

EARLE
APR 11-80

"Don't you think it's about time to get a haircut?"

OPINION

U.S. warnings aren't threats

It's good to see President Carter finally getting tough with the Iranians.

After nearly six months of having to put up with Khomeini's angry rhetoric about the oppression of the Islamic people and the tyranny of the United States, it's good to see a little fist pounding by Carter.

Booting Iranian diplomats out of the country was the smartest move Carter has made since the hostages were taken.

Carter's position in the opinion polls was sagging badly and his mishandling of the Iranian issue was not helping his chances for re-election.

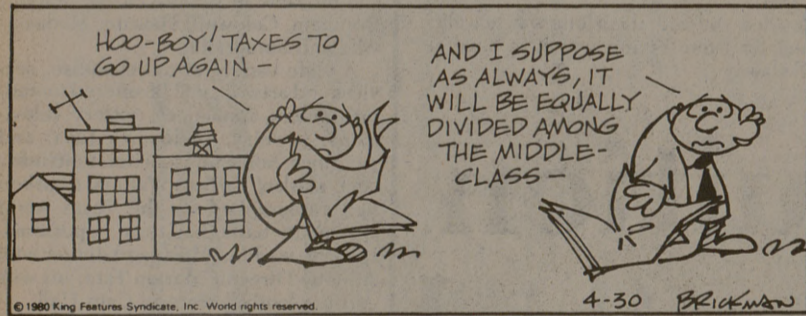
Recently, though, he has decided to toughen his stand. He has threatened to mine Iranian ports and interrupt the flow of oil to the reluctant Western European nations if they don't go along with the United States' sanctions against the loonies in Tehran. As a result, the Common Market yesterday announced it has decided to press the Iranians for a date for the release of the hostages.

Meanwhile, the Iranians have threatened to kill the hostages if any military action is taken against Iran.

We have some news for the kidnapers and their government — if the hostages are harmed in any way, Iran will be but a memory.

the small society

by Brickman



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4-30 BRICKMAN

THE BATTALION

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LETTERS POLICY

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
APRIL 11, 1980

Some experts waking up to fact that Reagan might win in 1980

By DAVID S. BRODER

As if decree, the word has gone out these past few days that Ronald Reagan might actually be elected President this year.

The evidence for the proposition of Reagan's electability is abundant. The latest Gallup Poll trial heat shows that President Carter is leading him by only 48 to 43 percent — hardly a comfortable position for an incumbent with the economic and international problems Carter faces. In a theoretical three-way race, with John B. Anderson as an Independent, the percentages are Carter, 39; Reagan, 34; Anderson, 21. That could easily spell victory for Reagan in electoral college terms.

As another significant bit of evidence, it can be noted that in last week's Wisconsin primary, where any voter could choose any candidate in either party, Reagan outdrew Carter by 12,000 votes in a state Carter carried by a narrow margin in 1976.

It is perfectly plausible to assert, on the basis of the Wisconsin results, the Gallup Poll, and Reagan's own electoral record going back to 1966, that the Californian can be elected President in 1980.

But that is slightly different from saying

that he will be elected, so a note of caution is in order.

First, it is not yet a 100 percent certainty that Reagan will be the Republican nominee. He has a bit less than half the delegates needed for a first-ballot nomination. But in Pennsylvania on April 22, he faces his first one-on-one test with challenger George Bush, in a state where the Republican constituency is varied enough to make the outcome something other than a foreordained result. Should Bush beat Reagan in Pennsylvania, he might well be able to carry the challenge all the way to the Detroit convention hall.

Second, even as the probable Republican nominee, Reagan has not yet crossed the "Credibility barrier" that stands in the way of any challenger's access to the presidency. It is the test of plausibility that makes people feel comfortable with the phrase "President Reagan." And judging from the experience of such past challengers as John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter, Reagan will probably not be able to clear that hurdle until the American electorate sees how he handles the choice of a running-mate, the conduct of his party convention and, most important, the television

debates with the incumbent in the general election.

Between now and then, Reagan and his principle associates will be subject to increasing amounts of the kind of skeptical scrutiny which NBC and CBS News gave them on the night following the Wisconsin primary.

The final note of caution concerns the breadth of the Reagan constituency. Again, much has been said — and accurately — about his ability to attract blue-collar, union, Independent and even crossover Democratic votes in some of the winter and spring primaries.

The point is significant, but it can be exaggerated. According to NBC-Associated Press polls of primary election voters, Reagan has led the field among self-designated Independents voting in the Republican primary in only four of the eight states on which data is available. He received a plurality of that Independent Republican vote in New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia, but trailed Anderson (and in some cases Bush) in Massachusetts, Illinois, Connecticut and Wisconsin.

Similarly, Reagan had the edge among

self-designated "moderates" in the Republican primaries only in New Hampshire. Under the three states. His victories have typically been produced by rolling up margins among the hard-core Republican voters and the self-identified moderates, who have long been known to be electoral base.

These voters provide a secure foundation for a campaign aimed at winning the presidential nomination, but they are and never will be — numerous enough themselves to win a general election, against a credible opponent.

So Reagan still faces the task, if he up against Carter, of establishing his presidential credibility with voters. He has not been supporting him so far and/or destroying the credibility of President.

But before he gets to that point, he must show that he can win more than a 40 percent of the self-designated moderates and independents voting in the can primaries, a feat the NBC-AP say he has yet to accomplish anywhere, side the South.

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LETTERS

Cartoon's subject matter offensive

Editor:

On Wednesday April 9, I "thot" I had picked up a respectable student newspaper entitled The Battalion; apparently this was not the case. It was indeed the Batt, but it was far from respectable.

The problem stems from a "comic strip" penned by Doug Graham, entitled "Thotz." Mr. Graham would be better suited to draw for Penthouse magazine alongside "Chester the Molester."

I was under the impression one of the purposes of the Batt is to allow journalism students to gain experience in a daily newspaper, yet I know of no newspaper (excluding "underground" newspapers and the like) which allow cartoons with this subject matter to be printed in their pages. Why should we be subjected to such childish displays?

Come on Mr. Graham and the Battalion staff. Clean up your act.

Rober E. Sterrett '80
(This letter was accompanied by eleven other signatures)

Editor's note — Just the same, I liked the cartoon. And by the way, Chester the Molester appeared in Hustler magazine.

Booze for blood?

Editor:

When ignorance gets started it knows no bounds, people do really strange and puzzling things.

One of these strange and puzzling things is happening on our own campus. The Aggie Blood Drive is giving one to three kegs of beer to the organization that donates the most blood. What is strange about this you ask? Here are some statistics from the Reader's Digest 1980 Almanac and Yearbook:

— Alcoholism costs Americans \$43 billion dollars a year in lost work, medical expenses, auto accidents and related problems.

— As many as 205,000 deaths a year can be blamed on drinking.

— Twenty-six percent of admissions to

state and mental institutions are persons with alcohol related problems.

— Between 30-40 percent of delinquent kids come from alcoholic homes.

— Drivers and peds who drink cause more than 800,000 crashes and 25,000 (48 percent of all) traffic deaths in a year.

— Twenty-four percent of alcoholics die in accidents.

— Thirty-three percent of suicides (58 percent higher than for rest of population) are alcoholics.

Now, why on God's good earth would an institution dedicated to saving lives go along with giving away alcohol and contributing to the No. 1 drug problem and the cause of hundreds of thousands of deaths a year?

I am quite hesitant about giving blood for fear that I would be contributing to someone else's death!

Keith Denton
Ronald Lahr

Show us your guns

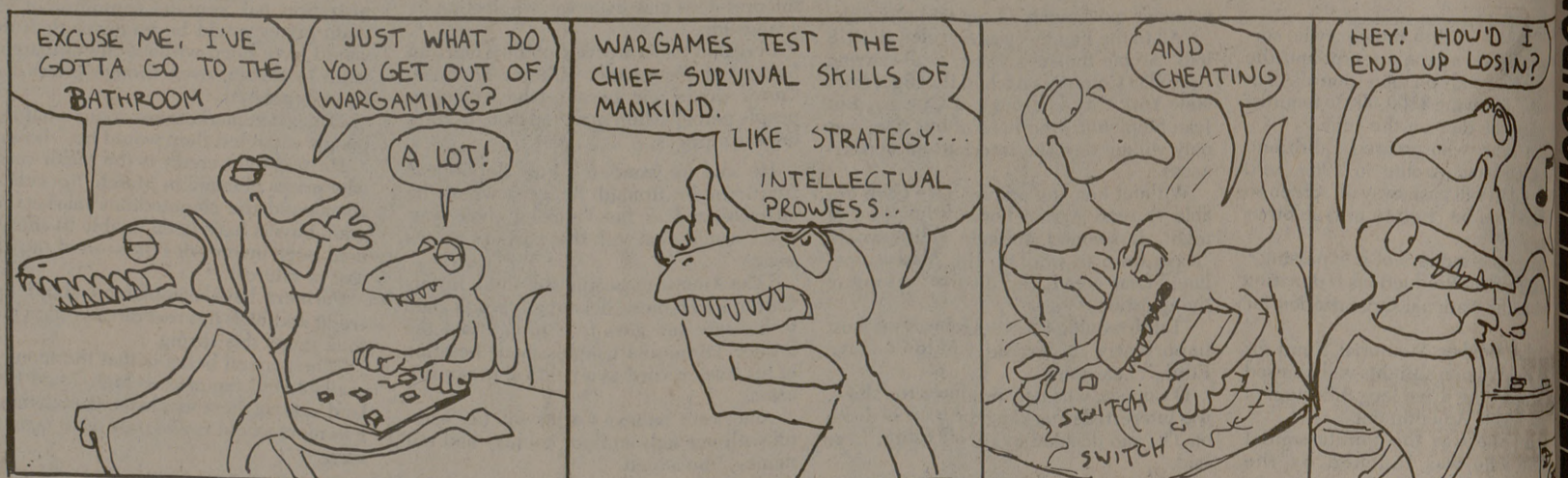
Editor:

In reference to the Opinion column which appeared in the April 7 issue of The Battalion, I would like to point out some unmentioned facts on the subject of gun control. The writer failed to point out that armed citizens prevent more robberies, burglaries, and crime in general than the police forces around the nation. The of the column must also be unaware of the right of all civilians to keep and bear arms guaranteed to everyone by our Fathers in the Constitution.

The latest Gallup poll on reasons for rising crime rate clearly point to laws and inadequate punishment of criminals. Gun control is no solution to the problem. Don't take firearms from law-abiding citizens, instead punish those who insist on using them wonderfully!

Scott Kirkpatrick

THOTZ



By Doug Graham