

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I just came in to assure you, now that football season is over, that I'd have full time to devote to my studies for the entire remainder of the semester. Could you refresh me on the assignment that was due before the S.M.U. game?"

OPINION

Thanks, Dr. Miller

Our readership will not be as large today as it usually is. But that's all right.

The reason for the holiday from classes makes us — and Aggies across the world — quite happy. It ends a disappointing season on a good note and secures Coach Tom Wilson's job for a few more years.

But there's another reason this holiday is popular with students. An informal survey showed most students need this day. A lot of tests were scheduled, and a lot of projects were due.

So while there will be a little celebrating, we suspect there will also be a lot of studying.

Isn't that what college is all about?

Visa harassment unfair

President Carter's implicit threat of U.S. military action in Iran underscores the need for scrupulous attention to international law on the part of the American government. The Carter administration should strive to avoid all semblance of arbitrariness.

That principle applies with special force to the current review of the visas of Iranians living and studying in this country. In some places, this has already provided a pretext for official harassment. The Justice Department should make it clear to Immigration and Naturalization Service agents that they are not to inject political criteria into the visa review.

All Iranians in this country are guaranteed protection of their human rights under the UN charter as well as the U.S. Constitution. That rules out any attempts by the U.S. government to discover the political allegiance of individual Iranians.

The overreaction that has taken place so far represents a kind of creeping McCarthyism. The government should order it to stop.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
DECEMBER 3, 1979

BRODER

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — At breakfast the other morning, two of the wise men of American political journalism, Roscoe Drummond and Theodore H. White, were enlightening a group of lesser intellectuals about the practice of their trade. White quote an aphorism of Drummond's which he suggested ought to be stenciled on our brains as the 1980 campaign begins: "You can't get the right answers unless you know the questions to ask."

What are the questions that need to be asked of the men and women running for office in the coming campaign? Dozens of possibilities suggest themselves: "What will you do about inflation? About our energy vulnerability? About the growing doubts about America's capacity and will to protect our vital interests in the world?"

There are scores of personal questions, ranging from Chappaquiddick to the source of campaign contributions. And there are the hundreds of questions relating to an individual's or group's particular concern, be it abortions or busing, chiropractic or consumer protection, nuclear power or nutrition programs.

But in the time that has elapsed since I sat at the feet of Drummond and White, the question that has come back to the top of my own list for the 1980 candidates is of a

different character.

What is critical to know of people running for office at every level from president down to state legislature, I think, is this:

"What are you prepared and equipped to do to contribute to the reconstitution of effective government in this country?"

That is the operative translation of that "search for leadership" which has become the cliché theme of 1980 politics.

It suggests an understanding that what has been most conspicuously lacking at the federal level and in most of the states, as well, during the past decade has not been conscientious and capable performance by individual officeholders, but rather a government capable of delivering on its threats and promises.

By putting the question in that particular form it cuts off candidates from their most convenient and least convincing answer — the pledge that, by their personal skills, they will mobilize public opinion to prod the government to do what is needed.

That is a favorite answer of charismatic presidential candidates, who would have us believe that because of their personal integrity, sincerity or artistry with words, they would charm the birds from the trees and will good policies into existence. History — expensive history — says otherwise.

The most important question Can he revitalize government

To go on electing people on the promise that each of them will create his or her own majority for his or her own program by his or her own communion with the people is to guarantee a continuation of the babel and confusion that has served unsatisfactorily as a substitute for government these past 10 years.

What we need, instead, are people in the presidency and Congress, in state and local government who understand the need for coalition-building. We need people who have demonstrated the skills of negotiation and compromise, the insights, the articulateness and the boldness to overcome the centrifugal forces tugging at government in this hyper-pluralistic age.

Because these are rare skills, the best proof of their existence in any individual obviously lies in his or her demonstration of those skills in previous public office. Amateurs and outsiders, however well-motivated, are not likely to possess these qualities or to have honed them to any degree.

Because the political parties are weak reeds on which to rest one's hopes for building a coalition capable of governing, posing this question does not automatically favor the election of Republicans or Democrats. But it does imply, for Republicans, that they be people with a capacity for

reaching beyond the confines of their party and its constituent group working with and mobilizing elements in the society.

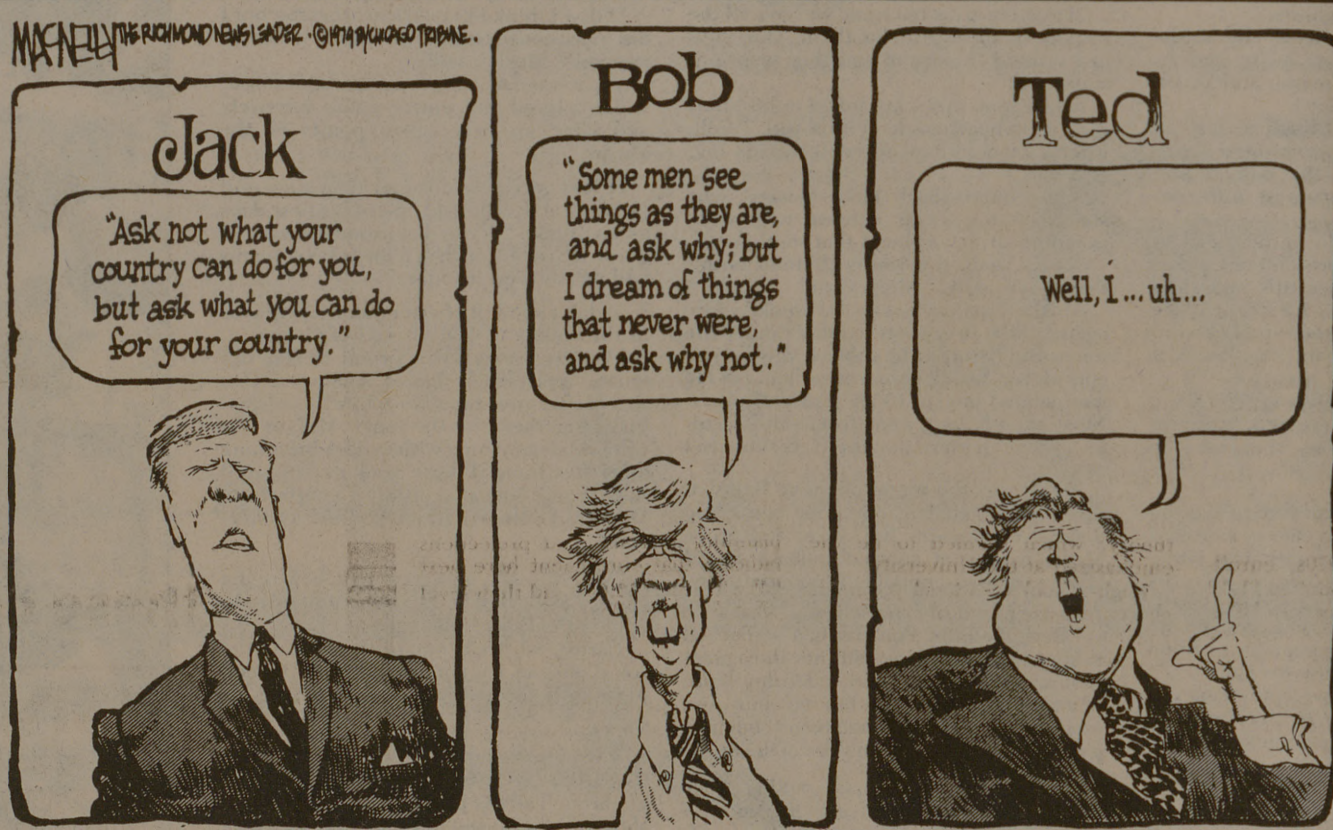
For Democrats, it implies that they be people who are at ease with the resources of their party's historic coalition who serve to unite those constituencies rather than align them against each other.

Most of all, it implies that they be people who are political in the fullest sense of the word — who are fully engaged, who bring the resources at their command to bear on the great questions that concern the communities, their states and the nation.

They need to be people who understand the political process itself, and whose essential contribution as leaders is that process, rather than achieving a place in history for themselves by enacting every paragraph of a program without amendment.

If we can find enough such people in the coming election, we can have some hope of solving the substantive problems that confront this country. For we have lacked for far too long.

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DICK WEST

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The world's first Baby Olympics will be staged next summer in the Pikes Peak region of Colorado.

The event, which will be open to athletic infants of both sexes, is being organized by Edwin Paget, 78, a retired speech professor and creator of a baby exercise program.

Paget said the idea came to him as he was watching a Russian therapist demonstrate on television how 6-month-old tots could be taught "vigorous swimming both in and under water."

Although the concept is not yet entirely clear in his mind, the Baby Olympics presumably will feature aquatic competition for miniature Mark Spitzes.

Paget, who is serious about his idea, said in an interview he also will offer "Awards

for Superior Babyhood." The honors sound something like the cradle equivalent of the gold medal Bruce Jenner won in the 1976 Olympic decathlon.

Additionally, there will be some "combined baby and great-grandfather swimming and running events," Paget said.

The self-appointed commissioner of amateur nursery athletics sent word of his plans from his winter home in Raleigh, N.C., where he is working out the details.

The Pikes Peak region was chosen as the locale because Paget spends his summers there running up and down that 14,000-foot mountain.

Last summer, a routine vacation for Paget, he made 41 ascensions, for a career total of 866. And next July 1, he intends to

Will lifting lead-filled rattles be an event in Baby Olympics

be at the summit when he announces the list of those qualifying for the Baby Olympics.

Since his retirement from the faculty of North Carolina State University, Paget has devoted much of his time to a one-man crusade to force U.S. presidents to undergo periodic "brain scans."

His underlying thesis is that many chief executives don't think clearly because their brains have been damaged by lack of oxygen.

Earlier this year, finding himself ignored at the White House level, he began advocating more vigorous exercise for children under 1-year-old.

They, too, suffer brain deterioration due to inactivity, Paget believes. The Baby

Olympics is an offshoot of that program as is the "circular perpetual-motion" he hopes to develop.

In a television commercial comparing a lot of house, an American boasts its suds as "the official beer of the 1980 Winter Olympics." As yet, there is no product tie-in with the 1980 Olympics, but Paget agrees the parties are virtually unlimited.

An "official teething ring," and "diaper pail" and an "official car seat" among the myriad designations he considers.

Paget also promises to consider proposals for expanding the Baby Olympics, such as a weight-lifting event for lead-filled rattles.

LETTERS

Editor: The best thing for those who oppose women in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M and its organizations is for the Justice Department and Melanie Zentgraf to win their sex discrimination suit.

After examining the aftermath that would follow, the results would tend to favor the anti-women movement instead of benefiting the women in the Corps.

First, when the women are integrated into the band they would also be integrating into all male outfits of the Corps. Since four outfits would be integrated, the rest of the Corps would have to follow and there would not be a need to have either W-1 or Squadron-14. The women would be placed exactly where the anti-women people want them, where they could personally see to the women's training and indoctrination into the Corps.

With the present Corps attitude it's very doubtful that a woman would ever be an outfit commander again.

If the dorms were not integrated the women would have a difficult time adjusting to the outfits and getting to know their classmates and upperclassmen, which is one of the ways that positions are decided. Even if the Trigon ruled there had to be a woman CO of an outfit, she would have a hard time getting cooperation from the rest of the outfit, which would lead to a downfall

of the outfit — that is, if she could take the mental harassment she would receive from day one of the Corps and survive the years of leadership position time.

If the outfits were to be integrated the ruling could also apply to the housing of all cadets and the dorms may have the integrated. Suppose there exists an extra female and an extra male in an outfit, would we have the "Harrod Experiment"? Surely the dorms can be converted to meet the sanitary and privacy required of both sexes,

Former band member says women will be hurt if Zentgraf wins suit

but her mother's thoughts of her daughter bathing, eating and sleeping with 40-60 men might not exactly meet with her approval and the women's enrollment might be less than what it is today, mainly because of parents' disapproval.

With the integration of the rest of the Corps, its organizations would follow; there would not be the need for a women's drill team, which a lot of heartache and sweat went into forming and maintaining.

The women would be just as equal and

have all the rights as men to compete in the Corps game by law, but the cards are stacked against them in reality.

It is the duty of every leader about those who follow him or her to pave the way to make their lives excellent leaders, but when individuals do not show the will to strive for self gain and hurt those below, they stop being a leader.

If Zentgraf wins, the women of the Corps in the long run will lose.

— Kim Thomas

THOTZ

