

SLOUCH By Jim Earle



"I'm not sure that we can approve a class cut on the grounds that you're on a tornado watch."

OPINION

Library problem is alarming

A good joke is funny, but there are some things that will never be funny.

Last night, as on Monday night, someone thought it would be lots of laughs to trip a fire alarm in the library.

There are several ways to have fun in the library — tying up all of the elevators on one floor or looking up dirty words in the dictionary, for example. These are questionable but harmless ways of having fun in the library. Threatening people's lives by sending in false alarms is another matter, though.

Librarians say there have been so many false alarms, some students ignore them completely.

On both nights, several students chose to ignore the alarm, figuring that it was another phony. As it turned out, they guessed correctly this time, but what if it had been a real emergency?

This semester alone, the library has been evacuated four times because of false alarms.

Maybe someone actually thinks that tripping the alarm is funny. More than likely, whoever is responsible for the interruptions is stealing books, since the detection devices at the front door are shut off and the fire escapes are open for use.

If it's only books this cretin wants, perhaps the library ought to give the books away. Anything is preferable to the inconvenience and possible danger of any more false alarms.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
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Carter's 'good news' strategy is letting him manage the news

By DAVID S. BRODER
From "Showboat" days on, lyricists and pinning lovers have only been able to hope that "maybe Tuesday will be my good news day." But a President, especially a non-campaigning President, can help manage the news to insure happy primary-election Tuesday by feeding the voters upbeat information on their way to the polls.

Jimmy Carter's "good news" strategy in 1980 is a textbook case in the manipulation of public opinion by a White House politician.

Much has been made of Carter's early-morning Oval office announcement last Tuesday of a "positive step" toward release of the U.S. hostages in Iran, beamed across the country by television in time to catch the voters in Wisconsin and Kansas at their breakfast-tables and before they cast their votes.

But a look back over the past ten weeks of the 1980 political season shows something even more interesting: a clear pattern of pre-primary "news" created by the White House to shape a positive public perception of the President's handling of key matters of voter concern.

There have been many "exclusive" interviews given to news outlets in the primary states themselves, like the self-serving interview Carter granted the Milwaukee

Journal last week. In it, he used the privileged sanctuary of the Oval Office to accuse his challenger of taking "demagogic" positions on economic and foreign policy.

But even more interesting are the occasions on which Carter has made national "news" on the eve of important contests with Edward M. Kennedy. Here is a partial listing:

On Sunday, Jan. 20, the day before the Iowa caucuses, Carter makes his first appearance as President on "Meet the Press," and announces that he will insist that U.S. athletes boycott the Moscow Olympics unless the Soviet Union pulls its troops out of Afghanistan.

He also says that he will press ahead with economic sanctions against Iran, in order to speed release of the hostages.

On Sunday, Feb. 24, two days before the New Hampshire primary, Carter takes two moves to counter negative news of a sharp increase in the inflation rate and a statement from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that the hostages will not be released before April. He returns from Camp David to tell White House reporters there is no cause for "extreme pessimism" about the hostages and convenes an unusual Sunday meeting to review budgetary and economic policy against inflation.

The next day, he invites the U.S. Olympic hockey team which has just upset the Soviet Union to the White House — a television spectacular for the night before the first primary.

On the March 2 weekend preceding the Massachusetts and Vermont primaries, Carter moves to take command of the inflation issue.

The Sunday papers reports Carter has ordered \$20 billion in budget cuts; the Monday papers have him urging business to exercise price restraint; and the Tuesday papers speak, for the first time, of a balanced budget for fiscal 1981. Late on the night before the primary, Carter seeks to head off another problem by acknowledging that a "communications error" led the United States to cast an erroneous vote against Israel in the U.N. Security Council.

On the weekend of March 9, preceding three southern primaries, there is marvelous news that the U.S. hostages will be transferred immediately out of the custody of the militants — followed by the shock of the transfer being blocked. Carter reacts by accusing Iran of reneging on its pledge.

On the weekend of March 16, before the Illinois primary, with budget cuts and Iran in a holding pattern, White House officials disclose that Carter will issue "very tough"

new guidelines on sales of high-tech products to the Soviet Union because troops are still in Afghanistan.

In the days preceding the March 25 New York and Connecticut primaries, Carter announces plans to talk with the leaders of Israel and takes the Iranian hostage case to the World Court, sends his top aide, Jordan, to Panama to negotiate the release of the exiled Shah of Iran to undergo surgery, and holds a White House ceremony to mark the approaching anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli accord.

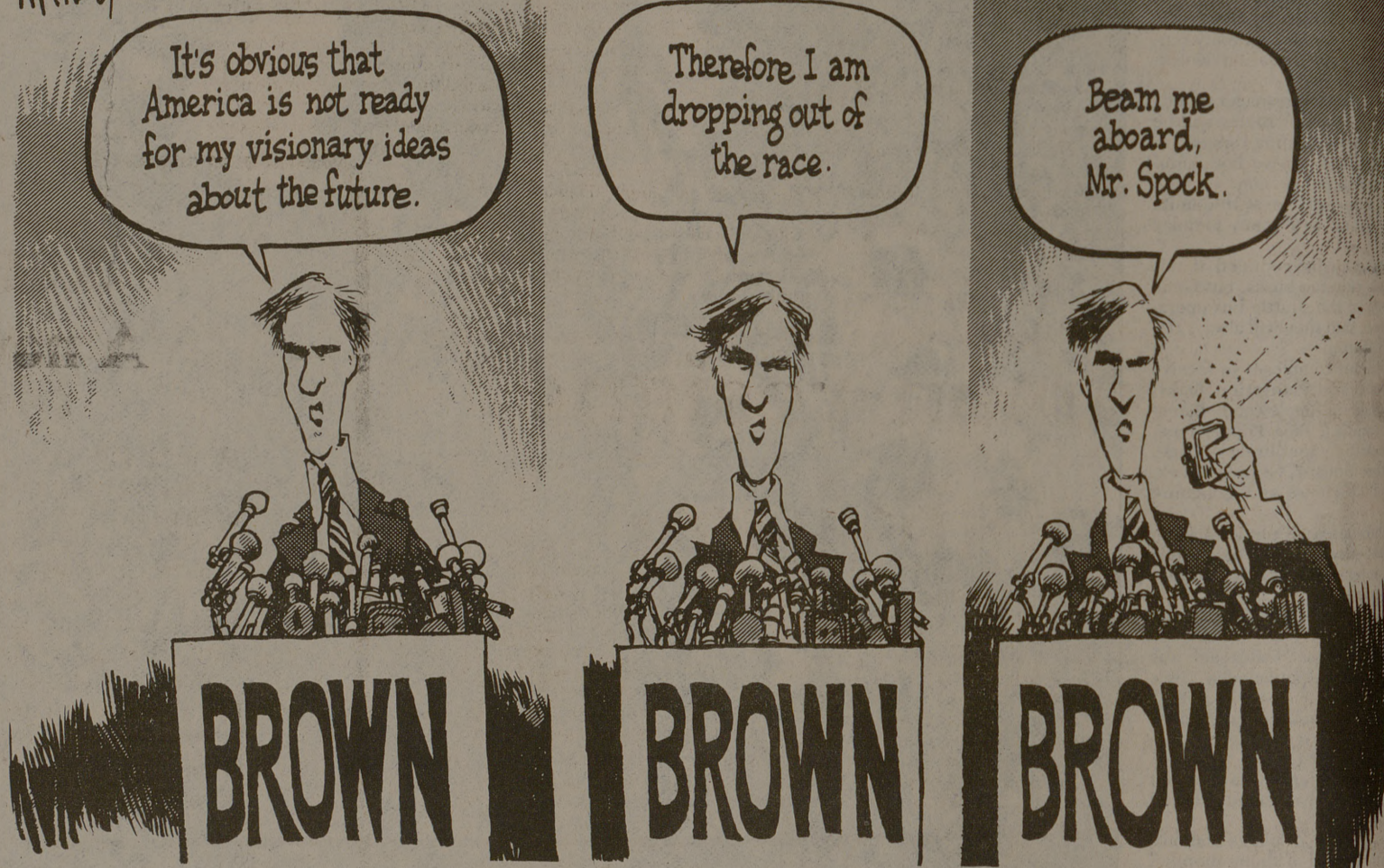
But it is not enough — and when the losses to Kennedy occur, Carter's chairman complains, "There's good news for ten days."

With Wisconsin and New York approaching, the White House attempts to correct the error. Carter signals a budget, showing the biggest deficit since 1949, taunts the hostages, on pain of still new "Natu-

The Monday papers report "The 16 optimism" on the hostage situation, the polls open, Carter himself goes to television to report a "positive step."

And — guess what? Another turning out to be his good news day. (c) 1980, The Washington Post

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Quick-frying rice to revolutionize world-wide gourmet community

By DICK WEST
WASHINGTON — The quick brown rice jumped over the lazy cook's back.

I don't suppose that line will ever catch on as a test sentence for teletype repairmen. For one thing, it doesn't encompass the entire alphabet the way a quick brown fox overleaping an indolent canine does.

But if it were acceptable, that would be one way of calling attention to a new research breakthrough by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA reported this week it had developed "quick-cooking brown rice that can be prepared in a quarter of the time it takes to cook regular brown rice."

I hardly need point out that the less time

it takes to cook brown rice, the less time the cook, lazy or otherwise, must spend slaving over a hot stove. But getting rice off the cook's back is only the frosting on the cake, so to speak.

The real import of quick brown rice lies in its potential for energy conservation.

"Drying time is about half that required for quick-cooking white rice, and the temperature used is lower," says a USDA press release. "In addition, the shorter home cooking time contributes to energy savings."

Fast foods, as you and your gourmet friends well know, have gotten a bad name among many consumers, the rap being that rapid cuisine is gastronomically inferior, digestively taxing, unnecessarily fattening

and prone to cause acne.

That prejudicial attitude generally was formed by such franchised outlets as the Mamma's Little Baby Loves Pizza and Tacos chain. Nevertheless, it has to some degree carried over into the kitchen.

There is a prevailing conviction that any dish that can be whipped up at the last minute isn't compatible with gracious living. But with fuel costs rising even more rapidly than the cooking time for brown rice is dwindling, the Agriculture Department may have found a way to overcome that bias.

The energy tie-in sounds so persuasive, I'll wager it will virtually revolutionize the food industry. Even as we speak, poultry researchers may be at work on a quick-

baking turkey.

Soon, perhaps, we'll see super-advertising quick-frying eggs, quick-browning potatoes and quick-popping — all in the name of energy conservation. And why stop there?

Perhaps modern science can come up with a way to make so-called comfort foods more energy efficient. In words, quick-thawing frozen dinner

Beverages? Some of them use instant preparation, too. So how about perking coffee and tea that steepen heat?

This is only a theoretical discussion. Persons at my college won't be directly benefited until we develop quick-boiling water.

THOTZ



By Doug Graham