

# SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I'm sure getting tired of people asking me if I'm still wearing my Halloween mask!"

## OPINION

### Dayan not done

The surprise resignation of Moshe Dayan as Israel's foreign minister leaves a major void in the 28-month-old coalition government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin (and) could also spark a crisis in the Middle East peace negotiations.

The rift between the 64-year-old Dayan and Begin which precipitated the resignation centers around the issue of "autonomy," or self-rule, for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza. Israel agreed to self-rule in principle as the price for Egypt signing the historic peace treaty earlier this year.

Nevertheless, it has become increasingly evident that Begin defines autonomy as administrative control over local affairs, and nothing more.

Dayan is to be commended for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Israeli people. His recent resignation by no means will mark the end of his distinguished career in public service.

Bridgeport (Conn.) Post

### New concept for GSA

In a move which could save taxpayers up to \$226 million this year, Admiral Roland Freeman III, recently appointed director of the General Service Administration (GSA), has forbidden any purchase of new office furniture by or for any federal government agency until a complete inventory of its furniture on hand has been completed and filed.

GSA manages, or mismanages, some say, most of the buying of supplies and the construction and maintenance of buildings for the government. Efforts to uncover the extent of illegal practices have become mired in a morass of bureaucratic obstructionism.

Admiral Freeman has brought a new concept to GSA, common sense. It is good management to require people to use what they have before they buy more. This approach clearly never occurred to the career bureaucrats.

Texarkana Gazette

the small society

by Brickman



## THE BATTALION

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# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 2, 1979

## ANALYSIS Bangladesh leader brings stability, a condition mistrusted by its people

By SUZANNE F. GREEN  
United Press International

DACCA, Bangladesh — President Ziaur Rahman has declared war on the cataclysmic problems that led Henry Kissinger to dub Bangladesh an "international basket case."

Zia, as he is known in South Asia, has warned his cabinet of a "revolution to better the lot of the common man" in Bangladesh.

This month Zia called on his Bangladesh National Party to enact legislation that would change Bangladesh's "colonial system of administration ... radically ... to a people-oriented" one. Earlier he told his cabinet to "be prepared to make sacrifices."

Although Zia did not detail his plans for change, his impressive track record in tackling Bangladesh problems indicates he means business.

Widely regarded as a man of quiet integrity, the 44-year-old president has taken first steps — self-help reform programs — to break Bangladesh's begging bowl.

Although a record \$1.3 billion in foreign aid is expected to pour into South Asia's

poorest nation in 1979, government projects in food for work, education, collective farms, family planning and women's rights have begun to erode what one foreign economist called the "psychology of dependence."

Zia accomplished this year what most thought impossible: he kept the nation's 90 million people from famine in a drought year.

Exactly five years ago, nearly 50,000 Bangladeshis died in a drought not nearly as severe. Political observers now marvel that the same combination of political neglect, poverty, bad water and land management and general lack of foresight did not produce a similar disaster in 1979.

"Quite frankly we are mighty impressed," said one Western diplomat.

Zia did much of the overseas shopping himself for 2.2 million tons of food grain (200,000 tons from the United States) imported to meet the food production shortfall.

Defying skeptics among international donors who thought he would never be able to get the food into the stomachs of the nation's poor, Zia worked 20 hours a day to double the capacity of Bangladesh's

two ports to move 16,000 tons of food per day.

To unclog the distribution system, he cut out a battery of corrupt middlemen to effectively stave off starvation in a record shortfall year.

Corruption, which thrives in the world's largest regular recipient of foreign aid, compounds the chronic food shortage and is a major rival for Zia's attention.

He started his drive at the top by declaring his own modest assets and asking his government ministers to follow suit. Most political observers say it was an offer none could refuse.

This year the usual devastating floods did not follow the drought. Instead there was record 18 percent inflation, astronomical unemployment, a brain drain to the Middle East, power cuts that crippled industry, and a stubbornly growing population.

The drought caused food prices to soar and left 30 to 40 percent of the nation's population — more than half of it rural but landless — without work.

Those who are young and trained left for the Middle East and salaries they can live on. The foreign remittances they generate

are a boon, but the brain drain has resulted in breakdowns and a dearth of strategic equipment and plants.

The population, still steeply rising, that bigger families mean, is booming, adding 500,000 mouths every three months.

Inheritance laws have driven into small plots that make agriculture impossible, and crop production even when the rain is good.

And the bottom has fallen in the market for jute, the nation's cash crop, so women burn it to eat.

Many observers believe a politician, will survive the problems these problems generate to a solution to success.

He has effectively decimated the political class.

But Bangladesh was weak, and governments have gone unexpectedly.

"Stability is new to us, Bangladeshis political class come to trust it, we fear we

MACAELY THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS LEADER. © 1979 BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



## Susan B. Anthony dollar de flates its

Susan B. Anthony was a great woman, and is deserving of all the honors that the country can bestow on her. But the mint did the pioneer feminist an injustice by placing her image on the new \$1 coin.

It looks like a quarter. It feels like a quarter. It has the heft of a quarter. And we live in mortal fear of giving one away as

a quarter. Acceptance of the mostly-copper coin has been so poor that mint director Stella B. Hackel went to a convention of bankers in New Orleans to beg them to put more of them into circulation. Only 100 of the 9,000 delegates came to hear her speak — a fair measure of the bankers' enthusiasm

for her proposal. Hackel concedes that there is even more public resistance to the Anthony coins than there is to the infamous \$2 bill, and she said the mint is thinking of coloring them brass or gold to make them more appealing.

No, it's the size that's wrong. Even in

inflationary times the dollar keeps up pretensions, but the tiny coin deflates itself. We think that the mint should of the 300,000 coins that are in circulation and melt them down into metal, using \$2 bills to fuel the

Los Angeles Times

## LETTERS 456 north area dorm diners agree: Sbisa meals leave much to be desired

Editor: After many empty bottles of Pepto-Bismol, we, the second floor residents of Crocker Hall and the north area dorms feel that the quality of food served at Sbisa Dining Hall leaves much to be desired.

Specifically, Tuesday, October 30, the main course of the evening meal was labeled "grilled steak." Whether these stringy uncooked pieces of decomposing mess were steak, or not, is still in doubt. This waste was not fit to eat!

Upon completion of the meal, one could not help but be reminded of the gruesome details revealed by Upton Sinclair about the meatpacking industry in "The Jungle." Several of our residents collected about one hundred uncooked steaks (?) and were shunned away by an uncaring Sbisa manager after they were brought to his attention.

Tonight's meal was but the headline of a long list of vile items served at Sbisa. These include spoiled lettuce (unmistakable by the brown tinge in the leaves), uncooked crust on many of the fried foods, desserts that are generally swimming in water, and hamburger patties that have reach "critical mass" (i.e. completely char-broiled).

We realize that quality of food is much more expensive than our \$500 board plans allow, but it seems that what we have could be prepared better. It is high time that something be done to improve the desirability, and, if nothing else, revive the mere ambition to eat at Sbisa.

To serve large numbers of people hot, home-cooked meals is next to impossible, but let's not drive otherwise healthy students to the "Quack Shack" with upset stomachs and uncontrollable diarrhea.

— Ron Cormier, '82  
Editor's note: Copies of this letter were displayed in 10 north area dorms for about 12 hours, and 456 signatures on 15 pages were collected.

### Right to know profits

Editor: After reading Professor Bowers' letter in Wednesday's Battalion, several of my classmates and I had a good laugh at his apparently naive approach to return on investment (ROI). However, the disparity between his conclusions and those of Dr. Kiem is endemic to the use of ROI as a measure of performance.

ROI is rather ambiguous and can be approached from several conceptual frameworks. It is of absolute importance that the analyst be consistent in approach when crossing industrial boundaries. Dr. Kiem is not known for making statements without verifying logical consistencies. True to form, his approach to the ROI of the two industries is logical and consistent.

Professor Bowers, on the other hand, could be quite correct in his analysis; however, it is difficult to know for certain since he chose only to refute Dr. Kiem's statement and did not attempt to show oil company ROI under his method. Had Professor Bowers done so, it is highly likely that the two academicians would have come to similar conclusions.

On the subject of biased reporting, I must point out that it is possible to editorialize without making explicit statements. Implicit statements such as story choice, placement, and tonal presentation (commonly known as the Cronkite effect) are all valid forms of reporting bias.

In conclusion, the public has a need and a right to know about profits of public corporations. However, the "red herring" crawls both ways.

— Michael W. Lambert, '77

### Correction

In the story on Texas A&M Spill Technology Program in day's Battalion, the word "Rhonde Island" was garbled so that "Rhonde Island." The Battalion grets the error.

### Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to the forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

## THOTZ

by Doug Graham

