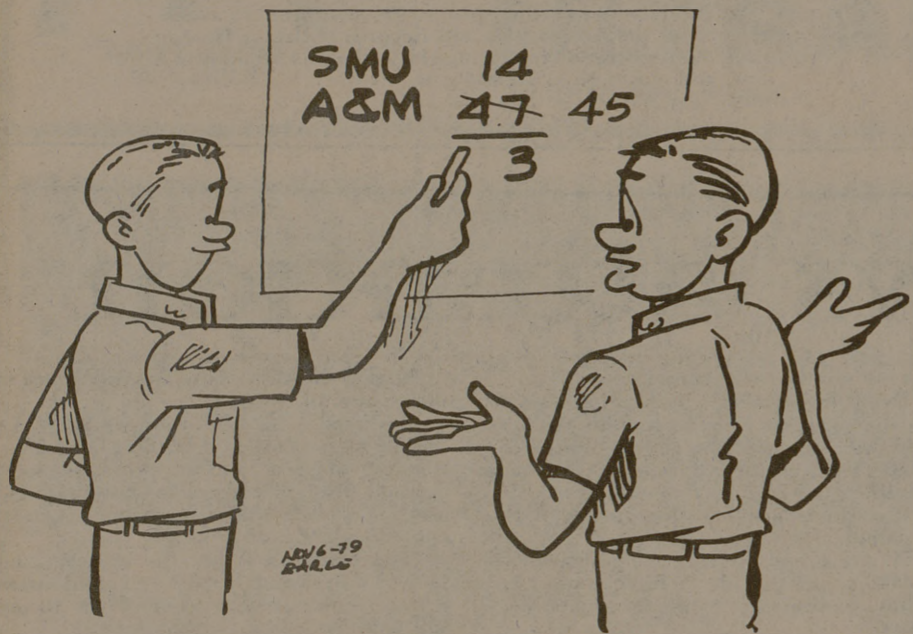


SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"It would be nice if we could, but it's just not possible to apply any extra points to the Tech and Houston scores, even though there are plenty of points left over."

OPINION

College students 'shortchanged'

Growing up, we college students were taught to always wear clean underwear: "You never know when you'll be in a car wreck."

And that was all we knew or wanted to know about underwear. Girls had the option of wearing the days of the week or a pastel floral print. Boys didn't even have that.

But now — thanks to modern merchandizing — that has changed. Underwear in sizes 2-16 is fun.

Union Underwear Co., the same firm that makes Fruit of the Loom and B.V.D. underclothes, is marketing the popular, brightly colored sets — a T-shirt with a cartoon character printed on the front and briefs. Boys can choose from Spider-Man, Superman, the Incredible Hulk and others. Girls can be Wonder Woman, Superwoman, Bat Girl or Spiderwoman under their clothes.

A company spokesman expressed surprise about the boom in underwear. The firm has already had inquiries from foreign countries and sees several other companies preparing takeoffs.

"Underwear was always something that was just there," he said. "You put it on and once in awhile you found new ones in your drawer."

"Now these kids are ripping off their clothes at parties to show their friends and relations."

And we thought underwear was just supposed to be clean.

the small society

by Brickman



Washington Star Syndicate, Inc.

11-5 BRICKMAN

THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
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WASHINGTON

George Bush shows its honorable to 'over-achieve' in political races

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

United Press International

WASHINGTON — In 1935, Russian miner Aleksei Stakhanov did such a great job digging coal that the authorities enshrined his name. Since then, over-achievers in the Soviet Union have been given the honored title of Stakhanovite.

Now, George Bush, without giving it a name, is applying the same concept to American presidential politics.

According to the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the big thing in the first primaries and other early tests is not whether you win but whether you do better than expected.

Talking to reporters recently about the January precinct caucuses in Iowa, Republican candidate Bush said, "My goal, obvi-

ously, would be to win," but added, "I've got to come out of Iowa so that people like yourselves ... say 'He did better than I thought he would do.'"

Bush thus put in words what has been the observed truth for some time. Political trivia buffs often win drinks by asking, "Who won the Democratic presidential primary in New Hampshire in 1968?"

The correct answer is Lyndon Johnson, but Eugene McCarthy was so close that the former Minnesota senator was perceived as the winner. And it wasn't only the press that thought so: Johnson withdrew before the next set of primaries.

McCarthy didn't win the nomination, but New Hampshire's next political Stakhanovite, Sen. George McGovern, did. Sen. Edmund Muskie beat

McGovern, 41,325 to 33,007.

In the New Hampshire primary Muskie was such a favorite and McGovern such an underdog that it was the South Dakotan who was seen as the big winner.

There was something of the same effect in the 1976 New Hampshire victories of both Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. Again, both men did better than expected and gained more from narrow victories than the perceived favorites would have from land-

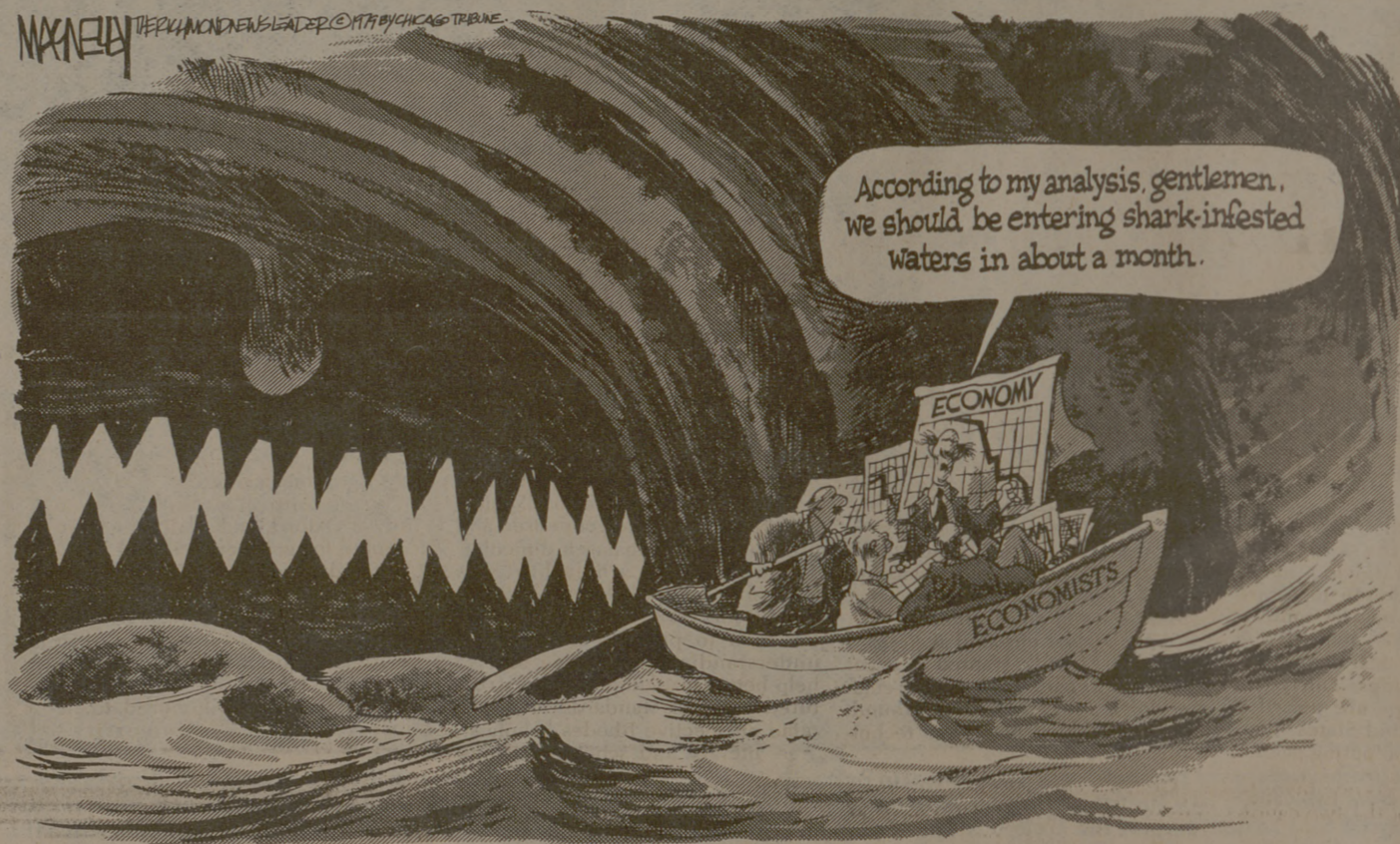
Naturally, Bush intends to use the Stakhanovite effect to his own advantage. Republicans Ronald Reagan and John Connally are so better known than he that Bush believes finishing ahead of or close to them in the early delegate selection caucuses and primaries will give him a huge boost toward

the GOP nomination.

It is hard to say whether it is a sure of credit for identifying phenomenon that he hopes

After all, Rep. Morris Udall best in the 1976 primaries but his fame by coining the term, "Mentioner" for the anonymous quoted in political stories that "has been mentioned" as a po-

date. However, it seems unlikely the term "Stakanovite" will be used in the United States as a description of who comes out of nowhere to do better. Perhaps "Bushite" do better.



BRODER

Focus moving from Carter, Kennedy to Republican candidates this month

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — October belonged to the Democrats, in terms of political headlines, but November should be the Republicans' month. Last month, it was Jimmy Carter and Ted Kennedy, waging proxy war in the Florida caucuses, and then coming together, briefly but dramatically, at the John F. Kennedy Library dedication in Boston.

But this month will see the campaign kickoffs of the last two major entrants in the Republican race, Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) and Ronald Reagan. So the spotlight will swing back to the GOP.

What it will reveal is that the year of preliminary activity has produced a two-fight competition for the Republican nomination. In the championship bracket, in terms of money, organization and support, are Reagan, John B. Connally, Baker and George Bush.

Obviously, the rankings are far from rigid at this stage, and a lesser known candidate could move up, particularly if Reagan stumbled.

Howard Baker is an interesting case — in

two respects. He is a political pro in a period when people have been conditioned to believe that amateurism is somehow equivalent to virtue in government. Baker's father, mother and father-in-law served in the Congress, and he himself has 13 years of Senate service behind him — including three as Republican minority leader.

Since he cannot deny his professionalism, he has taken the risk of proclaiming it, arguing that Carter is a case study in the costliness of amateurism.

But Baker's professionalism is of a variety that has not proved popular in presidential nominating contests, even in times when the voters were less skeptical of politics than they are today.

Baker is a serious — and competent — legislator, skillful in gaining his own objections and skillful in welding others in his party into an effective legislative force. He is in the tradition of Robert A. Taft, Richard B. Russell, Lyndon B. Johnson, Edmund S. Muskie, and Henry M. Jackson — all highly effective senators and all losers in the presidential nomination game, which

requires different skills than the substantive knowledge and manipulative abilities that are important on the Senate floor.

Baker is a more personable television performer than any of those men. But he shares with them a certain naivete about, and a certain disdain for, the grubby work of organizing turnouts for caucuses and primaries. He has hired a set of Young Republicans alumni to do the organizing for him, but it remains to be seen how well they will work with a man who personally has always been a bit aloof from that kind of nitty-gritty politics.

What is more predicatable is that Baker's television skills, displayed most prominently during the Watergate hearings, will be marketed effectively by the firm of Douglas Bailey and John Dearfourff, who have won campaigns with candidates far less adept at playing to the camera than is Baker. But in Connally and Reagan, Baker faces two men who are not merely good at political television — but superb. So the other aspect of his candidacy is likely to be more determinative than his skill as a television performer.

That is the question he will face in 1980 — toward the ward the future? Baker is the Big Four Republicans contender. While all of his rivals can lose impressive young supporters, at point, can match the quality of the figures who have come forward? Howard Baker.

That may be counted heavily or may just confirm what Baker and John Connally say — that Baker would make a fine vice-presidential candidate.

In 1976, that offer might have been his. But he's playing for bigger and posing a more interesting question: does it count much, in selection system, to be coming young and allied with the future? just a question of who can turn out for caucuses and primaries?

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LETTERS

Student's nausea stems from letter complaining of 'vile items' at Sbsa

Editor:

Pepto Bismol distributors in the College Station area must be reporting booming business. Each of the 456 signatures on Friday's letter to the editor claimed to have emptied many bottles of the peppermint nausea chaser.

I, too, became nauseated upon reading Mr. Cormier's account of the food in Sbsa. However, Skagg's was fresh out of P.B., so I had to survive without.

I think it is disgusting for citizens of the United States to be "forced" to eat those "vile items" so described. My reply borders on the same line as the bumper stickers which proclaim, "Don't talk about farmers with your mouth full."

I have never been hungry in my 22 years; hungry as the rest of the world sees it, not as we in the U.S. of A. do. A nation faces extermination in the Far East due to, not the lack of food, but to having no food at all. Sure, I could argue myself blue in the face about feeding the poor and starving nations. But no, I will not. For in my time at A&M I too have eaten a few bad meals in Sbsa. I have also eaten a good many of the good meals.

I have not, nor will I ever eat a "home-cooked meal" in a restaurant such as Sbsa. I have stuffed myself full of good ol' Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey along

with the other various foods at family homecoming meals. These meals are definitely superior to those in the Sbsas and Luby's.

My point is that a restaurant prepares food (not fast food) for a good many people without the knowledge of each person's particular eating habits. Home-cooked meals are prepared by those with that knowledge.

Granted, in a college situation where we must eat and run so often, the food should be acceptable. Also, if you do not like what hot meal is being served a particular night, you have many other choices (i.e. chicken, hamburgers). You could even skip a meal being under no obligation to eat it in the first place and eat out at your own expense. (You could simply do without for about five hours and probably crack under the "threat

of starvation.")

Or, you might remember that food is, save your money at the store and buy all the Pepto Bismol you can survive the off-campus food joints of these offers a solution, then you should go home and eat with Mom and Dad.

— Russ
Mathematics Graduate

THOTZ



by Doug Graham