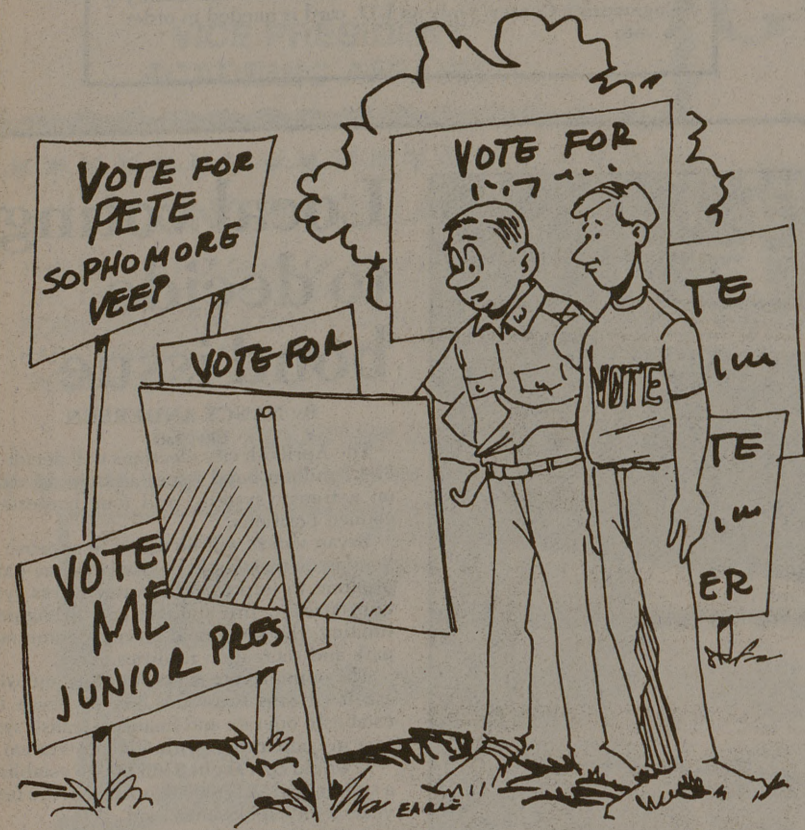


# SLOUCH By Jim Earle



"Could this be right? Harold Stassen running for class secretary?"

# OPINION

## Letter writers miss point

Two letters received at The Battalion Tuesday have confirmed what we suspected earlier — a segment of our readers perceive our coverage of last week's senate meeting as a Battalion-senate war.

Both of the letters attack our news coverage and our editorials on the matter. Our response: the attacks on our news coverage are in error, and we don't have to defend our opinion.

But, both of the letters show us that we have failed to make one point clear — this action by the senate involves every student at the University.

This intense coverage is not as a result of a "news-no-matter-the-consequences" policy as the letter printed below states. It's a "truth-no-matter-what" policy.

The writer below supports President Miller's financial tomfoolery involving the student senate. We don't. We think the students of Texas A&M have the right to know what they're being involved in and we want to tell them. That's our job.

The student senate and the administration no doubt believe that what they're doing is for the ultimate good of the University.

Our intent, although it isn't apparent to some of our readers, is the ultimate good of this University, too. And the revelation of the truth will lead to the ultimate good of the school.

the small society

by Brickman



# THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

## 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

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 2, 1980

# A loaf of bread, a gallon of Shell Premium Unleaded and thou

By DICK WEST  
United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department reports it has made or guaranteed loans to finance three down-on-the-farm distilleries that produce fuel for tractors.

But earlier this year the U.S. Park Service denied a group of farmers permission to operate homemade stills on federal property to demonstrate a capacity for turning crops into ethyl alcohol. Officials pointed out the stills were the same kind used in making illegal "moonshine."

This policy divergence — one agency underwriting what another agency forbids — may explain why gasohol production is still in the incipient stage. Apparently,

there is fear the spread of white lightning technology could create a lively traffic in bootleg gasohol.

The way fuel taxes are rising, that concern seems well grounded. The next thing we know city dwellers will be making bathtub gasohol and every neighborhood will have a back room service station where motorists knock twice and tell the pump attendant that "Charlie sent me."

Maybe the gasohol speakeasy isn't right around the corner, but the pattern was set recently when a Virginia bourbon distillery and a New Jersey brewery began producing ethanol.

If they can do it, the makers of corn and rye whiskey, gin, vodka, rum and applejack

surely can, too. And so can foreign producers of Canadian, Scotch and Irish whiskeys.

At least one major oil company has for some time mixed gasoline to order, depending on the octane rating the motorist desired.

Such a pump surely could be adjusted to handle gasohol in a similar manner, varying the ratio of gasoline to alcohol according to individual needs, or whims.

The scene is easy to visualize:

"What'll it be, Mac?"

"Gimme no-lead and rye."

"Gotcha. How would you like it?"

"Very dry."

The attendant sets the pump for a 4-to-1 mixture — 80 percent gasoline and 20 percent alcohol. When the nozzle cuts off, the

motorist says, "Another gallon please."

"I think you've about got a tank."

"Ah, come on," the motorist says.

"One more for the road."

After that, it would just be designing attachments to provide blends of whatever brand a motorist

desired.

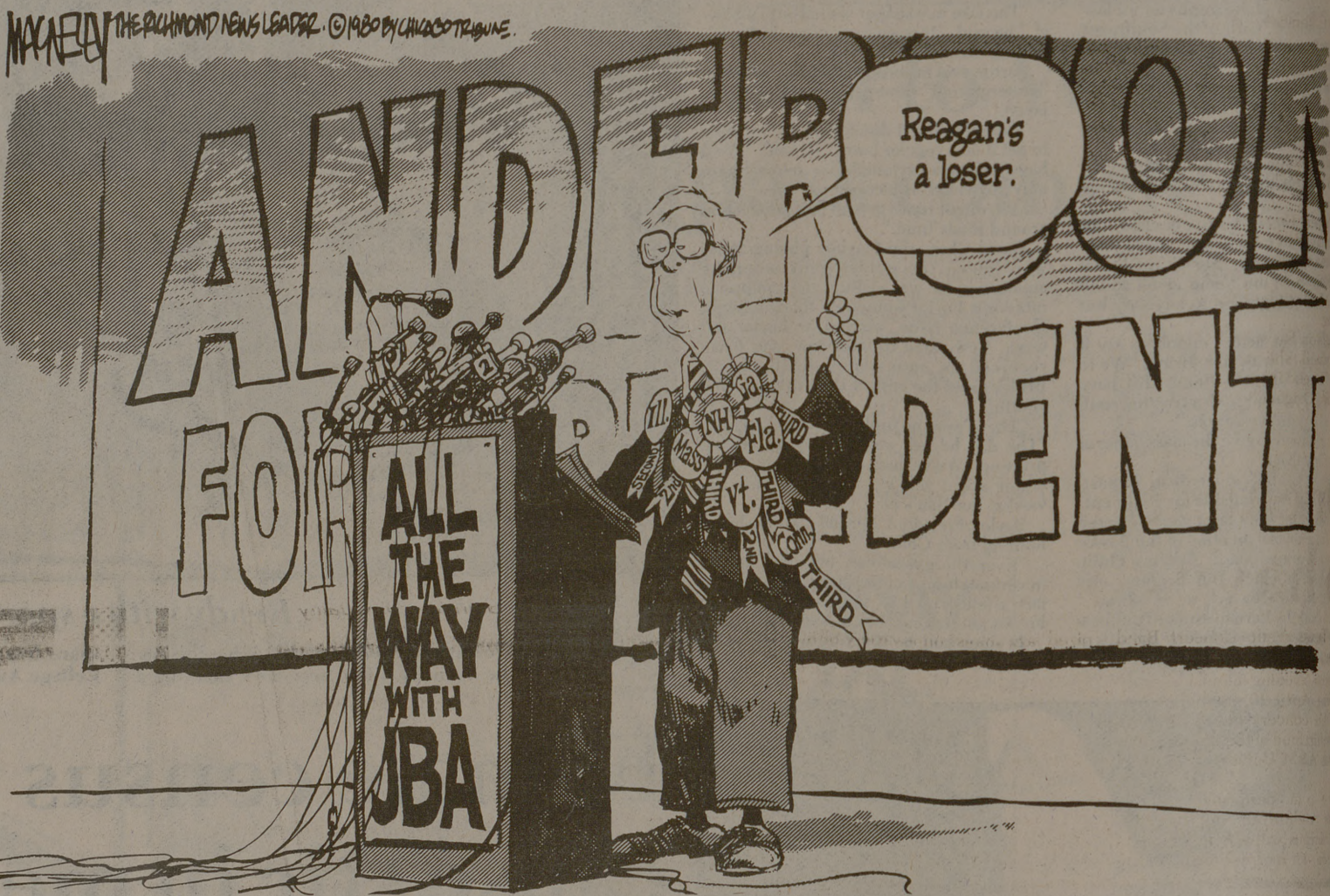
One car, for example, might require peak efficiency on Exxon and Chevron.

Another might run best on Texaco's gram's 7.

What I dread is the day we see ethanol from fermented grapes

to gasohol connoisseurs. Then we have to learn when to use Mobil.

What was the best year for Gulf?



# LETTERS Battalion stories on closed session biased

Editor:  
Michael J. Robinson, in his article in *The American Political Science Review*, June 1976, states:

"American journalism apparently operates under a principle similar to Gresham's Law — the bad drives out the good, and the negative supersedes the positive."

This seems to be the case in the Battalion's recent coverage of the student senate's closed session Wednesday night.

In the five day interim since the incident, the Battalion has printed numerous articles and editorials (six occurring in the March 31 edition alone), all of which have been a biased account of the senate's and, I might add, the administration's actions in this incident. This bias is in complete contradiction to The Battalion's own argument against the session since it (the Batt) is not fulfilling its own obligation to the student body, namely to report the news in an objective manner, giving equal weight to both sides of the issue. The Batt has failed miserably in this respect, continually playing down the reason for the closed session in an attempt to create news and not to report it. This type of "yellow journalism" and flagrant sensationalism we at A&M can do without, a contention

which, it seems, is held by more Ag's than myself (refer to the Battalion, Wed., March 26).

Furthermore, it would seem the staff of the Batt has no sense of moral responsibility to the student body. Publication of the material discussed could have detrimental effects for all students, what with discrimination litigation pending (i.e., the Zentgraf Case) and the threat of litigation from HEW hanging over our heads. Irresponsible journalism at this critical period could have ill effects not only for present Ag's, but also for Aggies for many years to follow. The Batt's policy of "news-no-matter-the consequences" is, in true two-percent fashion, a detriment to this

great institution and the ideas and traditions which it stands for.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support President Miller's "foolish tomfoolery" since I wholeheartedly support this school, and if it means my being involved in a lawsuit in order to get (or keep) A&M out of a judicial jam, then I consider it a privilege to do so. Remember, Highway 6 runs both ways.

Stan Otto '83

## Caperton sells out

Editor:

Three cheers for Frank Mann for having the guts to stand up to a double-talking politico like Kent Caperton. Caperton said in Hempstead near Prairie View A&M that "Texas is shortchanging Prairie View." Then, he went to Huntsville and for Sam Houston State's benefit he was quoted as saying, "The Permanent Fund will just have to stand on its own," without help from the Legislature. (Note that Sam Houston

doesn't participate in the PUF.) A&M, Caperton said he'd work for the Permanent Fund. Which one is Caperton?! This is the kind of talking politician we can all do without. The fact remains that Caperton stands in the back. Now he thinks we're meant that we'll forget about it and he'll get TV commercials, probably paid for by unions. Frank Mann is right. Caperton's no Aggie and never will be. He's willing to sell us out for where!

John L...

## Writing the editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. However, to be acceptable for publication these letters must meet certain criteria. They should:

✓ Not exceed 300 words or 1800

characters in length.

✓ Be neatly typed whenever possible. Hand-written letters are acceptable.

✓ Include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification.

# THOTZ

THIS STRIP ABOUT SYLVESTER CHEESEWORTH'S CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT IS BEING HELD IN CLOSED SESSION IN THE INTEREST OF THE STUDENT BODY.

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO FIND OUT WHAT OCCURRED CAN CALL THE CARTOONIST-EXCEPT BATT JOURNALISTS WHO MIGHT PUT IT IN PRINT.

HINT: IT INVOLVED NO FUND TRANSFERS. Doug Graham

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