

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 25, 1979

BRODER *Did federal taxes, government lose status because of Carter, or was it vice-versa?*

By **ARNOLD SAWISLAK**
United Press International

WASHINGTON — It isn't just Jimmy Carter who the public holds in low esteem. It's the whole federal government. The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations says for the first time since it began polling the public in 1972, people feel they are getting the most for their tax money from local, rather than federal, government. The commission has been sponsoring opinion surveys about public attitudes toward government for eight years and in each of them — even after the Watergate scandal was exposed — the federal government has been rated above both states and localities as the best value. But in May of 1979, according to the cross section of 2,022 people polled by Opinion Research Corp., 33 percent of the public rated local government as its best

bargain. Federal government got a 29 percent rating and state government 22 percent. That was a one year increase of 7 percent for local government and a 6 point drop for federal government. Compared to 1972, federal government was down 10 points and local government was up 7 percent. The poll also asked, "Which do you think is the worst tax — that is, the least fair?" and the replies gave another indicator of public disaffection with Washington. The federal income tax was rated least fair, getting 37 percent compared to 27 percent for the local property tax, 15 percent for the state sales tax and 8 percent for the state income tax. That was a remarkable turnaround: just a year ago, the local property tax led the federal income tax in unpopularity, 32 to 30, and back in 1972, the local property tax

had a 45-19 lead. There may be a special reason for some of the shift in tax attitudes. The far West, where the anti-property tax Proposition 13 came to flower in 1978, recorded a radical change of mind. In 1978, 44 percent of westerners rated the property tax as the worst, with 23 percent putting the finger on the federal income tax. One year later, after the upheaval that forced property tax cuts in California and elsewhere, 45 percent of those surveyed in the West disliked the federal levy least and disfavor for the property tax had dropped to 24 percent. During the same time none of the other three regions in the survey increased its dislike of the federal income tax by more than 5 percent. These are interesting figures when considered alongside the approval ratings President Carter has been getting in public opinion polls.

The questions occur: Have the government and the income tax become more unpopular because Carter is president, or is Carter in trouble because the federal government can't seem to deal with problems like energy and inflation and federal taxes seem to be going down a rathole? It would have been nice had the mission sent the pollsters back to people to find out just why they changed their minds about the most effective of government and the unfairness of it. You can be sure that the candidates are offering their own explanations of the phenomena in the next year, but you can be sure that the reasons they give will be self-serving. And the problem with the 1980 elections won't really be answered to these questions. We may have different leaders, but there is no guarantee that we will end up with better ones.



OPINION

Informal interviews: it's about time

Potential employers say they want to see "the real you." But an interview room, with its formica-topped barriers and best-clothes-only atmosphere, is not the best place. Tomorrow students and industry representatives will have a chance to meet informally, without the pressure, during Professional Career Planning in Agriculture Day. Although it is aimed at the students who make up the largest college of agriculture in the country, PCPA Day could benefit anyone willing to explore career opportunities.

More than 60 corporations and government agencies will have representatives from 2 to 5 p.m. in the main ballroom of the Memorial Student Center. And chances are they need more than agricultural economists.

Some of the groups expected are Union Carbide, Ralston Purina, Dupont, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Peace Corps.

The program tomorrow, sponsored by the College of Agriculture and several other University and student groups may be the "first annual."

If it is, it will mark a welcome change from job interviews where both the student and the employer hide behind three-piece suits.

the small society by Brickman



DICK WEST *You can set up a scientific experiment with 8 six-packs and 6 drinking friends*

By **DICK WEST**
United Press International

WASHINGTON — It isn't often a layman has an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of science, so don't miss out on this one.

All you need to participate are eight six-packs of beer, each a different brand, and a set of pitch pipes.

Groundwork for the experiment was laid recently by a group of researchers in Denmark. They discovered that beer tastes best when drunk to the accompaniment of a certain musical note, which differs from beer to beer.

As to whether they accidentally stumbled upon that information or consciously were seeking such enlightenment, I cannot say. Nor were several other vital details provided in the dispatch I read.

Presumably, however, they were using Danish beer. Which means further investigation is necessary to ascertain which tones bring out the best taste in which American beers.

This is where you, a layman whose scientific curiosity, or thirst, has been whetted, come in.

Once you have assembled the laboratory equipment listed above, invite six friends to assist you. Hand each a bottle or can of beer and have them take a sip while you sound Middle C on the pitch pipe.

During the next sip, sound your D. And so on up the scale.

After each note and sip, your assistants should indicate on a chart you have provided how the taste compared with other sips.

By the time you have completed the oc-

tave, you should have identified the note that goes best with that particular brand. Now open another six-pack and repeat.

Much scientific research tends to be iterative and tedious. As the experiment progresses, you may find your assistants becoming rather slipshod and unheeding of scientific exactitudes.

By the time you reach the fourth or fifth brand, you may find when you sound your G that the sippers will go "hmmmmmm" in pitch with the pipe and then break into a chorus of "The Whiffenpoof Song." In six-part harmony.

Any such deviation definitely is unscientific and has no place in an experiment of this sort.

To restore order, call a 15-minute break. Make a pot of coffee and refill the peanut bowl. Once the singing has sub-

sided, the experiment can resume.

When the beer runs out and the search team has gone off in search of all-night pizza parlor, collect the data and tabulate the results.

You now should be armed with the information you will need to derive the maximum enjoyment from your favorite brand.

Things to watch for:

—Theoretically, light beer will better a note or two higher than that which most enhances the flavor of regular.

—Beer that has gone flat may sharpen for greatest palatability.

—If someone is drinking regularly and someone else opens a light, it takes a minor chord to get their taste.

LETTERS *What is a college newspaper good for, if not to inform students of kick-off time?*

Editor:
No wonder only nine out of ten puppies prefer the Batt! Am I wrong in assuming that it is the function of a major college newspaper to supply information about that college that, for example, the Dallas Morning News won't deem newsworthy? I didn't find anything about the deadline for the College Poetry Review in the DMN, but I was Lucky enough to read about kick-off time for last Saturday's romp over Penn State. Heck, you could have slipped gametime in the 'What's Up' column, under Saturday, between the Biomedical Science Foundation Picnic and the Very important meeting of the Pakistan Club. Or maybe, Mark Patterson could have mentioned gametime in his article ABOUT the game. Tell you what, I will even give you a hint! Our next football game is against Memphis State, at Memphis State. — David Lethe, '81

Let's stay healthy

Editor:
I didn't want to write this letter until I found out exactly why the weight room at DeWare has been closed to students. The excuse is really disappointing. In the past this weight room has been overcrowded with students trying to stay healthy and physically fit. Now I find out that to staying healthy and physically fit is just for the holier than Thou athletes and not for us lowly students. I thought it was foolish last year when the athletic department kept 45-pound iron weights chained up so the students would not damage or steal them (Hal Figure that one out). At least then we still had the rest of the weight room. This is a major University with over 31,000 students and with the cash we're paying we ought to have a well equipped weight room. I wouldn't even mind paying a few extra dollars for the upkeep as long

as we had a place to work out. Let's stay healthy people! —Larry Chase

Lost and found

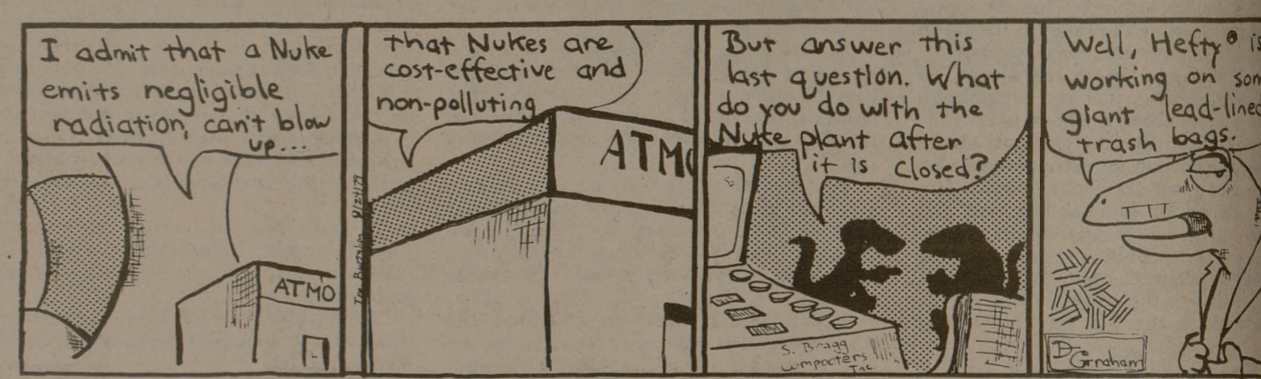
Editor:
I found a gold necklace (chain) in the Sbsa on Wednesday, Sept. 19. If anyone thinks this might be theirs, call 846-5211 come by my office, Teague 211. — Terry Wood

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

THOTZ



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