

# SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I just don't think we're ready for a motorized umbrella opener."

## OPINION

### Campaigning is full-time job

Must we be forced to choose only among (presidential) candidates who can devote as much as two years of their lives to running for president? What kind of recommendation is that for the job?

In 1968, there were 17 presidential primaries. This year there are 34. There will be more four years hence.

Besides spare time, the primary system puts a premium on image and glibness because candidates, after all, are appealing to voters who usually are not knowledgeable about the issues. Having the right stuff early can give one momentum.

To maintain momentum, however, means you have to keep winning, and that takes money and press. Party insiders — the people we used to call bosses — no longer are much of a counterbalance, and they play an increasingly smaller role in the nomination process.

All of these factors together lead to what threatens now: early lockup of the nominations. This hardly seems like democracy.

Limiting choices is not what the party reformers had in mind when they sought to open the nomination process. Unfortunately, this appears to have happened despite their good intentions.

Shreveport, La., Journal

### the small society

by Brickman



3-27 BRICKMAN

## THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 26, 1980

## Political alliances mean little in recent presidential primaries

By STEVE GERSTEL  
United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Like ardent young suitors, Jimmy Carter and Edward Kennedy courted the fair maid, Jane Byrne of Chicago.

The fickle Jane first gave her heart to Jimmy — he thought he had her won — but, as is the wont of a woman, she changed her mind and pledged her troth to Edward. Alas, it was not a match made in heaven. Jane gave all the promise of being the finest catch of the season but her relationship with Edward never bore fruit.

The mayor of Chicago just could not deliver.

When Kennedy snatched Mayor Byrne from Carter's clutches, it was considered a political coup of the first magnitude.

With Kennedy already riding high in Illinois at that time, the endorsement by Mrs. Byrne was seen as the edge that would nail

them to a victory in Illinois — the first of the northern industrial states to hold a primary.

As it turned out, the Byrne endorsement proved less than worthless, although Kennedy gallantly thanked the lady mayor for her efforts after Carter trashed him in Illinois.

There were extenuating circumstances, to be sure. Kennedy's own popularity had virtually evaporated and Mrs. Byrne was plagued by misfortunes which descended on Chicago and sent her personal stock plummeting.

But there was no denying that Mrs. Byrne — despite her valiant efforts — just could not help Kennedy. He picked up only 14 of the 49 delegates in Chicago.

The painful lesson presumably learned by Kennedy is that — in this day and age — endorsements by noted political figures have little, if any value. And in some cases,

they can hurt.

Although the Kennedy-Byrne alliance is the most glaring example, the contests for the presidential nominations have already produced numerous cases to prove that the folly of endorsements.

John Connally, the former candidate, gambled his \$11 million campaign on the South Carolina primary. To win it, he enlisted the aide of Sen. Strom Thurmond.

Now Thurmond, the 77-year-old patriarch of South Carolina politics, is — in no way — another Jane Byrne.

Thurmond is a living legend in South Carolina, a politician with tremendous popularity and prestige.

And Thurmond didn't just endorse Connally. He campaigned for the candidate day and night, in the rural areas and the cities, traveling by plane and bus.

All of that time and energy went to waste. Thurmond was unable to transfer his popularity to Connally.

Big John finished a badly beaten in South Carolina and could not even win Thurmond's home precinct. The vote, Connally withdrew.

Senate GOP leader Howard Baker's presidential dropout, was the victim of the same syndrome.

Baker announced his candidacy before Maine Republicans held their convention, the highlight of which was "straw" vote.

Having entrusted the Maine operation to Sen. William Cohen and his "straw" Baker packed a large chartered jet national reporters to duly record the triumph of his campaign.

Baker was so confident of winning spent the morning of the vote in Vermont around in Vermont and returned to give his speech and wait the count.

But Cohen could not deliver. Bush Baker Baker and Baker's campaign never got off the ground.

McNEELY  
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## LETTERS Rush ad results in insulting phone calls

Editor:  
I am a member of a sorority at A&M, and I happen to live at the telephone number that was listed in the ad that the Panhellenic placed in the Battalion promoting the Rush Forum on April 2. Since I pledged as a sophomore, I have listened to several anti-Greek discussions, been called a "SB" and a "Geek" and basically have taken a lot of flack for being a part of something I believe in. I have sat back all this time because I feel that a lot of it is due to misinformation, stereotyping, and people who are not willing to accept any kind of change. I have never minded friendly kidding from people who have given the whole concept of Greeks a chance and simply chosen not to be a part. At least these people could recognize that we were individuals just as it is individuals who make up the Corps of Cadets.

But like a "Teasip" telling bad Aggie jokes, those people responsible for calling my apartment and telling me to "go to hell," telling me that I am a "whore," and telling me that all Greeks are "full of ----," are taking what I have always called a cheap shot. These guys with nothing better to do on a Saturday afternoon than to insult a person and a group that they have never met, never given a chance, and worst of all probably never will, could be the same guys who, in the 1980s, still consider all blacks "niggers." I won't say what group these students said they represented be-

cause I am certain they are a small part of a group of great people. What I wanted to say to them and to anyone else who doesn't have the guts to even mention their name when they verbally attack the Greeks is that you make me want to laugh. Call back and maybe one of us 500 "SBs" could meet you at the MSC SPO, the A&M tennis team courts, at a Student "Y" Fish Camp meeting, an RA meeting, or Young Life. Perhaps at a class officer meeting, at a student government meeting, Presidential campaign rally, the Dixie Chicken, Lakeview, or even the Military Ball. So if you want to call back, please do. Think about it because Aggies are all unified, and A&M is the biggest "fraternity" in the world.

Sharon M. Kuhn

### Campus media biased

Editor:  
The public media on campus never ceases to amaze me. As a leader of a student organization at Texas A&M, I have had the opportunity to deal with the campus newspaper and television station. In both situations, I question the objectivity and fairness of the reporters, not only to our organization, but also in stories relating to other student organizations.

It seems to me that to be a journalist on campus, a reporter must be subjective and negative, seeking only information supporting their views on the problems and

activities within the organization. Journalists seek out the graft in hopes of a headline story. There is usually little concern with the accomplishments and improvements that may have occurred during the semester, as is apparent in the coverage given to our organization. If an organization is doing well, chances are you will not read or hear about it, but if the organization is having problems, turn to page one or watch the six-thirty news — you will know about it.

My statements stem from my dealings with The Battalion and KAMU. In the fall, I talked with Doug Graham of The Battalion, about our organization. I showed him our improvements, told him of our performance and explained the problems we are having during the semester. The result: a predominately negative article dealing with the problems we had, an occasional reference to our improvements and no mention of our performances.

KAMU was the ultimate in journalistic deficiency. On Friday March 21, we performed for their cameras and I was interviewed by Norma Ocora. We talked about our activities, objectives, membership, and general information. When the story appeared on the news, it was dominated by references to a certain lawsuit our organization is named. There was no mention of the many performances we have made, no mention of the improvements within the organization during the year. It was a muckraking job about a case that has had no relevancy to this year's goals and accom-

plishments. It was a poor job of reporting failing to get information and make a jective story.

The point I am trying to make is that everything you see printed or televised on the level. As I have seen and experienced, reporters will take parts of statements out of context to support the story they are looking for. The things you see on the news are important are overlooked while graft or problems prevail. Journalists seem to dwell on the idea that people only want to know about other people's problems after all, look at the front page of a newspaper or watch the evening news.

What right do reporters have in getting only part of the information and have their story on it instead of researching facts and making an objective story? I do not mean a whitewash job, nor do I mean sixty minutes type execution. Why do journalists be comprehensive in the search for information and then object and fair in the final product? Once it reaches the viewer or reader, it creates an impression that is hard to change. If the story is biased or one-sided.

I feel that the campus media has been unfair in its coverage of our organization. I only hope that other student organizations will not fall into the same traps I have had dealings with The Battalion and KAMU.

Andrew C. B. Parson's Mounted Cavalry

By Doug Graham



PALEONTOLOGY NOTES: THE DICKBILL DINOSAURS OF THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD EVOLVED AN EFFECTIVE SET OF TEETH FOR EATING PLANTS. THEY HAD THOUSANDS OF TEETH, WHICH GREW REPLACEMENTS AS THE OLD ONES WORE OUT OR BROKE. P.D. IS A PARAPSAUROLOPHUS, CHEESEWORTH IS A TRACHODON.