

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"To recap our conversation, you feel that the course on how to study that you're taking is cutting into your study time?"

OPINION

A&M's 'factory' needs some air

A degree-granting factory takes a high school graduate and produces a money-making "consumer unit" with efficiency.

And Texas A&M University is very efficient. But in processing toward graduation, a person can be stamped into too tight a mold.

With hours and hours of required courses, the high schooler's focus narrows to a restricted specialty. The "air" that rounds a person's perspective and opens his mind is forced out.

Electives are supposed to prevent that, but often they don't.

Through formal and informal channels, the few electives in some curricula are directed to the department's goals, not the student's.

Over the years, departments have justified more requirements. There's more to learn, they say.

For instance, the "practical" majors — such as engineering, agriculture and the sciences — tend to concentrate solely on their major courses of study.

Many liberal arts students can slide through academic life without taking a decent, difficult science course.

A well-rounded liberal arts, or for that matter, any university education cannot neglect fields outside certain majors.

Balanced knowledge tends to make for balanced graduates.

The student has been short-changed.

Someone must speak for the student. Thursday, someone can.

The Academic Council — deans, department heads and other selected faculty — will consider a proposal that would put air back into the system.

It would allow students to choose nine hours of electives — free electives — from departments other than his own. And his department could not tell him what those electives must be.

It's a change students need.

Even factories let in a little fresh air.

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 10, 1979

READER'S FORUM

By W. SCOTT SHERMAN
Apparently no one has divined where the real power lies in both the Carter and the Kennedy camps.
Much discussion has been given to whether Ted Kennedy will decide to run or whether Jimmy Carter will go for a second term.
The actual decision over who will be the Democratic candidate for president in 1980 will be made at an undisclosed Holiday Inn in Upper Appalachia — when Rose Kennedy and Lillian Carter meet to decide whose son will carry the party banner.

The meeting has not yet been announced, but it is a logical course, since no two American mothers have had greater influence over such politically important sons since Millard Fillmore's mother convinced her son to install indoor plumbing in the White House.

With all the possibilities of the better "Godzilla Meets King Kong" movies, insiders believe the choice of a moderator will probably be the first point of contention. Mrs. Kennedy is rumored to want Henry Cabot Lodge or Gore Vidal. Miss Lillian is allegedly undecided between Bert Parks and Howard Cosell.

Insiders say Gov. Jerry Brown may be a compromise emcee since no one is sure exactly where he stands, what he stands for, or if he is animal, vegetable or biodegradable.

Ground rules for the talk have not been disclosed but unofficial sources believe the following are included:

1. Mrs. Carter will not mention Chappaquiddick, Ted's cheating at Harvard, his marital problems, anything about problems with the Kennedy Klan Kids, and any other incriminating personal information about the senator as long as Mrs. Kennedy doesn't mention Amy or Billy.
2. Hamilton Jordan will be referred to at all times by his Christian name, regardless of what euphemism either side feels appropriate.
3. The President's hemorrhoid problems will not be brought up as long as Mrs. Carter doesn't mention Mrs. Kennedy's hernial difficulties. This is to be referred to

as the "Strain not to rub me the wrong way" rule.

4. No mention will be made of the now infamous Bonzai Bunny incident where the president was "attacked" by a swimming rabbit April 20, two days before Easter. However, if two days before Thanksgiving, the president is attacked by a turkey, the Kennedy camp reserves the right to refer to the incident as cannibalism on the bird's part.

5. Neither side will claim "heavenly intervention" no matter how many audiences they have had with Pope John Paul II, Muhammed Ali or Howard Cosell.

The real power struggle: Miss Lillian versus Rose

The question of how to decide a winner is probably the prime point.

Some observers feel a nude team-tag-wrestling match would be appropriate, but both sides are rumored to favor a panel to hear the oratory from the two proud potential presidential parents. Composition of the board is at question.

The Kennedy group is alleged to want members to have either one home in Martha's Vineyard or Taiwanese citizenship. Critics claim such a group will be hard to find with any guarantee of impartiality.

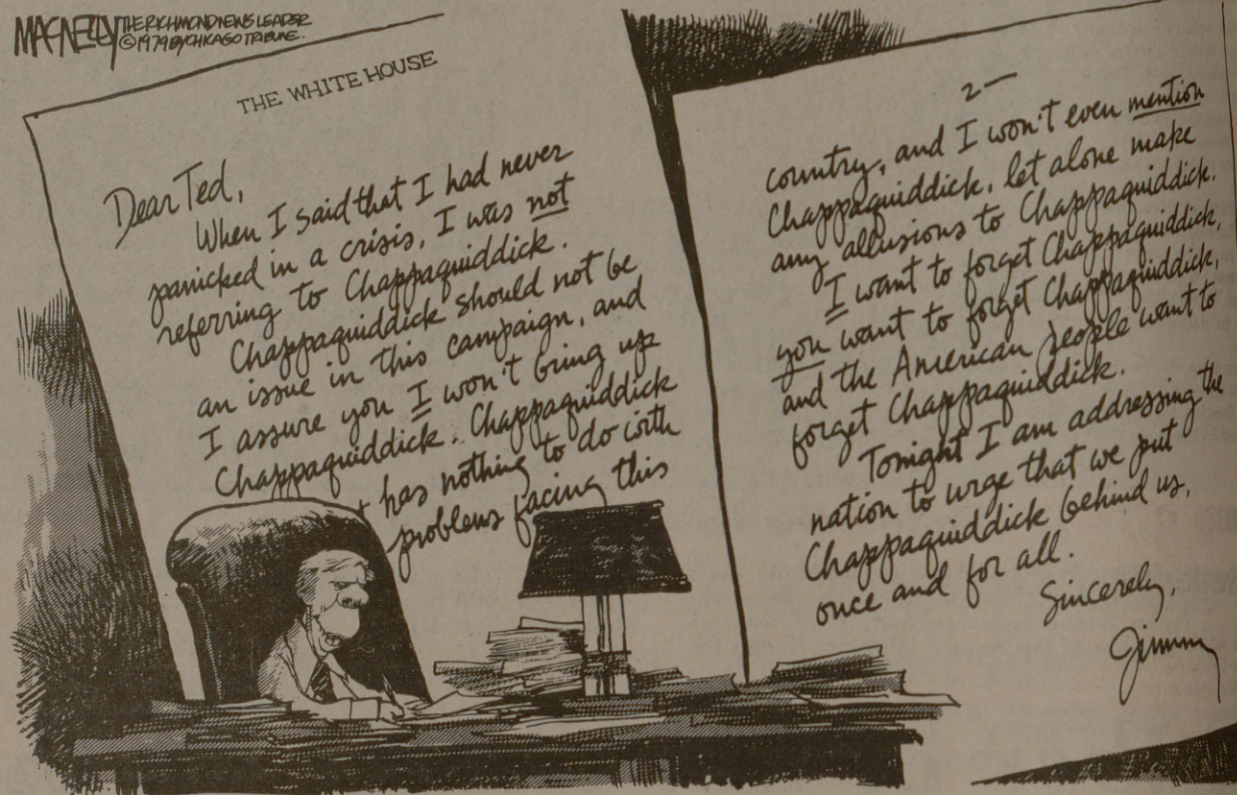
The Carter family maintains a group of

good ole boys will be fine, as long as they look at the president's record with anger, frustration or doubt in their ability.

Cynics say they have found no one such a panel.

The problem is either they have pants a lot and will be unable to see them long enough to make any

W. Scott Sherman is a graduate in management and a former staff writer.



BRODER

By DAVID S. BRODER
WASHINGTON — It took barely 15 minutes for the House to pass H.R. 5010 earlier this month, and no one even asked for a roll-call vote. In the rush of events, few people have bothered to note what has happened.

To be honest, it hardly rates up there with the pope's visit to the United States or the Soviet brigade in Cuba as a news story. But H.R. 5010 is a small step toward sanity in the rules regulating the conduct of the American elections. It also is a timely demonstration that, even in Congress, common sense can occasionally prevail over crasser instincts.

The background on the bill is this: In its rush to "reform" the smelly campaign finance practices revealed by Watergate, Congress five years ago legislated some new restrictions that had a chilling effect on the local, volunteer political party activity that can add so much to the average citizen's sense of involvement in the choice of the President.

With Treasury funds financing the Carter-Ford contest, and tight spending limits in effect, there was a natural tendency to hoard the scarce dollars for the "big-ticket items," particularly purchase of television time and rental of jet planes to

move the candidates around the country.

As a strategy for mass-marketing politicians to the national constituency, the airport-television studio approach was eminently sensible. But, as almost every observer of the last presidential campaign noted, the local, small-scale electioneering, which traditionally has provided so much of the color and flavor of American politics, was sadly missing in 1976. In many big-city neighborhoods and in most small towns, there was nothing to suggest that America was choosing a President — no local headquarters, no banners, no bumper-stickers, no buttons, and almost no volunteer activity.

The reason was simple: The national campaign headquarters allocated virtually no money for local electioneering. And local party organizations were inhibited or intimidated by the new rules from doing much of anything on their own.

The threat of prosecution for failing to report on the cost of such activities or spending beyond the limits was enough to keep most local Republican and Democratic activists out of the Ford and Carter campaigns.

The House bill addresses this problem directly by providing a blanket exemption for state and local party committees to

purchase, without limit, the buttons, bumper stickers, yard-signs and other campaign materials used by volunteers. It also exempts those committees from any limits on what they may spend for voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns on behalf of their presidential tickets. Reporting requirements are eliminated for party committees raising or spending less than \$5,000 — rather than the \$1,000 floor that was used in the old law.

The effect — and intent — of the House-passed amendments is to encourage, rather than inhibit, local, volunteer involvement in the presidential campaign by Democratic and Republican committees.

Along the increase in the federal subsidy of the national party conventions, from \$2 million to \$3 million apiece, these provisions make H.R. 5010 the most positive measure for the strengthening of the political parties to move through Congress in years.

What is equally remarkable is the manner of the bill's passage. After years of bitter partisan battles over other kinds of campaign-finance legislation, particularly the recurrent proposals for public subsidy of congressional campaigns, the quarrel-

some Democrats and Republican House Administration Committee it was time to get their act together.

Chairman Frank Thompson Jr. and Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.) legislate in the areas where bipartisanship was possible, and to issues where they had split time. "Thompson and I agreed," Frenzel said, "it was time to stop cat-fighting something that had to be done." The result was that, as Thompson said, committee finds itself in the position of being awash in a sea of bipartisan acclaim.

With unanimous and bipartisan support from the committee members, the bill passed by the House in the blink of an eye. A similar measure, also with bipartisan support, is awaiting floor action in the Senate. It's not a big story, but it would be nice to believe that both parties and the Congress can be lively and responsible than they have been in the past.

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LETTERS

Editor:
I've just come from the MSC where I just experienced a most disgusting thing! It had to do with a marine captain, a .30-caliber machine gun and some dummy little man telling this Marine captain that Col. Woodall didn't like the idea of having that weapon on public display. That it just wasn't proper to have such a thing in the MSC and would he please remove it.

I was standing next to the captain and I almost threw up. Naturally, the captain was embarrassed, but very cooperative.

I am really amazed! I spent nine years in the USMC myself and 23 months on two tours to Vietnam. What the hell is wrong with you people? Are there nothing more here than little tin soldiers afraid of big bad guns?

Sure, that .30-caliber is a dangerous weapon capable of killing many people; believe me it works great, I've seen it in action. War is the bottom issue here. War isn't nice, guns aren't nice, killing isn't nice. Neither is seeing your buddy blown into a million pieces.

You're damn right, war is hell, it isn't fantasy, it isn't TV, it isn't movies. Maybe more people should be aware of the little toys of war, and just where their tax dollars are going.

The nerve of that man, the nerve of Col. Woodall! This letter will never get printed in your precious little pro-Corps Battalion.

I used to have great respect for the Corps here. Now, I am not so sure. Excuse me while I throw up now!

— Joe Dirkson
USMC 1968-1977

Have more pride

Editor:
This letter pertains to the situation which will occur this weekend at the U of H game.

I had heard the rumors of what had happened to some of the Aggies' cars when they traveled to Rice Stadium for the BYU game. It seemed like the Rice Owls thought it a cute joke by putting Hoot'em stickers over the Aggies' G' em stickers and by putting shaving cream on Aggies' door handles. Well when I traveled to Waco for the Baylor game the situation was the same. It seemed some of the Bear fans were of even lower class than the Owls by spitting on the Aggies' cars.

The situation this weekend is reversed

as the Aggies are the host team. We make the inconvenience of Kyle seating capacity worse by treating a guest to a rude awakening when they turn to their cars after the game. It is only rude awakening of the Houston Aggies are for real!

Show that Fightin' Texas Aggie and let's not lower our school to the level that other SWC representatives have.

— Arn Hammett

THOTZ



by Doug Graham

THE BATTALION

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