

# OPINION

## Gun control is necessary

The mayor of San Francisco and a city supervisor are shot to death.

A one-term congressman who was a friend of the Kennedy family is shot to death in his office.

The mayor of St. Albans, Vt., the first woman mayor of that northern metropolis, is fatally shot.

The doctor who wrote the famed "Scarsdale Diet" is shot to death.

The former mayor of Evansville, Ind., is shot four times by a woman.

A man is slain at the dinner table — again by a gun.

The thing that all these shooting victims had in common is that they were killed by people who knew them.

Unhappily, most persons who are shot to death in this country are killed by people who know them — not by total strangers or what might be considered criminal types. An argument gets out of hand, love turns to rage that is compounded by the closeness of the relationship, a gun is at hand and it is used before the user can calm down. If he had a book or a plate at hand, he might fling it with limited results. A fired gun, however, is so fatal.

The opponents of gun control legislation might ponder this before automatically coming out against every effort, no matter how modest, to cut down on the number of senseless fatal shootings that take place in America every year.

Newport (R.I.) Daily News

## Carter's actions inconsistent

If there were no other reason to evict President Jimmy Carter from the White House (but there are a hundred reasons), his mishandling of the Iranian hostage affair, now highlighted by his admission of about 11,000 Iranians into this country, should be sufficient cause for his defeat.

There is no way of knowing how many of them are spies, how many are terrorists, how many are for us and how many are against us.

Furthermore, the Immigration and Naturalization Service Headquarters in Washington has issued a directive to immigration inspectors saying that "Iranians shall not be questioned as to whether they are pro- or anti-shah, Khomeini or USA."

In other words, Iranians are being let in by the thousands and we are not even making a close check of what their motives and records may be.

This is outrageous! Iran has declared war on us and imprisons our people — and President Carter not only coddles Iran but lets thousands of potential enemies pour into our country unchecked.

This stupidity, carelessness and ineptness should cause his removal as president. But while it is bad enough in itself, it only indicates his lack of grasp of the total world challenge to America and his inability to face up to it and handle it.

Mr. Carter has surrendered. The American people should not.

Chattanooga News-Free Press

the small society

by Brickman



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# THE BATTALION

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# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY  
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## Reagan urged to consider vice presidential candidates early

By DONALD LAMBRO

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — With the Republican presidential nomination almost within Ronald Reagan's grasp, increased attention is focusing upon who the former California governor will choose as his vice presidential running mate.

While Reagan has not yet begun to think seriously about it — believing there is time enough once he has nailed down the nomination — some of his closest advisers and supporters have been discussing the No. 2 spot in earnest.

According to key Reagan strategists, two chief criteria will govern the GOP conservative's selection: youth and political compatibility. Reagan has vowed not to repeat his mistake of 1976 when his selection of the then-liberal Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-Pa., angered many of his bedrock supporters and, some say, cost him the nomination to Gerald Ford.

Interviews with a wide range of Reagan's closest supporters reveal that six names dominate the list of choices. They are Senate Republican leader Howard Baker of

Tennessee, former Treasury Secretary William Simon, Gen. Alexander Haig, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, and former U.N. Ambassador George Bush, who remains in the race against Reagan.

Surprisingly, despite his position as a longtime party moderate, Baker is being supported by a number of staunch congressional conservatives as Reagan's strongest choice.

"I could support Howard without reservation," said a conservative GOP senator who has backed Reagan from the beginning. "He would give the ticket a broader base of support and give a Reagan candidacy much more muscle. But the question is whether he could pledge one hundred percent loyalty to the governor."

Said another Reagan supporter in the House, "With the exception of the Panama Canal treaties," which Baker supported and Reagan opposed, "there isn't that much separating them. He would be acceptable to a number of conservatives."

Still, the GOP Senate leader is strongly opposed in a number of conservative quar-

ters (the right-wing weekly Human Events said Baker's selection would represent a "betrayal" of conservative views). And indeed, Reagan himself has privately indicated the Tennessee lawmaker is not high on his list.

That indication came recently when Reagan received a strong plea to place Baker on his ticket from two GOP senators during a private conference call in which the senators, joined by Ted Stevens of Alaska, pledged their support to the Californian.

Sens. Pete Domenici of New Mexico and Alan Simpson of Wyoming took the opportunity to suggest that Baker would be Reagan's smartest choice for vice president. Reagan, however, was decidedly cool to the idea and offered two reasons which he said mitigated against Baker.

First, there was Baker's active support of the Panama Canal treaties, for which many conservatives have never forgiven him. Second, Reagan pointed out, Baker's unsuccessful entry into the early presidential primaries revealed that he had "little vote-getting ability" outside his own state.

Nonetheless, mindful of Baker's popularity among party moderates, Reagan would rule no one out. And that when push comes to shove, GOP moderates and conservatives could sway Reagan's mind.

Baker has already made it clear he would accept the No. 2 spot if offered it.

"Remember, if he won, Reagan would begin his presidency at age 70," Baker partisan. "Howard would be not to accept it."

But one well-placed Capitol Hill source said, "I'd be willing to put it. Baker will not be Reagan's choice. But it is doubtful that Baker would support Reagan's policies in the event of a future run for the White House. He don't think so."

Meanwhile, among the list of running mates, one name seems to be more than any other as being acceptable to everyone — conservatives or not. That was freshman Sen. Richard L.

MACAULEY THE RICHMOND NEWS LEADER. © 1980 BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



## LETTERS New campus election methods needed

Editor:  
Election polling at Texas A&M University is archaic and offers an easy way to cast illegal votes. For about \$3.00 any student wanting to give his preferred candidates a better chance at winning can purchase a duplicate ID card and vote twice or for as many duplicate ID cards in his possession

### Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' Forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

for that matter. Another system should be implemented in which duplicated votes could not occur. Below are three suggestions:

**Solution 1:** Each student will code his ID number on his ballot. The ID number will be verified by the poll officer by examining the student's ID card. The computer will maintain a file of ID numbers of students who have voted. On each ballot read the computer will compare the voter's ID number against those in the file. Duplications will result in a void of the duplicate vote. This will utilize the same system with only minor program modifications. It will still allow for wide dissemination of polling area. Its only drawbacks are a slower and more expensive computer tally and fear among some students that someone may know how they voted since their ID number was on their ballot.

**Solution 2:** Every student's name and ID

number will be printed out alphabetically. Polling areas will have only a certain portion of the alphabet. Each student must vote at a location determined by the first letter of his last name. After a student is issued a ballot his name will be checked off the list followed possibly by his own signature. The drawbacks of this method are much lower dissemination of polling areas meaning less voter participation due to polling location inconveniences.

**Solution 3:** The last solution is to issue the ballots from a central location making sure each student receives only one ballot. This is the most inconvenient method and one that would probably result in the lowest voter participation.

The problem is a difficult one to solve but still a solution is needed to eliminate the possible graft which probably goes on in every election.

Nathan R. Banks '83

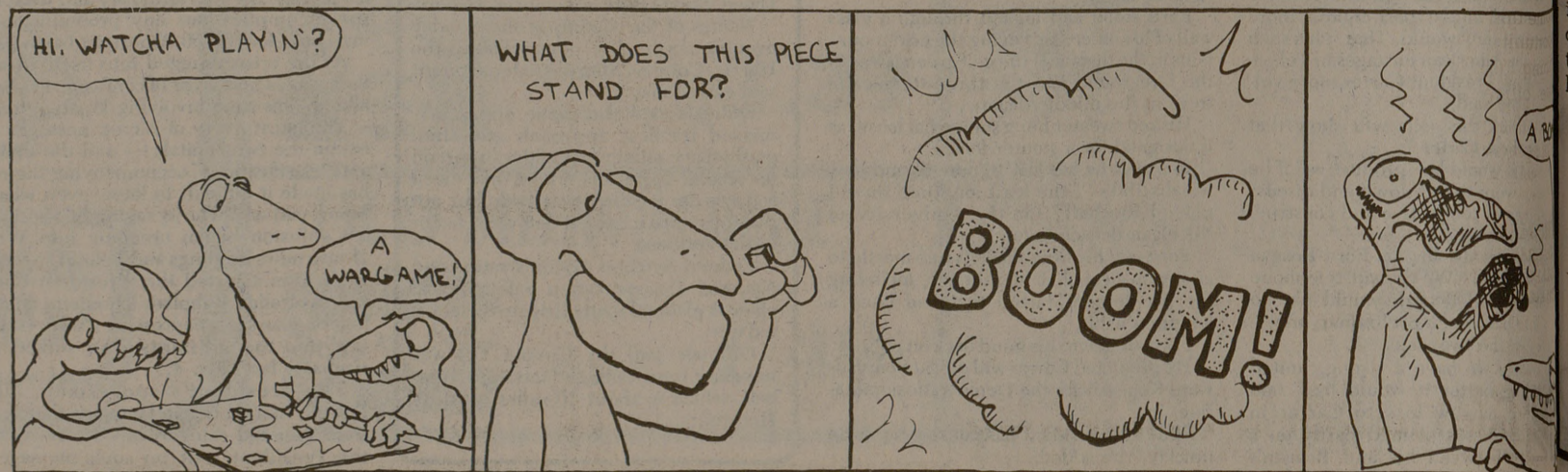
### Walker backs Smith

Editor:  
Open letter to the student body President. I wish to express my appreciation to everyone who supported me with their votes.

At this time, I feel it is my responsibility to express my views on the runoff election. Having three years experience in Student Government, I come to know each of the presidential candidates well. Although both are capable individuals, Brad Smith has himself the more capable leadership qualities. His continuous response to students' interests through the many announcements of his Student Services Corps leads me to endorse Brad Smith for Body President.

Debbie

## THOTZ



By Doug Graham