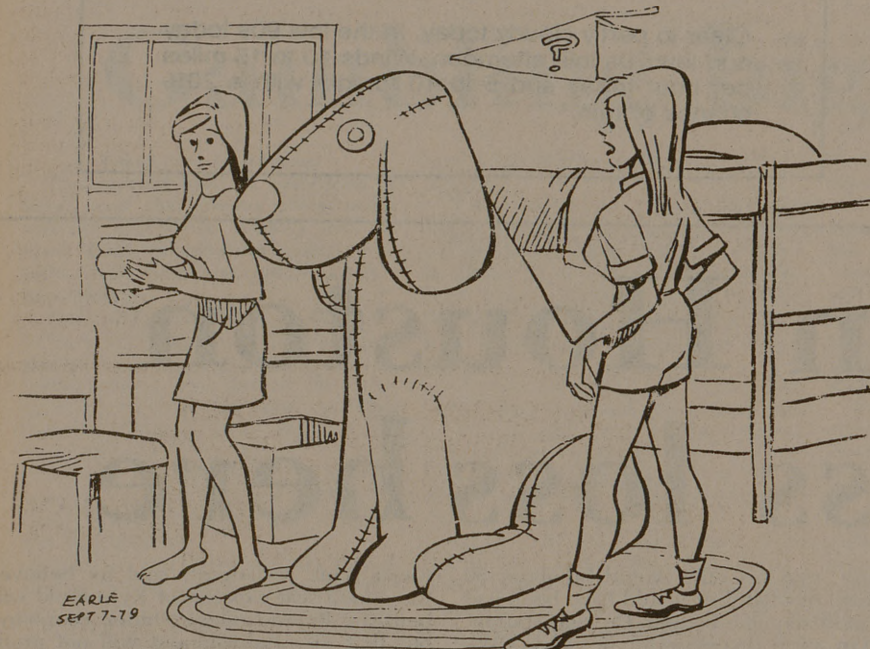


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



“Before we settle in as roommates, could I talk you about a subject that we need to resolve?”

OPINION

Wish we knew

Two moves by the University — charging for a “home-away-from-home” football game and installing small car parking areas — generated negative student reactions.

Charging \$4.25 per student for the A&M-Brigham Young University game in Houston tomorrow makes sense. Many students who normally attend home football games will not be in Rice Stadium, and including the ticket price in the regular student book would penalize them.

But the University should have made the policy clear last Spring, when students were buying the football tickets.

As it is — finding out only in the last few weeks — the situation leaves students upset and feeling “ripped off.”

The University failed to communicate.

In the other instance, communication continues to be poor.

The special small car parking lot behind the Commons carries no warning signs — only by driving up to the entrance is it apparent that big cars cannot pass through the concrete barriers.

At the lot behind Zachry Engineering Center, signs on poles warn large-car drivers of the danger.

The idea is wonderful — creating 88 new parking spaces.

But again, the lack of communication creates frustration. Let us know what you’re doing, administrators, especially if it’s for our own good.

Rabbit jump wrong

In the mishap involving President Carter and a hostile rabbit, it is too soon to draw conclusions that would be fair to either of the principals.

We take the President’s word for it that an amphibious rabbit tried to attack him while he was fishing earlier this year on a pond in Plains, and that he was able to repel the boarder by thrashing at it with a paddle.

Unlike the President’s detractors, and they are many, we do not rush to the gleeful conclusion that even the animals of the field had it with Carter and want to do him in.

There is no evidence whatever that the rabbit knew that it prey was the President, or, if it did, that its criminal actions toward him were a form of political protest.

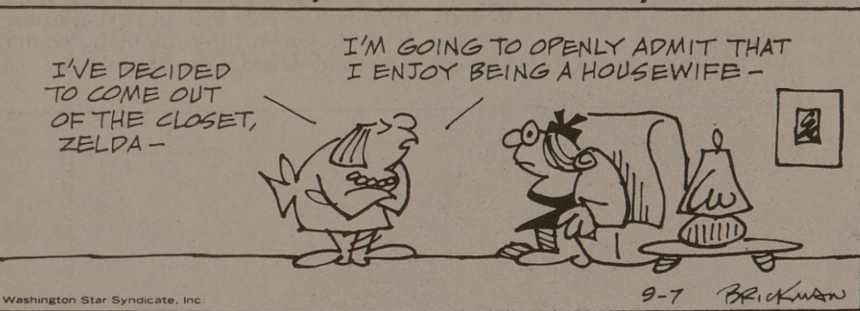
It is known, however, that rabbits have a strong sense of territoriality, and this one might have tried to scuttle whatever was splashing around in its waterhole that day.

That strikes us as the most plausible, and the least prejudicial, explanation. And we intend to let it go at that unless future revelations prove us wrong.

Los Angeles Times

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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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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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 7, 1980

BRODER Congress' antics are more informative than the news, more fun than musicals

by DAVID S. BRODER

Washington — It is unlikely that anyone is going to syndicate a television show called “Welcome Back, Congress.” Or that it would draw much of an audience if it were tried.

Show business looks on Congress as an institution whose only utility is to provide a setting for dramas where people of ambiguous character are subjected to unusual political pressures and sexual temptations. And generally succumb.

The perfect movie or television political drama is titled “Elizabeth Ray Meets the Senator.” Or maybe, “The Secret Life of a Legislative Assistant.”

It is only an inhabitant of the island Jimmy Carter calls Washington who really feel deprived when the occupants of the Capitol disappear for their August — or Easter, or Thanksgiving, or Christmas, or Washington’s Birthday, Lincoln’s Birthday, or Jefferson-Jackson Day — recesses.

But for us the loss is real, and our relief at their return is genuine. Mostly, we are too embarrassed to talk about it, except

among ourselves. But a real Congress-junkie begins to get nervous and irritable after going for more than 10 days without a Congress fix.

So throwing caution to the wind, let me say, Welcome Back, Congress. And before you do anything to outrage me anew, let me tell you why I’m glad you’re back in town.

First, the Congressional Record is the best unedited daily newspaper in the country. Items of marvelous trivia that no self-important publisher would ever allow into print adorn its pages in rich profusion. A lot of us would never know when Lithuanian Independence Day was coming up were it not for the Congressional Record. But there, we will be told at least 20 times, in as many speeches and statements, what its significance is.

Redundancy is the Record’s charm. And in that context, it is a tragedy that it was not publishing when Andrew Young resigned. There will be no way to recapture the prose that would have been printed there on that subject. One can only rejoice, in anticipation, at the heights of un-

restrained oratory the Pope’s visit will bring forth in its pages.

The second good thing to be said about Congress is that it doesn’t change all that much. Supposedly this has been a decade of almost unprecedented upheaval in its membership and operations. But it is still the dithering, quirky, bemused and often-baffling Congress it was in days gone by.

Nostalgia buffs love Congress. While it was away, we had to content ourselves with revivals of “Oklahoma!” and “Carousel,” those magnificent musicals of a bygone day. The revivals were wonderful, but when it comes to real corn, it’s Congress’s brand — not the Kennedy Center’s — that is as high as an elephant’s eye.

The third good thing to be said about Congress is that nothing that bugs Presidents as much as Congress does can be all bad.

Presidents come to office thinking the world was born anew on the day they were sworn in. Congress knows better. It knows the same inaugural stand has been built

before, and it will be built again. Or gress’s front porch.

Presidents all think they’ve got a mandate. Congress knows better. It knows that there are a lot of dates, some big and some little, laid out by the voters at election time. Some should be honored and cherished; some should be forgotten as quickly as possible.

What Congress knows, and most Presidents take time to figure out, is that testing of mandates is what governs and politics is all about.

Members of Congress keep score on each other in their minds every day. They’re in town. They all keep score on the President, whoever he may be.

They’re often wrong about a lot of important things. But they’re hardly wrong about each other. And in 20 years of listening to members of Congress I don’t believe I’ve ever heard them astray in their collective judgment. President.

Welcome Back, Congress.

DICK WEST Carter vs. the killer bunny: White House should release tape, avoid ‘Rabbitgate’

WASHINGTON — The White House let it be known this week it has no intention of making public a photographic enlargement of President Carter’s encounter with a “killer rabbit” in Georgia last April.

It indicated it felt the incident had been blown up enough already.

“We’re afraid if we release the photo, the rabbit controversy over the next two weeks will receive more ink than the SALT treaty,” said press secretary Jody Powell.

Perhaps the president’s belated renown as a rabbit fighter has been overplayed. But by stonewalling the matter, the White House only lends credence to the charge by Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., that the bunny confrontation was subjected to “a sensational presidential coverup.”

To avoid a possible Rabbitgate, the White House should release the transcript of an 18-minute tape recording of the president’s conversation with Mrs. Carter on his return from the fateful fishing trip.

Here, according to my sources, is the paraphrased version:

Mrs. Carter asked the president if he had had any luck.

The president replied (expletive deleted) that he had not caught anything to amount to anything.

Mrs. Carter asked if they just weren’t biting.

The president said he had had some pretty good nibbles but had been unable to land any big ones because of all the (expletive deleted) distractions.

Mrs. Carter inquired as to the nature of the distractions.

The president replied that the main extraneous element had been a (expletive deleted) rabbit.

Mrs. Carter said she thought the president had been fishing from a canoe or a boat or something. She said that if the president was out on the river, she did not see how a rabbit could have disrupted his

fishing. An alligator maybe. Or perhaps a water buffalo. But not a rabbit.

The president said it was an (expletive deleted) rabbit all right. Of that much he was certain.

Mrs. Carter asked what the rabbit was doing.

The president said it apparently was trying to get into the boat.

Mrs. Carter asked what lead him to that conclusion. She said she was aware that some rabbits were good jumpers but she had never heard of one leaping that far.

The president said he had arrived at that conclusion because the rabbit was swimming directly toward him.

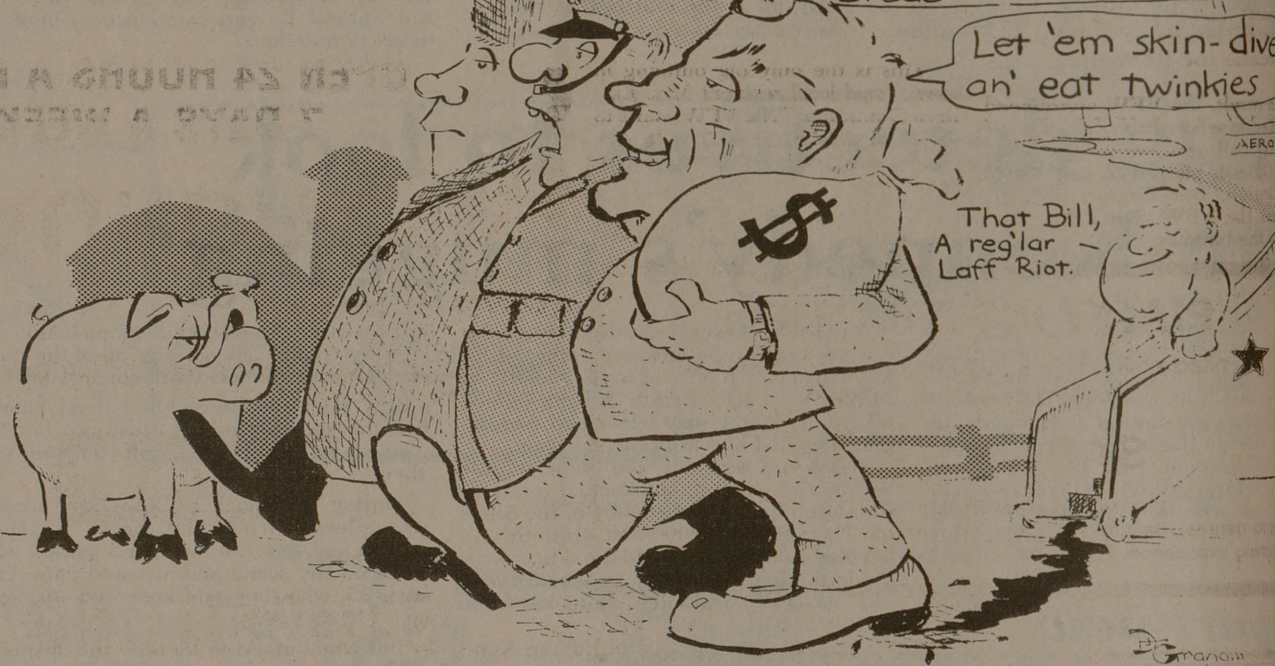
Mrs. Carter said she should have been able to figure that out for herself. She

asked how the president had averted boarding.

The president said he had warned the rabbit with a boat paddle.

Mrs. Carter said she could certainly understand under the circumstances the president had not brought enough fish for supper. She suggested they go out for dinner.

Because of our inefficient farming and overpopulation, the people don't get enough bread to eat.



LETTERS America should look to its own people before taking in Vietnamese refugees

Editor:
With this letter I would like to initiate a discussion about that certain group of South East Asian refugees known as The Boat People.

Let me make it clear that I am completely in favor of foreign aid and all activity that has made the American Red Cross such an admirable organization. But let us look at some interesting details before we open our homes and businesses to the boat people.

Who are the boat people? The vast majority of them are Vietnamese. It seems odd, and interesting, to note that some

30,000 Vietnamese refugees have fled to Laos already. Taking into account the modes of overland travel available to these people (their feet) and the geographical relationship between Laos and Vietnam, a startling and ironic point is made.

These 30,000 plus refugees are North Vietnamese! They spent 21 years fighting the French and ourselves for a doctrine of their own choosing. Now they are abandoning it for our own. Why are France and the United States the leaders in taking in these people?

What are Russia, Laos, Cambodia, Thai-

land, Burma, China etc. doing for them or their problems? After all, those countries share racial, political or cultural likenesses with the Vietnamese which westerners do not.

It is true that there are Vietnamese refugees fleeing Vietnam South of the 17th parallel but remember - think back to the recent unpleasantry which made irresponsible demonstration such a stylish thing for sweethearts like Joan Baez and Jane Fonda. (After all, nobody saw them in a bunker at An-Loc.)

Think back to the thousands of VC

operating freely in South Vietnam. We remembered the Alamo, the Maine, Pearl Harbor, and I'm sure not going to forget the Vietnam War. The boat people do not live in horrible surroundings and need help. But do you want horror? Go to Arlington Cemetery. Who will help them?

In closing, I would just like to offer those American people who can member grieving families to focus on their own needy people — in Appalachia, aged, sick, unemployed and so on — before we offer the Vieg Cong the food of our mouths.

—Ronald C. Bucher

WASHINGTON Carter campaigns despite opposition, but he assures us it's no act of bravado

by HELEN THOMAS
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — Sometime this fall, President Carter will announce his plans to seek re-election. The only uncertainties are where and when.

And over on Capitol Hill, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy’s aides are letting it be known they believe their boss is running. In fact, nothing the Massachusetts Democrat has done in the past several weeks has served to detract from the growing impression that Kennedy has positioned himself to oppose Carter.

Authoritative sources say Carter simply got a smile from Kennedy when the President informed him that he planned to seek re-election and requested the senator’s “absolute, aggressive and enthusiastic support.”

The president publicly concedes he has discussed in somewhat vivid terms how he

will contend with Kennedy if he runs — “I’ll whip his ass.”

Carter also told a group of Florida editors last week: “I have never let the identity of ... opponents in a political campaign deter me. And if I should be a candidate and if Senator Kennedy or Governor Brown or anyone else should decide to run against me, then I believe that I would triumph, to express it in more diplomatic terms.”

Carter notes that in the last presidential campaign he was not stopped by his belief that Kennedy and former Alabama Gov. George Wallace would be his opponents for the Democratic nomination.

It’s apparently not an act of bravado. He has said he originally decided to seek the highest office after meeting Kennedy and the late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey and deciding he was as “smart” as they were.

As Carter’s 1980 campaign style begins

to emerge, he seems to be rejecting the notion that the Rose Garden and the White House would provide a suitable political platform. To run against Washington, he has to at least get out of town, although there are times when he will use the Oval Office such as the two-hour telephone “call in” show on National Public Radio on Oct. 13.

His trip down the Mississippi River aboard the sternwheeler Delta Queen, an eight-day voyage that included some 40 speech-making stops, was a preview of Carter’s stump style.

The crowds, warm handshakes and the overall happy atmosphere — people sometimes waited for hours in the rain to see him — were heady stuff for a president in search of votes.

Carter also plans to continue his “town meetings,” where he probably gives his most impressive performances. (Some ob-

servers believe he likes them because often gets “soft ball” questions to slant the park.)

He also apparently has found some merit in knocking the “national press” as it is stepping up his contacts with out-of-town editors whose questions he usually praises for being more in tune with the country.

In the past few weeks, he has tried to reach different constituencies and to be more conciliatory to their concerns. At the Labor Day picnic, Carter offered an olive branch to the big labor organizations which are supporting the Kennedy national health insurance program over Carter’s more modest and slower-paced goals.

The popularity polls may have bottomed out at their drastically low point as in the Truman tradition, but Carter seems to believe that he can overcome the handicap of being the target for all the nation’s woe-