

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"It just occurred to me — I've never seen what you look like."

OPINION

Senate backs bottomless cup

The student senate is considering a resolution that would recommend reinstating a Texas A&M University tradition: free coffee refills in the MSC cafeteria.

For the last few months, the cafeteria has operated under a pay-as-you-go coffee refill rule. Customers are charged 20 cents for a cup of coffee and 20 cents for every refill.

"The Dreaded Refill Rule," to no one's surprise, hasn't been popular with the early morning regulars in the MSC Cafeteria.

One reason for the pay-as-you-go Dreaded Refill Rule was obvious — to cut the number of people studying in the cafeteria. The people at the Food Service studying in the cafeteria, don't like studying in the cafeteria because they take up a lot of space.

As soon as the Dreaded Refill Rule took effect, the Food Service people found it, ignored and disregarded.

Trying to stop the Dreaded Refill Rule was like using Stridex to stop a bullet. People not only continued to study in the cafeteria, but they gripped about The Dreaded Refill Rule, too.

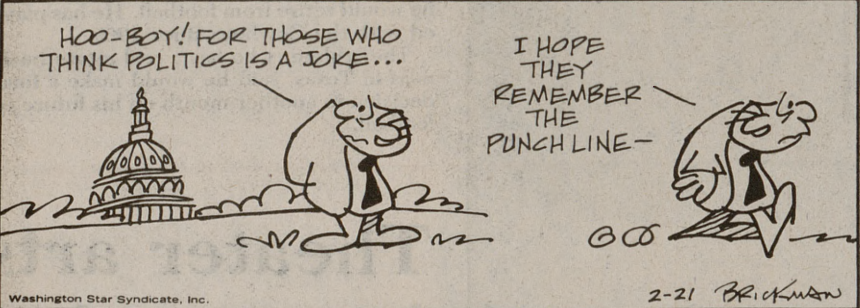
Since the senate's action last night was only the first consideration of a resolution that would recommend such a change, it may be a bit premature to rename the MSC Cafeteria "The Mrs. Olsen Coffee Shop." But it's still a good idea, and the senate ought to be congratulated for striking a blow for John Q. Aggie.

Oh, by the way, there might be some bad news, though. The resolution also suggests that the price for the coffee be comparable to the prices charged by other area restaurants; the average price for coffee in local restaurants is 40 cents.

Despite the possibility of a price increase, we think it's a great idea.

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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LETTERS POLICY

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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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 1980

Election winner should be familiar with Congress

By STEVE GERSTEL
United Press International

One of the unrelenting problems that has plagued President Carter during his stay in the White House is his inability to create a working relationship with Congress.

There are a number of reasons why this schism has endured from the moment the traditional "honeymoon" period ended, some months after Carter's inaugural, to this day. And there is no reason to believe the situation will change.

One of the underlying reasons for the problem is that Carter never knew nor understood Congress before he came to Washington. He has learned some, but not much.

A second term might make the going on Capitol Hill somewhat easier for the president if he and the White House staff profit from the mistakes of the first four years.

Which raises this question: Could any of the numerous candidates for Carter's job handle Congress any better?

Going on the premise that it would be difficult to do worse than Carter, the answer has to be yes.

The 1980 crop of presidential candidates has a singular advantage over Carter — most of them are knowledgeable about Congress, some of them very much so.

The two candidates sans Washington experience — Ronald Reagan and Jerry Brown — could run into many of the same problems unless they have learned from Carter's mistakes.

Reagan might well — as Carter failed to do — surround himself with top aides who are familiar with congressional moods and methods. Brown is much less likely to move in that direction.

The other pretenders either have served in Congress or have held posts in the executive branch that brought them to Capitol Hill. Some of them would find a reservoir of good will at the other end of the avenue should they reach the White House.

The candidate with the best prospects of a partnership with Congress is almost surely Howard Baker.

Baker, now in his fourth year as Republican leader, has been in the Senate since 1966. Baker gets high marks from colleagues who also seem to like him personally — Democrats as well as Republicans.

More important, Baker is known as a consensus politician who has always argued for congressional participation prior to the submission of legislation. Such an approach would surely endear him to members of Congress.

Another GOP candidate well-liked and highly respected on Capitol Hill is Rep. John Anderson of Illinois. Although his ideas would find resistance among some conservatives in his own party, Anderson probably would find it easier than other Republicans to work with the Democrats. Sen. Edward Kennedy — as he does with the electorate — rouses strong feel-

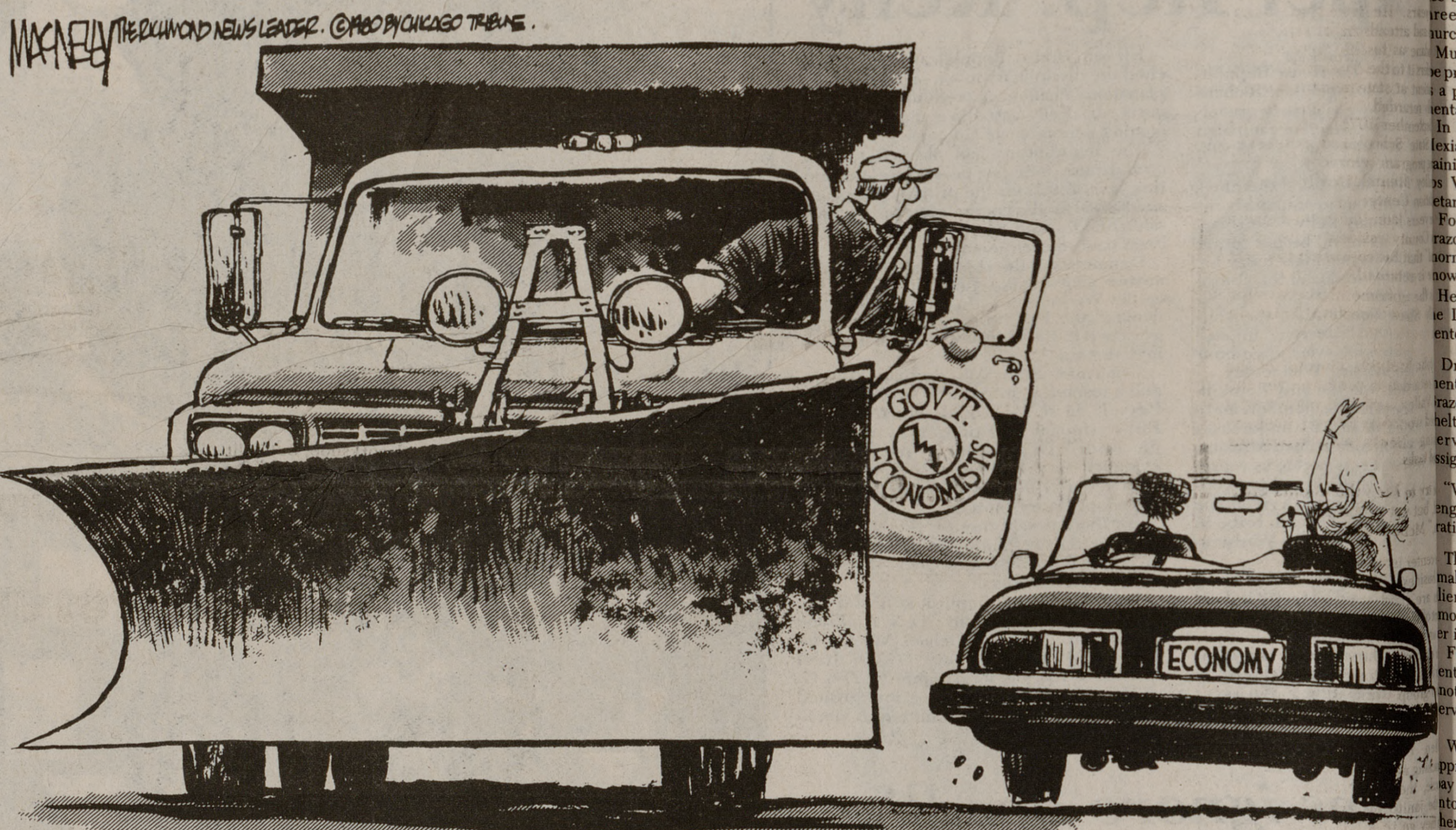
ings among members of Congress who could pose difficulties. So would any attempt to embark on an imperial presidency.

After 18 years in the Senate, Baker knows the workings of Congress. Members consider him a hard-working legislator.

George Bush served in the House then had stints as head of the CIA, Republican Party, and later served United Nations and as envoy to Cuba. One could approach Congress from many angles.

Connally's expertise comes from periods he served as Navy Secretary, Treasury secretary. So, he too, known on Capitol Hill.

The unknown in any assessment is the suspicion that no president will work harmoniously with a Congress still suffers from having covered succession of presidents, increased discipline and bows to special interests.



Everyone should pick cucumbers for National Letter Writing Week

By DICK WEST
United Press International

This year's observance of National Letter Writing Week, which begins Feb. 24, will stress the power of mail to "preserve memories, shape opinions and lift spirits."

By way of illustration, the Postal Service has reproduced some of the uplifting, opinionated and nostalgic correspondence it has collected from various sources over the years.

One letter that harpooned my attention was written in 1963 to Jacqueline Kennedy by a young school girl. It said:

"I wanted to ask you why women can't be presidents? Some people say that girls do more studying in school and care more if they pass than boys. If this is true, why are

men always presidents? This question came to me when I was picking cucumbers."

Insofar as I can determine, America does not now have a National Cucumber Picking Week. As the above suggests, however, picking cucumbers, even more than opening your mail, is likely to preserve memories, shape opinions and lift spirits.

I dare say the young girl who wrote to Mrs. Kennedy never once in her life received a letter that shaped her opinion toward sexual discrimination. It was a stint in a cucumber patch that lifted the spirit of women's liberation within her.

Anyone of either sex who has ever picked any cucumbers can easily reconstruct her thought process. It obviously ran something like this:

"Suffering salad bowls! Look at all those cucumbers! I'll never get 'em picked. Get me a drag! When I grow up, I'm gonna get a job where I'll never have to pick another cucumber as long as I live."

"Hmmm. Wonder what kind of job I should look for. A lifeguard, maybe. I never saw any cucumbers growing on the beach. Or maybe I'll grow up to be a photographer. Cucumbers couldn't grow in a darkroom."

"Yeah, that's it! A photographer. I read some place that Mrs. Kennedy used to be a photographer. If I learn to operate a camera, maybe I can marry a president, too."

"On second thought, why settle for marrying a president? Why not be one myself? There aren't any cucumbers in the White

House Rose Garden, I'll bet.

"Come to think of it, there are women presidents in the Rose Garden either. Wonder why. Girls do better school than boys do. I'll bet they make better presidents, too."

"I've got it! I'll write to Mrs. Kennedy and ask her."

Regrettably, the reply was not among the letters duplicated by the Service for Letter Writing Week.

My guess is the inquiry was returned over to lower echelon aides to file. If so, they probably responded by giving the girl a recipe for cucumbers.

Moral: Don't be discouraged if you haven't been spiritually elevating. You may have a cucumber for a pre-

THOTZ



By Doug Graham

BIOLOGY NOTEBOOK: THE EYE OF THE BRAIN PICTURED IN THIS CUTAWAY WAS SO SMALL, IT COULD ONLY BE USED FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE OR HISTORY.