

SLOUCH By Jim Earle



"It seems like only yesterday when I was trying to buy them."

OPINION

Give blood for yourself, family

You have the opportunity this week to demonstrate that you care for your family, your friends, and your fellow Aggies. And in so demonstrating you can also lend a hand in the fights against cancer, leukemia, and hemophilia. Today through Thursday you can do these things and more by giving blood in the Aggie Blood Drive.

Donating one pint of blood and an hour or two of your time entitles you and all members of your family to free blood at any hospital in the United States. With blood selling for up to \$110 per unit (pint) at some hospitals, how can you not give? Further, if enough students give, the coverage can be extended to students' more distant relatives and friends. This extended coverage has always been the case in the past. In fact, no request for blood from a Texas A&M student has ever been denied by Wadley Blood Bank.

You can donate blood in 212 MSC between noon and 9 p.m. or at the mobile blood bank by Sbisla between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Donors must weigh more than 110 pounds, be in good health, and cannot be receiving certain types of medication.

Don't be discouraged by a waiting line — take a book along; go with a friend; go with a group and plan how you are going to dispose of those kegs that Loupot's is offering as prizes to the three organizations that give the most blood.

A lot of people in Alpha Phi Omega, Omega Phi Alpha, and Student Government have put in long hours at no pay for your benefit. Now do your part: give.

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.

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., New York City, 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 Tuesdays through Thursdays.

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

TUESDAY
APRIL 8, 1980

When it comes to campaigning, Reagan is no amateur politician

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

United Press International
WASHINGTON — It is about time to say something nice about Ronald Reagan. He is a better politician than his opponents and he is winning the race for the Republican presidential nomination because he is running the best campaign.

After almost two months of watching the Republican contenders, it is clear Reagan is the only one who has his campaign and himself under control.

That is not to say he has made no mistakes. He has, in fact, committed some classic blunders. The most serious was to refuse to debate in Iowa, which started the campaign with a loss. The funniest was when he identified Hank Sauer as a black baseball player.

His Mafia duck joke alone would have destroyed some candidates, and confessing ignorance of parity in Kansas would be

enough to send many campaign managers to the window ledges.

But none of these bloopers untracked the Reagan campaign. Some of that was luck, but most of it had to be that the campaign's basic merchandise, the candidate, was strong enough to withstand adversity.

Reagan has two assets that set him apart.

The first, which could be credited to his long years as a professional actor, is that he never seems to lose control. Even when he is surprised by a question or an unexpected turn of events, Reagan is able to respond in a way that elicits more sympathy than contempt. On camera and on stage, he is the only candidate in either party who seems to be relaxed and the only one who dares to poke fun at himself.

The second is the real plus of his campaign. When he lost the nomination in 1976, Reagan and his advisers saw that he had built a personal following that could be preserved for another try. So he set up a

holding operation, Citizens For The Republic, and kept his people on the string until it was time to start active campaigning again.

Came 1980 and just about every Republican who ever looked in a mirror and saw a president decided to run for president. Every one had to start from scratch to build either identification or political organizations. Reagan already had both.

Sen. Howard Baker was the only GOP candidate who seemed as much at ease on the stump as Reagan. But he didn't have an organization or a constituency and he started too late to build either.

George Bush worked hard to build an organization and to make the most of his Republican connections around the country. But Bush is an amateur campaigner and when something goes wrong, he shows it. Chicago columnist Mike Royko observed with some insight that when Bush

was advised to start acting tough, he

aged only to appear hysterical. John Anderson is an aberration. Republicans can be elected in some states but the hard core of the GOP is not and it is almost impossible for a candidate's ideas to win the general election. There never really was a public constituency waiting for Anderson, and as the evidence of that in, John Anderson began soundly beating John Brown.

Ideology may still be a problem for Reagan, but so far he has been enough not to get caught in far-reaching announcements, such as advocating the TVA or turning Social Security into the insurance companies.

Reagan still could lose the nomination but it will take a campaign and a better than what has shown up so far to get it away from him.

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LETTERS Shedding light on Caperton's campaign

Editor: I have noticed two letters condemning Judge Kent Caperton's candidacy for the Texas Senate. I would like to take this opportunity to shed light on Judge Caperton's true position regarding Texas A&M University.

First, Judge Caperton is a former Texas A&M student body president. Second, he served as assistant to former President Williams. Third, he has been employed by A&M as a visiting lecturer. Kent Caperton has no desire to dismantle the Permanent Fund. On the contrary he has proposed to increase our share of this sacred fund. He does wish to bring Prairie View A&M up to current educational standards, but never at the expense of Texas A&M. Anything to the contrary is simply false, based on innuendo.

Let us put a stop to false rumors. Let us scrutinize the records of both candidates and their positions on the issues. Let us not deal in rumor and deception.

Lisa Mims '81

Lively editorial page

Editor: From past experience, without your solicitation, I know you guys need this missive. My letter about the letter about the coverage of the Senate Closed Session Controversy will serve as the next-to-last mention of a dead or dying and certainly somewhat boring topic. (Hey, c'mon, we've got to handle magnitudinous happenings with respect; reduce the pressure and deflate

the plaything of passionate intensity — do this gently and with journalistic decorum (I know, oxymoronic.)

Anyway — Stan Otto's letter in Wednesday's Batt was a smashingly successful disappointment.

Why, the fellow starts out so proper and all with the requisite quote from a higher source; I was exceedingly, might I go so far as to say quite, crushed when he concluded with cliché and emotional banality.

What I mean to say, wisely avoiding mention of specifics, is the good ole boy missed the point (and I'm not gonna explain by how much); what I mean to say is that his letter is somewhat analogous to the proverbial chainsaw shaver. Did I say proverbial? And "somewhat analogous"?

Silly me! His letter is one and the same with a chainsaw. (Note especially noise, precision and fashionable diction.)

Why complain about "flagrant plagiarism"? It's produced higher quality than we usually find in the Battalion. Thanks Sager.) And the school newspaper's purpose is to inform. Puppies think differently, no one else.

Finally, Congratulations Batt student Miller and Senate member. My sincere cooperation the entire effort would have been a failure. It's been a long time hungry I could eat a horse. The runs both ways.

John Paul

THOTZ

