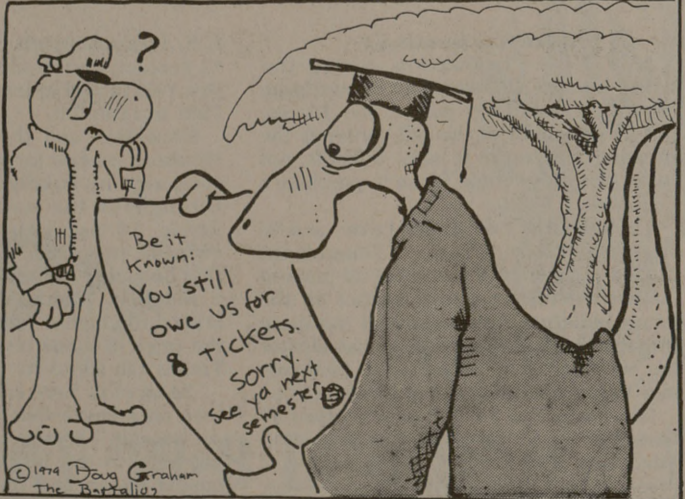
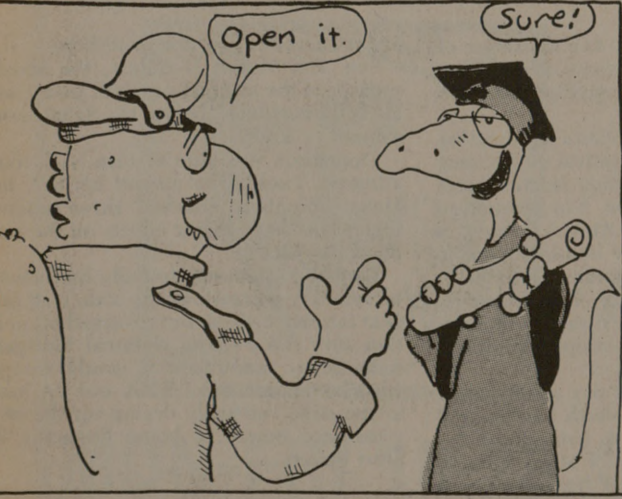
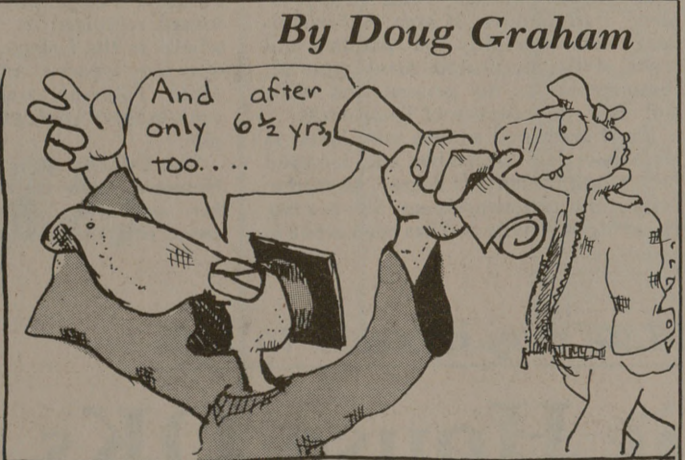
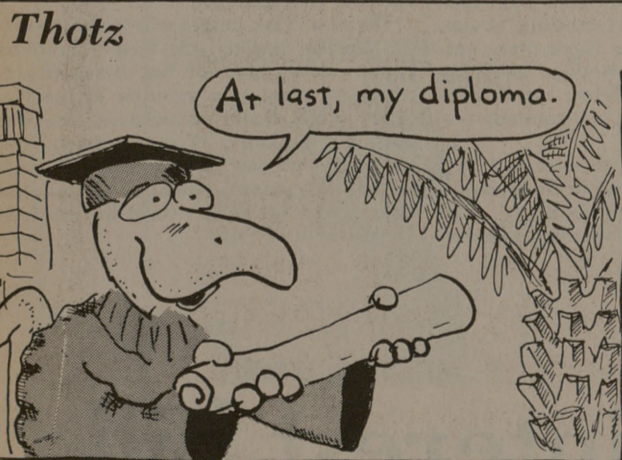
### Not just PR problem

Students:  
We would like to thank the students, members of the faculty and the staff of Texas A&M for all the many acts of kindness to our family during the days following the loss of our own Aggie, Wendy Waterman.  
Wendy had told us many times of the moving and beautiful Silver Taps ceremonies that she had attended and how meaningful they were to her. Before her death she had invited us to attend Parent's Day and Aggie Muster. Because she was so touched with the spirit and traditions of A&M, and felt such pride at being an Aggie, we wanted to be part of these things for her.  
It was true — all these things she had told us — we had experienced them for ourselves, at the sad and dignified Silver Taps, and again at Aggie Muster. These tributes to your "fallen comrades" filled our hearts with gratitude that Wendy was a part of such a fine tradition and had this wonderful experience of Texas A&M even for so short a time.  
A university is only a campus with buildings and books and people, until it becomes one like yours whose warmth and feelings show what Texas A&M and "Aggies" are all about. Wendy knew; we are learning.  
We feel like Wendy is still a part of A&M. And the "Spirit of Aggieland" will always be in our hearts.  
— Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Waterman and family

intent on playing down the basic issues which underlie this problem. To him it is simply a public relations problem faced by the armed forces and should not be enacted now because of the controversy and "suspicion of (the nation's) leaders" it would cause.  
However, the issues which must be discussed are not whether the draft can be sugar-coated to make it acceptable but whether the United States government should have the power of conscription and whether it should follow an interventionist foreign policy which requires greater reserves of manpower in order to uphold some of the most corrupt and repressive governments in the world. Apparently Mr. Pendleton accepts this role for the U.S. as evidenced by his reference to "the next time we send in the Marines" as a given fact.  
Also implied by Mr. Pendleton is that scraping the draft at this time would avoid a confrontation between the nation's youth and their "parents' culture," or establishment. The situation in this country at the present time, however, makes a confrontation inevitable. This time though, the lines will not be drawn between one generation and another but rather between those who wield power and those who oppose their insane policies of continued endorsement and protection of nuclear power plants, further development of nuclear weapons (such as the MX missile), and now the attempted return to mandatory service in the military in order to defend the U.S. monetary interest abroad.  
To ignore these problems is to allow these policies to continue and probably to expand. Discussions and confrontations which can help develop possible solutions should be encouraged not stifled. The lines for the next confrontations are being drawn and people will have to decide which side they will be on.  
— Alex Berckman

### Good riddance

Editor:  
This letter is addressed to Mr. Thomas Stone, the ex-KK that felt possessed to get in one last kick before he leaves the place we all love and cherish.  
Mr. Stone, this is not a "Highway 6..." letter. I don't think you are worthy of that. I do, however, say "good riddance" to you. I'll try not to sound too sarcastic — a consideration you obviously did not bother with.  
First of all, I do not appreciate being called a "rich crybaby" simply because my father gave me a car. And I do not care



### Prof extends thanks

Editor:  
I would like to extend my thanks to the Association of Former Students for the teaching award received this year. I would also like to thank my colleagues, my students, and my former students who were kind enough to recommend me for this honor.  
This teaching award is, in reality, a "team trophy," since the teaching in our First Year Chemistry program (of which I am unashamedly proud) depends entirely on the cooperation of the faculty and staff of the Department of Chemistry. The level of cooperation and support that we have had from our entire faculty, our Department Head, and our Administration is unmatched on any other campus in the country.  
The award is the second greatest honor I have ever received. The first is the privilege of working here with the finest people on the face of the earth — the Aggies.  
God bless you all.  
— Rod O'Connor  
Professor and Director  
First Year Chemistry

### Throwing toast

Editor:  
How lucky we are in the seventies to have "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" where we can dress in drag and throw toast in the air...  
— Steve Schulte, '82

# TOP OF THE NEWS LOCAL

## Cyanide-infested road removed

A waste disposal company ordered to remove hazardous waste used to surface a road in a Corrigan subdivision plans to begin the work this week, a spokesman said today. Don Fitch said Browning Ferris Chemical Services Inc. had hired an East Texas contractor to dig out and resurface a road in the Reiley Village Subdivision where the Texas Department of Water Resources found cyanide in the surfacing. The department, which began its inquiry after cattle deaths raised suspicion about runoff water in the area, last Friday ordered Browning-Ferris to remove the waste sludge used as paving.

## STATE

### Hearings in Davis trial open

Tarrant County prosecutors Tuesday opened a change of venue hearing for the second T. Cullen Davis murder solicitation trial by calling a woman who organized a taxpayers' protest of the retrial, Joe Smith, who denies she ever has met the millionaire, said she has collected more than 76,000 signatures and distributed 11,000 bumper stickers which read "Taxpayers' protest of the third trial of Cullen Davis." In addition to Davis's earlier trial in Houston on the murder solicitation charge, he was acquitted in Amarillo in 1977 on a murder charge. "It's a waste of taxpayers' money to do it again," Smith testified. "I object to the way the entire thing has been handled. It was nothing but a railroad job." She added she thought Davis could get a fair trial in Fort Worth. Smith organized her campaign five and one-half months ago and claims Davis's earlier trials have cost Tarrant County taxpayers \$457,000.

## NATION

### Rolling Stone publisher buys Look

Jann Wenner, the publisher of Rolling Stone magazine, said today he is taking over the recently revived Look magazine and will be changing it from a biweekly to a monthly. After the June 11 issue, Wenner said, Look will become a monthly. The outgoing editor and president of Look, Robert Gutwillig, had vowed that the magazine would continue to be published every other week.

### Pops conductor hospitalized

Boston Pops Maestro Arthur Fiedler was in good condition Tuesday at the Tufts New England Medical Center where he was hospitalized after a fainting spell. The 84-year-old conductor was admitted Saturday night after the conclusion of a concert. He blacked out for about 30 seconds and complained he felt dizzy. Hospital officials said it is expected that Fiedler will remain in the hospital for another couple of days. "I've talked to people who have seen him. They inform me that he is resting comfortably. He is very bright and talkative," Boston Symphony Orchestra spokesman Peter Gelb said Monday.

### Old fishing treaties held valid

A federal judge, in a landmark Indian treaty rights ruling, today held that two 19th century treaties give Indians unlimited fishing rights which cannot be limited by the state. U.S. District Judge Noel P. Fox, in a 131-page, fact-finding decision stemming from a longstanding dispute between two Chippewa tribes and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said no state has the right to limit or in any way infringe upon rights granted Indians in treaties with the United States. While the decision is a sweeping affirmation of Indian treaty rights, parties to the case were unsure how widely it would be applied in other treaty-rights cases before the federal courts.

## WORLD

### Missing link located in Burma?

Dr. Russell L. Ciochon, in his first year on the anthropology staff at the University of North Carolina Central, reported at a news conference on an expedition to Burma in which lower jaw fragments of primates believed to be 40 million years old were discovered. He said the fossils support the theory Burma may have been the point of origin of the anthropoids, the common ancestors of monkeys, apes and humans. The origin of higher primates has been documented in the satisfaction of most scientists to about 30 million years ago in the Fayum region of Egypt. The first fossil, believed to be 40 million years old, was discovered in 1978 by two Burmese scientists from the Mandalay Arts and Sciences University, and resulted from a project developed by Ciochon and Dr. Donald E. Savage of the University of California at Berkeley.

## WEATHER

Cloudy skies turning partly cloudy this afternoon with a 20% chance of rain. High today 80 and a low of 70 with winds S.E. at 15-20 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.  
Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.  
Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

MEMBER  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor ..... Lynn Williams  
Managing Editor ..... Andy Wilson  
Asst. Managing Editor ..... Dillard Smith  
Sports Editor ..... Sam Williams  
City Editor ..... Keith Williams  
Campus Editor ..... Keith Williams  
News Editors ..... Michelle Berry, Karen Carr  
Staff Writers ..... Doug Graham, Mark Patterson, Kurt Abraham, Blosser, Richard Oliver, Dianne Meril Edwards, Lyle Lovett, Moehlman, Robin Thompson  
Editorial Directors ..... Karen Carr, Scott Peck  
Cartoonist ..... Doug Graham  
Photo Editor ..... Lynn Williams  
Photographer ..... Clay Williams  
Focus section editor ..... Beth Williams

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit supporting enterprise operated by the University and community news. Editorial policy is determined by the Board of Regents.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.  
United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.