

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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NOVEMBER 9, 1979

DICK WEST *New book with 'postdated hindsight' takes a look back at tumultuous 1980s*

By DICK WEST
United Press International
WASHINGTON — If you sometimes find yourself feeling nostalgic about the future, a couple of new books may help you recapture the good old days that are yet to be.

One is called "The '80s: A Look Back at the Tumultuous Decade 1980-1989." In the \$6.95 soft cover edition, it devotes 264 pages to wistful reminiscences about the years just ahead.

The authors, three New Yorkers blessed with postdated hindsight, sentimentally recall such impending developments as:
— America's first solar electric chair;
— Kidnap victims becoming legal tender in Italy.

Political apathy countered by giving away toasters to voters.

— Evelyn Wood, the speedreading pioneer, offering television fans courses in speedviewing.

The other tilt of the time frame is provided by Robert Orben, a professional humor consultant and former gagwriter for Red Skelton, Jack Paar, Dick Gregory and Gerald Ford.

He reports that everything funny about the 1980 presidential campaign has already been written.

Orben, who has composed enough quips to fill 44 books, claims all the comical aspects of next year's race are covered in his latest collection, "2,500 Jokes To Start 'Em Laughing." It provides wisecracks about

the spring primaries, one-liners that anticipate the summer nominating conventions, jests about Harold Stassen and so on.

In cases where the butts of the jokes haven't been determined, Orben has conveniently left blank spaces. Anyone wishing to make a mark as a political wit need only fill in the blanks with appropriate names.

Here, for example, is your basic New Hampshire primary joke: "With (Blank), (Blank) and (Blank) on the ballot, this could be the first primary in history where everybody runs second."

Here's your basic drunk candidate joke: "(Blank) is really looking forward to working the New England circuit. He thinks it's Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont." Here's your basic liberal candidate joke:

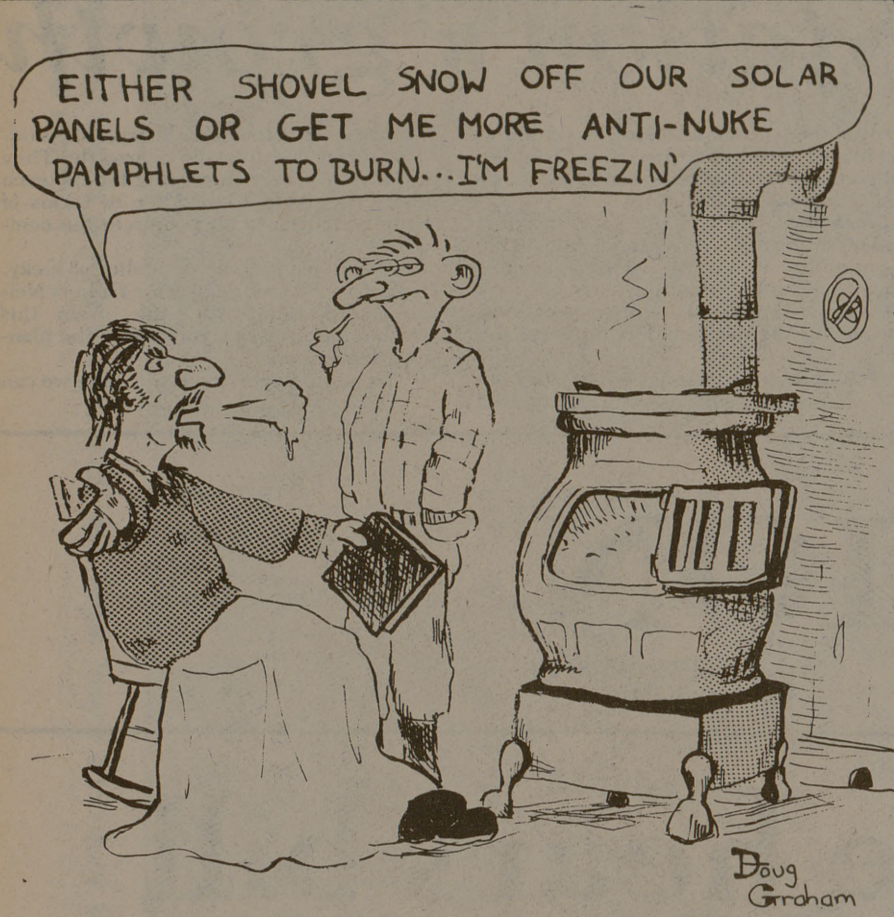
"(Blank) is trying to eliminate the city tax status which is ridiculous. That's all we have left."

Here's your basic convention joke: "(Blank) is just applied for a job as (Blank)'s speechwriter. It's not much work and he credits it to his high city credit rating."

And here's your basic dumb joke: "(Blank) has got more brains than you've got in your entire head than you've got in your finger."

Be advised, however, that the 1980 campaign gags had grown out of 54 percent before the book was published.

The (blank) campaign folder they named a beach chair after. When I visited the seashore, I saw Lowell Weicker beaching over the place.



OPINION Nuclear report card good, but not great

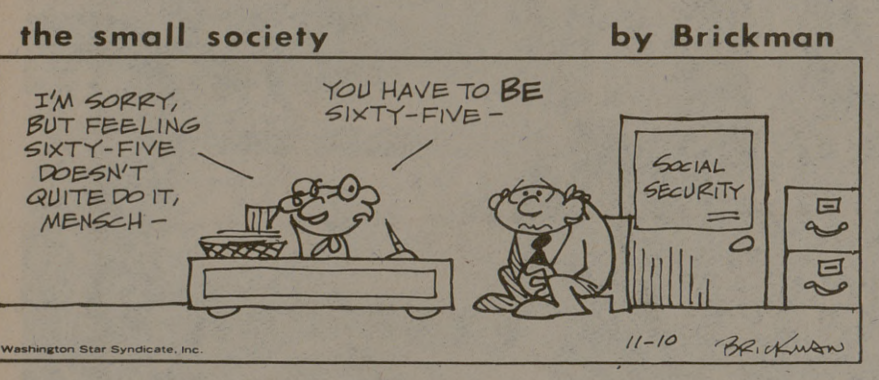
The Kemeny Commission's report on the Three Mile Island nuclear accident is a breath of fresh air in a controversy that more often resembles a street skirmish than a crucial national debate.

Among the findings:
— The fact no member of the general public has been injured by nuclear power in the past 25 years of nuclear plant operation has made the utility industry too casual about the potential risks.
— No one was discernibly injured from the extremely low levels of radiation released at Three Mile Island.
— The principal ill effects on humans was "mental stress" caused in part by misinformation put out by government officials involved.
— There was no imminent danger of a hydrogen bubble explosion as mistakenly reported by those responsible for assessing the status of the nuclear plant emergency.

To us, some things seem clear:
If the nuclear energy business is to survive in this country, it will have to improve its construction and design methodology and pay closer attention to safety.

However, despite the risks, the nuclear power industry still has a good record. It would be a mistake to close down 13 percent of this country's power generating capacity, either by a legislated national moratorium or as a result of an unjustified national hysteria.

Bangor, Maine, Daily News



WASHINGTON *Inflation: nation's No. 1 problem with no easy solutions for Carter*

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter keeps saying that the rate of inflation will be going down by the end of the year. But he does not explain the reasons for his optimism.

Carter meets with his economic advisers on an average of once a week. He has privately indicated on several occasions that he is disappointed with the advice he has been getting. In fact, economists as a group are not currently his most favorite people.

Carter has succeeded in getting the nation's labor leaders to pinpoint inflation as the nation's No. 1 problem. But there are no dramatic moves or magic answers as Americans dip into their savings and worry about a recession.

The experts are saying it could taper off from 13.2 percent to about 12 percent with

some declines in food and energy prices. Carter has adamantly and consistently ruled out controls, asserting they have not worked in the past.

The president has backed up Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker's tight money policies that have practically closed out the money markets. The president also says he does not agree with Volcker that Americans are going to have to make big sacrifices in their lifestyle.

Carter has dampened talk about a possible tax cut next year on grounds that it would exacerbate inflation. But some sources believe that it is not completely ruled out.

Inflation fighter Alfred Kahn, who took over with such a bang, charming Washington with his glib remarks, calling inflation "bananas," has slipped into the background except for an occasional speech. He is a

professor who has said at the outset that he can always go back to Cornell.

Barry Bosworth, deputy administrator for the Wage-Price Council, quit to return to the Brookings Institute. Bosworth did not make any points with the White House when he refused to rule out mandatory wage and price controls as a possibility at some future point.

Meantime, the White House seems to be pleased with the team of Miller and Volcker, having dumped former Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal who rubbed Carter aides the wrong way. The Georgia clique considered Blumenthal an elitist who did not fit into their circle.

Sometimes, Cabinet officials finally speak their mind when they are cleaning out their desks and ready to depart. Such was the case of Juanita Kreps, who has resigned as secretary of commerce.

Kreps revealed that although she had a major federal department that dealt with all aspects of business, she was far from the top economic policy maker at the White House. She was assured not a "sexist" thing. On the other hand, the administration's top-strategy policy making.

She apparently does not intend to return to her teaching post at Duke University although her previous positions of chancellor and professor are still there. Instead, she feels that a lot of lessons in economics she once taught longer hold true.

In many ways, Carter apparently has the same way as he searches for answers the scourge of inflation which plagues every American household.

LETTERS *New service open to qualifying Ags: Cars towed for a bargain rate of \$55*

Editor:
As Aggies and devoted Thursday night Lakeview patrons, we feel obligated to warn all other fellow Lakeview Ags of the perils of A-1 Wrecker Service. Yes, you read it right — A-1 has expanded its service from their existing Skaggs Parking Lot Branch in College Station to a Bryan Branch located on Tabor Road (Home of Dennis Ivy and The Waymen).

This highly personalized service, now available for the low, low price of only \$55, begins with a friendly and understanding Department of Public Safety Trooper who will personally call in the professional A-1 Towing Staff without even having to disturb the lucky victim's dancing fun.

To qualify for this service, all that is required is 1) a car 2) a roadway 3) a rear tire touching the roadway shoulder and last but not least 4) a bored Department of Public Safety Trooper.

If you are lucky enough to fill the above requirements you are now eligible for the benefits available to you by the considerate and well-educated crew of the A-1 Wrecker Service — and your car will be towed away for the bargain price of only \$35 (\$55 Total — \$20 for the Ticket and \$35 for the tow-in). No Visa, Master Charge, BankAmericards, or checks accepted.

The most exciting part of this rapidly expanding service is returning to the spot where your car was parked. At this point, the lucky female victims must learn to use their charms to procure a safe ride home or

fall victim to the now drunk Lakeview Patrons. Happily enough, however, most Lakeview Patrons are "Good Ags" and the female victims are safely escorted to their homes by three handsome Aggies. So ends an expensive night out to Lakeview.

Now, all joshing aside, the facts were: 1) Three female Aggies parked along side Tabor Road 2) A DPS trooper ticketed the vehicle and had it towed away for having

the right rear tire one inch on the shoulder 3) Three female Aggies were left stranded without a car.

Our questions are: 1) Was it so difficult for the DPS to simply notify the Lakeview owner that a maroon Thunderbird would be towed away if not moved? 2) Is it more dangerous to have a car's right rear tire parked one inch on the roadway shoulder or is it more dangerous to leave three

women stranded without a vehicle out I.D.'s and without money on a deserted road?

We, the three female Aggies, submit this letter to hopefully save other Aggies and their sanity. We hope you will "have" to be "picked up" at Lakeview.

— Judi Park
Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by two other signatures.

THE BATTALION
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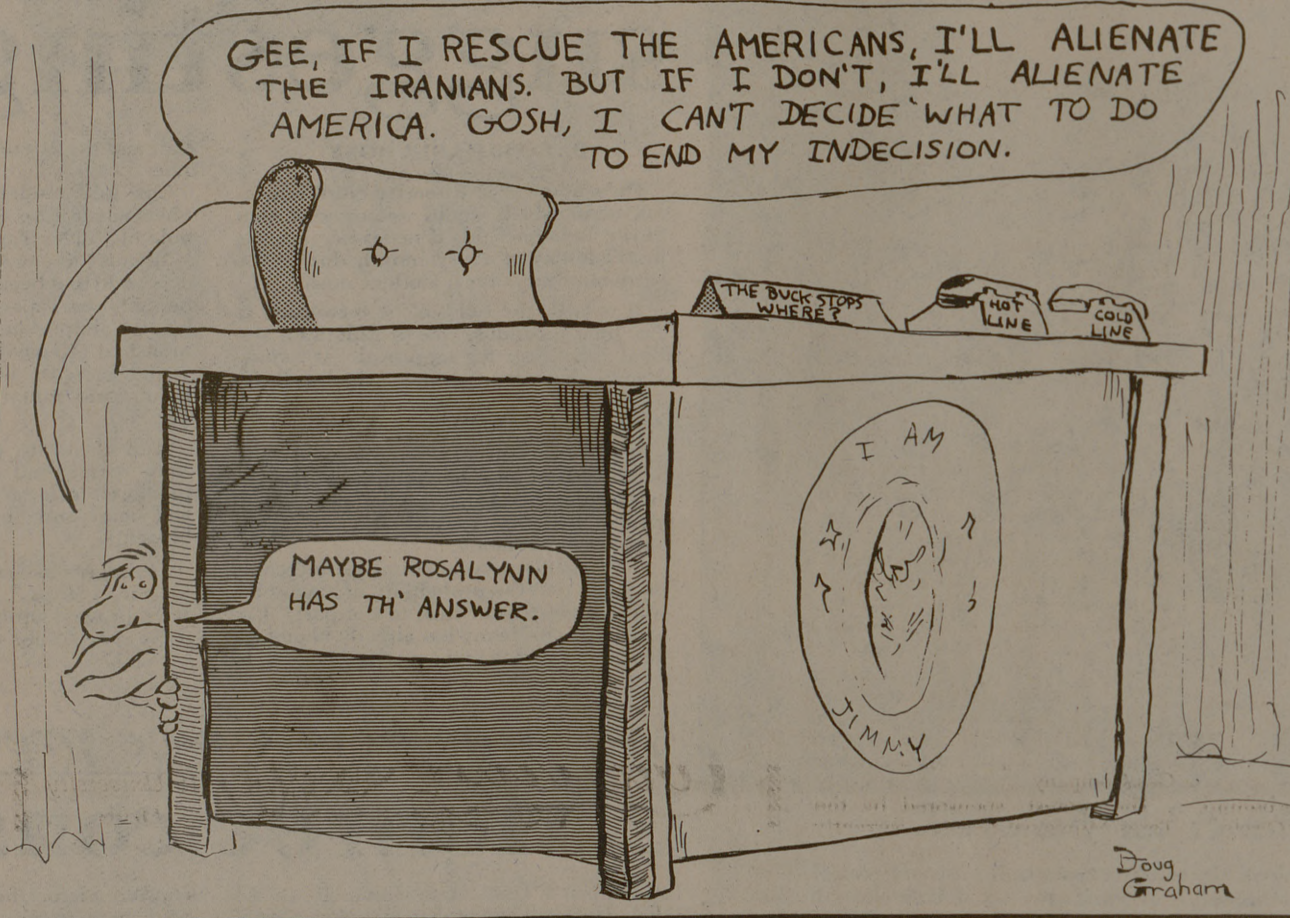
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THOTZ *by Doug Graham*

