

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## How private is privacy?

By MARY TOBIN  
United Press International

NEW YORK — Americans equate the right to privacy with the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and many are concerned with invasion of their privacy.

A national poll recently conducted by Louis Harris & Associates, Inc., showed that 64 percent of the American public is concerned over threats to personal privacy. In particular, only 27 percent believe there are adequate safeguards to protect personal information stored in computers.

President Carter has proposed legislation to reduce the masses of information collected by federal, state and local governments and protect that already stored. But private credit agencies, banks and the like have dossiers on millions of Americans and horror stories of misuse and abuse of this information can be found.

"There are several reasons you should take steps to protect your privacy," says Richard Kovaceich, senior vice president of Citibank. "If some outside party had access to all your financial transactions, for example, they could know everything about you, your political beliefs, your religion, how you spend your money — they would have everything but an oil portrait," Kovaceich said in an interview.

"But if the individual is concerned enough to know what laws are and are not on the books to protect them, and business takes adequate precautions, invasion of privacy could be made tremendously difficult and expensive."

"Consumers should demand this protection," he said.

## He's searching for Mr. Goodwrench

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Will the real Mr. Goodwrench stand up, please? Surely there can't be two of them — not when there is such a world of difference between them. One almost certainly is an impostor.

Is the real Mr. Goodwrench the handsome, debonair auto mechanic who smiles wryly when a worried motorist describes his car as going "ka-thump, ka-thump, ka-thump," and who saves a female customer a bundle of dough by making a minor adjustment when she thought her car needed a complete tune-up?

Or is the real Mr. Goodwrench the bald, bespeckled, middle-aged, mousy-looking type with a passion for "summerizing" automobiles?

The former appears in television commercials touting a certain auto company's maintenance service. The latter is featured in print media advertisements by the same company.

Frankly, I'm not sure what to make of the dual personification. If what we have here is the Madison Avenue mind at work, it looks a lot like incipient schizophrenia.

Some genius at one of the ad agencies may have divined that motorists would really cotton to a different sort of mechanic than car owners who watch television.

If that be a valid premise, the distinction is rarely observed with other products. You don't find O.J. Simpson running through airports on television and Don Knotts plugging the same rental cars in

print. It could be the agency conducted one of those consumer surveys. Participants were shown two pictures and asked, "Which mechanic would you rather trust with your car?"

Teevee watchers, conditioned as they are to fantasizing about life, predictably opted for the Hollywood type. Readers, being more firmly rooted in reality, went for the Joe Blow character.

If I were on a panel chosen to pick the real Mr. Goodwrench, I would go for the printed version myself.

I must have been in a thousand garages in my time and I have yet to encounter a mechanic who looked or acted anything like the television Mr. Goodwrench.

When I drive into a repair shop and start telling the service manager about the ka-thumpin' noise my car is making, the first thing he does is ask if I have an appointment.

I then confess I have neglected to make a reservation. I tell the service manager I dropped in off the street on the spur of the moment on the assumption he would be eager to hear about the ka-thumping noise. He isn't.

The upshot is I am given an appointment for two weeks hence, but with the understanding that if I have not presented myself by 7 a.m. on the day in question there is no guarantee my car will be de-ka-thumped.

I'm not saying the print Mr. Goodwrench looks entirely real either. But at least he appears to have grease on one hand.

Slouch

by Jim Earle

YA KNOW, I'M TAKING THIS COURSE. YA KNOW. AND I GOT TO CLASS LATE. YA KNOW AND MY INSTRUCTOR. YA KNOW, WAS



## Saudis have oil problems also

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — It's not easy being the world's largest oil exporter.

The ruling family of Saudi Arabia finds itself exposed daily to critical domestic, regional and international pressures, all focused on a single issue: oil production.

Saudi Arabia's 5 million people usually pump 8.5 million barrels of oil per day (mbd), but have agreed to raise this to 9.5 mbd for the next three months. The West, particularly the United States, constantly implores the Saudis to use their 200 billion barrels of proven oil reserves to alleviate the current world oil shortfall and make the gas lines disappear.

Saudi Arabia's reaction has been ambiguous, sometimes sympathetic (as now, and as during the Iranian revolution), sometimes seeming arrogantly insensitive to Western pleas, refusing to produce one extra drop.

The ambiguity grows from Saudi Arabia's conflicting domestic, regional and international interests and obligations. All of these call for different production policies.

It is crucial that America and the West appreciate this minefield of conflicting interests and obligations. Only that way can they realistically assess Saudi Arabia's production intentions over the short- and long-term and plan their own energy policies accordingly.

the small society

by Brickman



## Are they friends or just tolerant?

# The mystery of Byrd and Baker

By STEVE GERSTEL  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — No stranger can judge whether Robert Byrd and Howard Baker are friends or whether the leaders of the two political parties in the Senate just tolerate each other out of mutual need.

The language spoken in the Senate, unlike anywhere else, is so heavily steeped in civility and courteousness that even bitter enemies can be taken as true friends.

Byrd, the Democrat, and Baker, the Republican, have been working in tandem

for more than two years now trying to keep the Senate agenda moving with very few signs of friction. Between them, they have the responsibility of scheduling legislation for floor action.

Although Byrd has the final say, he has taken pains to include Baker in his plans — partly out of courtesy and mostly in an effort to preserve harmony.

In fact, Baker last week praised Byrd for consulting and conferring with him "more than ordinarily" as plans are mapped.

"It is different than things once were, and I am grateful for that opportunity,"

Baker said last week. "I think it has worked very well."

But like all man-made systems, dependent on the cooperation of 100 members, this one also sometimes breaks down.

It did so last Wednesday, a most inopportune time. Byrd had just informed the Senate that the sessions would be "long and late" and there would be meetings Saturday.

And here he was with no bill to call up for action because every one on the calendar was blocked.

He offered the military construction

bill, three housing bills, authorization for the Federal Trade Commission and the nomination of Frank B. Reiche to the Federal Elections Committee.

The Republicans nixed all of them. Byrd refused to "put the onus" on Baker, acknowledging that the GOP leader was acting on behalf of his troops.

"But somebody is going to have to help us both so we can get on with the work of the Senate," Byrd said.

"But my problem is, and the minority leader's problem is, what are we going to do today," Byrd said.

"So, I ask the question," he added. "Does anyone have the answer? I have named the candidates."

Feeling that Byrd had become a little partisan, Baker rallied and offered as possibilities 10 bills which he said the majority leader was holding at the request of Democrats.

"Not with respect to trouble with members on my side," Byrd said.

But he conceded the bills were being blocked by jurisdictional disputes, the need for budget waivers, the desire for initial action by the House, and efforts to work out mutually amicable solutions to some problems.

"I have no problems on my side," Byrd said. "I very seldom do have a problem on my side. My senators are ready to go."

Then he outlined why the Senate could not take up any of the 10 bills offered by Baker.

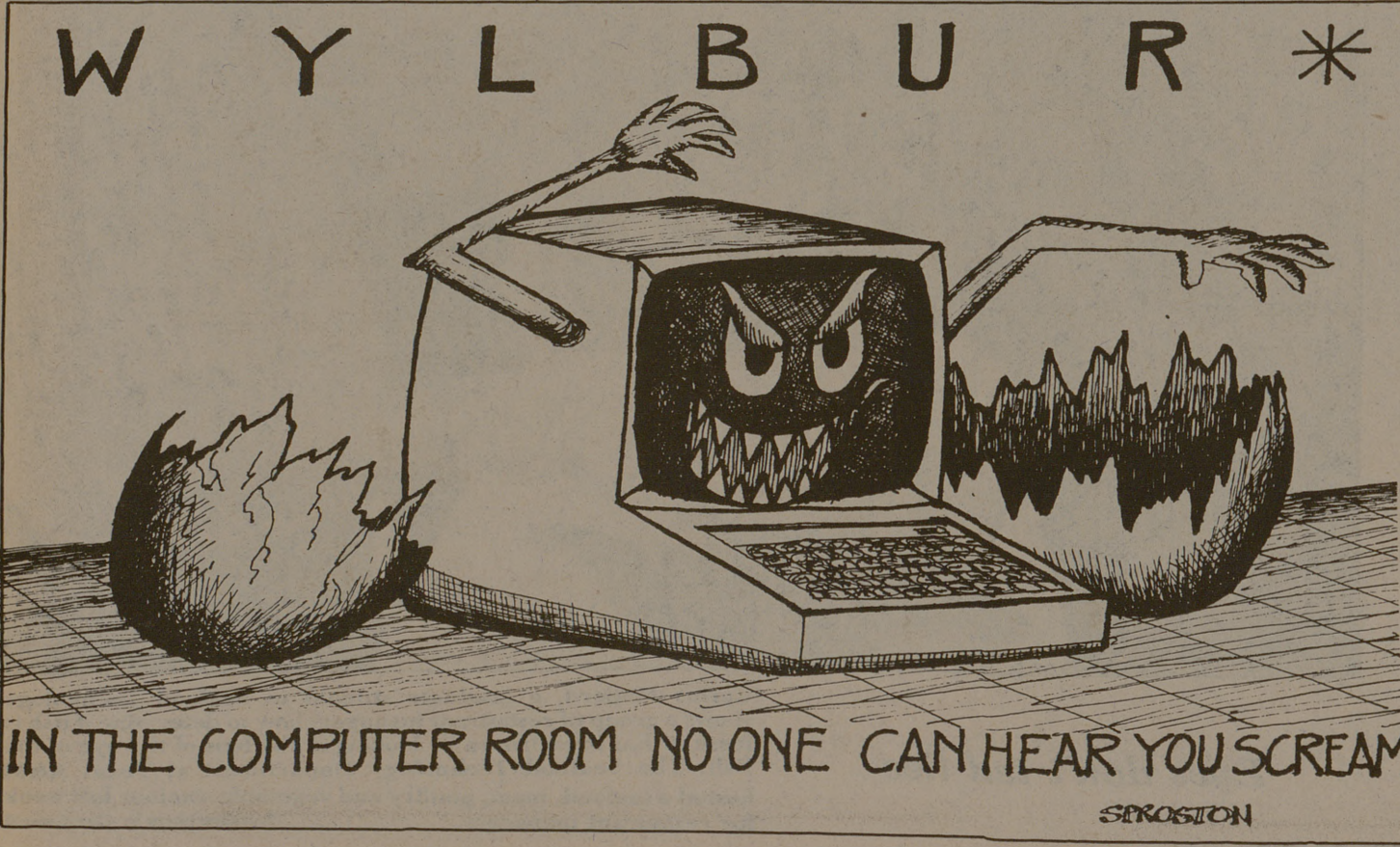
After an hour of discussions, always unfailingly polite and courteous, the Senate was no closer to working on legislation.

At that point, Baker said he had to leave to join a celebration on his grandmother's 100th birthday.

Byrd told Baker to make sure to "convey my best wishes to the grandmother of this fine senator."

"I know she treasures in her heart the thought of Howard Baker as being one who has for his family, and for his friends and for his constituents, distinguished himself in a great way," Byrd said.

Then Baker departed for the birthday party in Tennessee, leaving behind an unhappy Byrd with nothing to do.



## TOP OF THE NEWS

### STATE

#### San Antonio to commemorate POW

Flag-raising ceremonies at military bases and veteran posts in San Antonio Wednesday will commemorate POW-MIA Recognition Day in a city with one of the nation's largest populations of servicemen and military retirees. An estimated 200 former POWs live in the San Antonio area and some are expected to attend ceremonies at Randolph, Lackland, Kelly and Brooks Air Force bases, Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital and at Fort Sam Houston. President Carter proclaimed POW-MIA Recognition Day to honor the estimated 142,227 POWs and 92,761 MIAs from the two world wars and the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, an honor some veterans said was long overdue.

### NATION

#### Senates defeats nuke building ban

The Senate Tuesday easily defeated a proposed six-month moratorium on construction permits for new nuclear power plants, then killed a move to let states veto burial of atomic wastes within their borders. The actions cleared the way for final passage of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission fiscal 1980 authorization — normally routine but this year the vehicle for attempts to strengthen atomic safety standards as a result of the Three Mile Island accident in March.

#### UAW opens talks with Ford

The United Auto Workers Union opened contract talks with Ford Motor Co. in Detroit on schedule Tuesday and with none of the acrimony that marked the inaugural bargaining session at General Motors. UAW President Douglas Fraser and chief Ford negotiator Sidney F. McKenna exchanged friendly handshakes, then sat down to discuss the union's demands for more money, a shorter work week and increased pension benefits for retired workers. Contracts for the 750,000 U.S. workers at GM, Ford and Chrysler Corp. expire at midnight, Sept. 14. Talks at Chrysler begin Wednesday. Fraser indicated Monday that the UAW will not be cowed by recession and slumping car sales in fighting for its demands. The union's opening session with GM, the company many industry observers think will be the union's strike target this year, was marked by an angry exchange with top company officials over alleged interference in union organizing efforts at a new Chevrolet plant in the South.

#### Cheyenne residents return home

Residents of tornado-ravaged neighborhoods in Cheyenne, Wyo. were allowed to return to their homes Tuesday and officials awaited action on a request to have Cheyenne declared a federal disaster area from the mid-afternoon twister that killed an infant and smashed more than 200 houses and a school. National Guard troops and helicopters patrolled the three hard-hit areas during the night for looters. Eight persons were hospitalized and the city's two hospitals reported treating 56 persons. If declared a federal disaster, residents affected by the tornado could be eligible for low cost loans and other aid.

#### Boy sues dad, sis for \$4.9 million

An 11-year-old Milwaukee boy injured in a traffic accident two years ago has received an out-of-court settlement of \$4.9 million in a suit against his sister, father and three insurance companies. The settlement, approved Monday, calls for payment of \$4.3 million to Todd Leaverton of Hartford over a 60-year period. In addition, his mother — who will care for him — gets an immediate \$64,308, plus \$12,500 a year for eight years. The boy suffered brain damage, loss of visual acuity in both eyes, some hearing loss and function loss of his left arm. He remained unconscious for seven weeks after the accident and was hospitalized for four months. He was injured Aug. 14, 1977, when his father's car, driver by his sister, crossed the center line of Wisconsin 60 near Hartford and collided with another car. He was riding in the front seat of the car. The settlement is believed to be the largest of its kind in Wisconsin history.

### WORLD

#### Iraq leader steps down for "health"

The leadership of Iraq changed hands in a stunning television spectacular. But for all the drama, little or no change was expected in Baghdad's hard-line stand against the United States and the Egyptian-Israeli peace. Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr, 65, stepped before the cameras Monday night to announce he was resigning as Iraq's president "for health reasons" and that strongman Gen. Saddam Hussein was taking his place. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council announced immediately that Hussein, 42, a tall, elegant champion of Iraqi Baath Socialist Party infighting, will move into all of Bakr's positions — the presidency, the council chairmanship, the premiership and the Baath Party secretary generalship.

## THE BATTALION

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