



"Okay, I can see how it would work for this weekend, but do you really think you can wear it and get excused from class before every weekend trip?"

OPINION

Potato chip journalism

Bought a bag of potato chips lately? It's disillusioning. The wrapper is shiny and pretty and feels full. But open it — look beyond the package — and you realize how little substance is there.

People in the potato chip industry know that, but you don't.

Much the same is true in the media. Within the industry, many of the flashy ones are regarded as 25 cent bags of chips — without substance. On the other hand, the honest fellows — the ones who admit they don't have all the answers — become respected examples for the rest of us.

Both groups were represented here this week. The flashy one — Marrvin Zindler — was completely confident and sure he was doing the right thing. No self-doubt.

Members of the other group said often they wonder the next day why their newspapers did a particular thing the day before.

The three editors — each responsible for running The Dallas Morning News, The Houston Post or The Austin American-Statesman — are among the most respected journalists in the region.

"Sometimes we know we've been had," one said, and the others agreed.

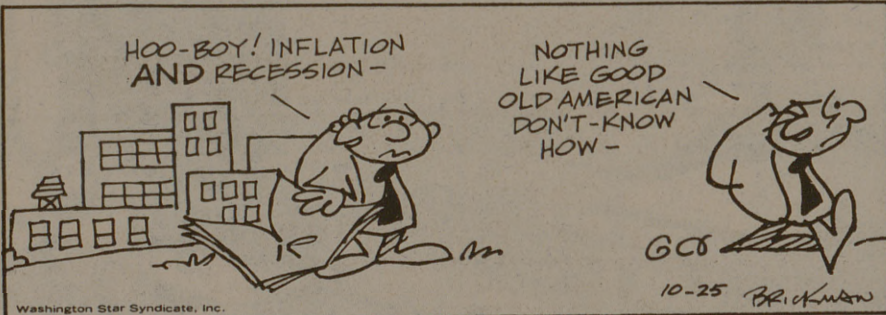
They weren't confident of all they do. In fact, they were concerned with their credibility.

Marvin Zindler told of his triumphs; the editors told of their frustrations.

In journalism, friends and readers, there are more frustrations than triumphs.

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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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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THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 25, 1979

WINDOW

Carter says he is closer than Ted to John Kennedy's political stand

United Press International
WASHINGTON — After hitting rock bottom, President Carter's aides believe his political star is climbing. They are feeling more confident about the powers of the incumbency and their ability to overcome the challenge of Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Carter says he believes he was "underrated" and that the Florida caucuses show he still attracts the traditional constituencies of the Democratic Party. Recent polls have shown a slight upswing in political support for Carter, although some observers say he had only one way to go — up.

Carter's upbeat mood was best reflected on the flight aboard the presidential jet as he winged his way back to Washington from the dedication of the John F. Kennedy library. He went to the plane's press area to chat — something he has not done in a year.

At the dedication, with almost the entire Kennedy clan on the platform, Carter paid tribute to the late president. He touted Senator Kennedy about his presidential ambitions, and stressed that times have changed since 1960.

Carter later told reporters he believes he is closer to President Kennedy in political philosophy than his brother is, describing the senator as a more liberal big-spender for social needs.

The White House line of attack on Kennedy is beginning to take shape. Kennedy is being portrayed as a politician who, as Carter put it, "is much more inclined toward the old philosophy of pouring out new programs and new money to meet a social need." Carter also says he is "in favor of much stronger defense commitments than his (Sen. Kennedy's) record shows."

Press secretary Jody Powell followed up the president's criticism of his probable

opponent for the Democratic presidential nomination by telling reporters that Kennedy had "quietly" voted for a 3 percent real increase in defense spending while not supporting Pentagon hikes in the past.

As for the bounty of federal monies Carter gets to pass out at major political stops to keep the local Democratic politicians happy, Powell says the administration had been criticized in the past for not using the powers of the incumbency to its own advantage.

But he indicates that it is all going to be different now, and millions of dollars in grants and assistance are going to be sprung more quickly to areas where it counts politically.

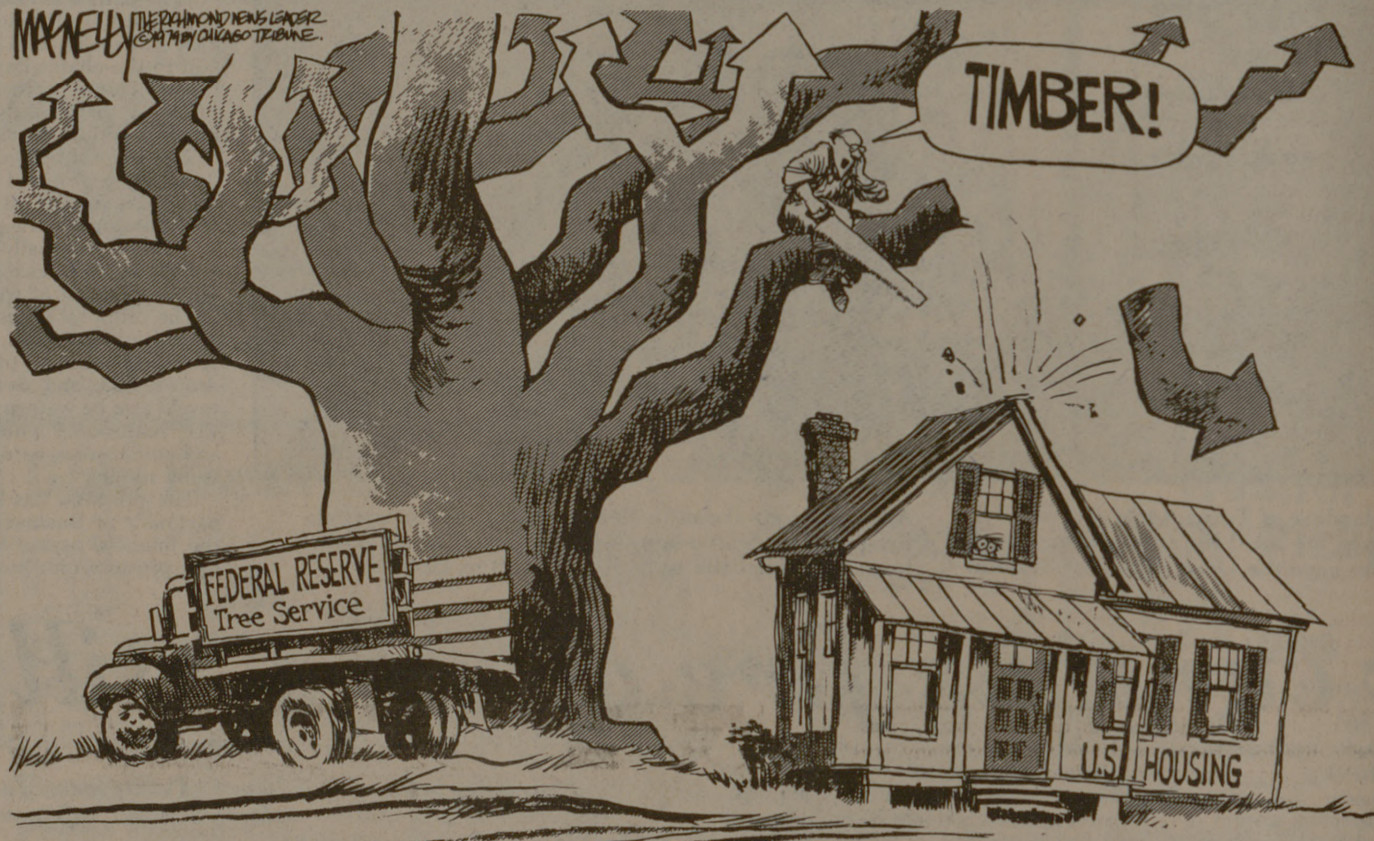
Powell also says there is no "survey" under way to flush out Kennedy supporters in the administration, but he makes it clear that Carter's political appointees must be loyal to him and if they cannot serve the president they should quit.

The idea, as he points out, is to work with presidents. Teamwork and the main criteria when the president are down as the past has demonstrated.

Carter also has a Cabinet filled with rogues ready to hit the campaign trail and many already are planning speechmaking schedules early in the Vice President Walter Mondale's step up an already heavy travel schedule.

The president also has a big job over Kennedy in terms of the Carter-Mondale Presidential Committee has been in business for holding fund-raisers and raising faithful.

Carter told interviewers in Dallas Saturday that "the press is going with the presidential race, but I don't think to indicate that the White House not put reelection at the top of the president's priority list.



'Infancy to senility in two short years'

United Press International
The U.S. Department of Energy isn't doing the job it was created two years ago to do — that of dealing with the nation's fuel problems.

The DOE, lurching along out of control, has put a pox on everything it has touched.

By its own admission, DOE bungling was chiefly responsible for last spring's gasoline crisis that spawned lines of angry

motorists at service stations across the country. What had happened was that the agency allocated too much fuel to priority users and rural areas and too little to fast-growing urban areas.

In fact, nearly everyone who has had dealings with the DOE agrees with Samuel Schwartz, senior vice president of Continental Oil Company, who says: "DOE has gone from infancy to senility in

two short years."

President Carter has given the job of cleaning up to new Energy Secretary Charles W. Duncan Jr., rated a tough administrator.

Duncan seems to be wasting no time in trying to revamp the fiasco-ridden department with 20,000 employees replacing most of the major posts with associates who worked with him at the Pentagon.

Duncan has reorganized the department along fuel lines. For instance, all energy programs are being combined into a single unit instead of being scattered throughout the department.

It would be great if Duncan could revamp this nightmare of an agency without doubt that even Solomon could not have maelstrom under control now.
Amarillo Daily News

LETTERS

There are only so many pictures to take of a man behind a podium

Editor:
After returning from the MSC Great Issues presentation of Marvin Zindler I have mixed emotions about the one-hour lecture. I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Zindler's talk, and I thank MSC Great Issues for giving myself and others the opportunity to listen to such an interesting man, but one aspect of the lecture has left me so annoyed that I feel this letter is necessary.

I would like to know why the photographer on the front row felt compelled to take so many pictures of Mr. Zindler during his lecture. There are only so many poses a man can strike when he's standing behind a podium. He can have his arms out or in and his head up or down. So why all the pictures?

I found this very distracting, and I'm sure Mr. Zindler was wondering when the pictures would stop. In the future I hope I can attend a lecture and give my full attention to the speaker instead of being bothered by flashes of light every few minutes.

— Robin O'Day, '82

ment actually cutting the wood and tying it to the stack.

However, women have been involved in this process for several years now. It is the women who provide water at the cutting area for the men (and now women) to drink. The water is hauled in 32 gallon trash cans in the back of pick-up trucks and, it may surprise you, but those trash cans don't jump from the ground to the bed of the truck or vice-versa. The trash cans, when filled with water, weigh up to 200 pounds. There are usually six to eight trash cans that are refilled at least three times a day. That is a minimum of 3,600 pounds that are hauled, by usually four women, on any one day (sometimes the water is not crystal clear, but we bring what we can).

As for ice, this is not an inexpensive item, folks! At least 500 pounds (five trash cans with about 100 pounds of ice, minimum) is hauled out there every day, and no, it does not leap onto the trucks either. It is the women who provide it. It is the women who called store manager,

beer distributors, and dozens of other local companies to find someone to donate (yes, free! — Thank-you McDonald's, Jack-in-the-Box, and Wendy's) their ice.

And yes, we, too, get up at 5 in the morning, but not to bake cookies. We are out there to do what we can without being a nuisance be it haul water and ice or pass out lunches or haul guys back and forth from the cutting area to the parking area.

Sure, there are those girls who manage to get to the cutting area to boy-watch, and there are those who think they are most helpful cutting wood, but remember this. There are those of us who have worked on Bonfire in the past and will continue to work our hearts out for that precious tradition.

— Patricia Jones, '80

Hey, Puryear

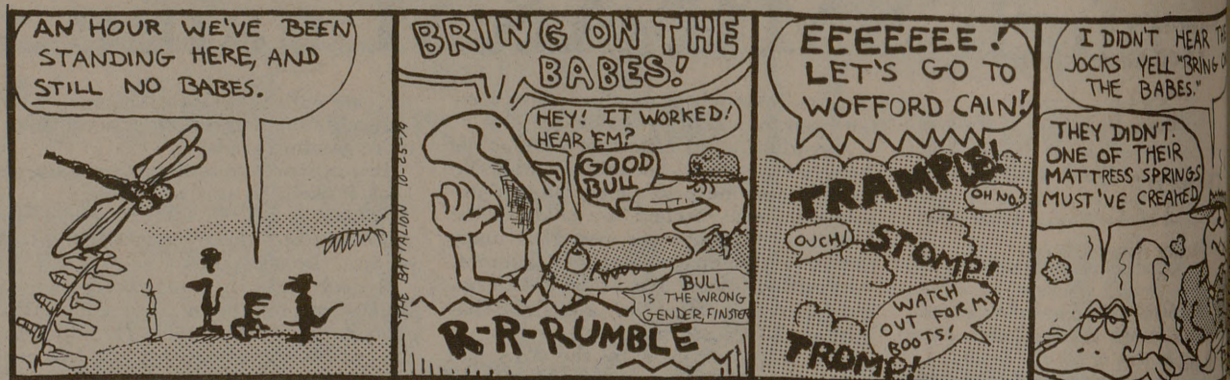
Editor:
Hey Puryear! What happened Saturday

Behind Bonfire

Editor:
For you people who don't know what all Bonfire involves, it is not just a bunch of men who go out in the woods, chop a lot of trees down and come stack it all up behind Duncan.

Maybe the students of A&M don't realize the work that Bonfire requires. The Redpots and Yellowpots do mounds of work even before cutting starts. These men, and others, are responsible for securing the cutting areas, marking off the site, organizing crews of workers, arranging for tractors, bull dozers, flatbeds, cranes, chainsaws, communications equipment, baling wire and various other items, not to

THOTZ



by Doug Graham

Correction

In a story about the Miss Pageant in Wednesday's Battalion the name of the company that the show was spelled incorrectly. The company is Imperial Miss Battalion regrets the error.