

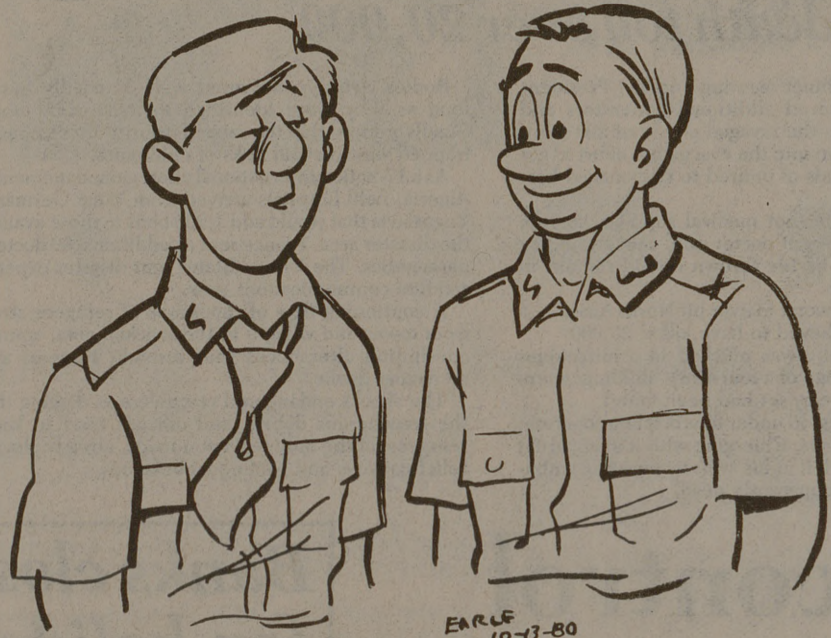
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
OCTOBER 13, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I just couldn't stay awake beyond halftime, and when I woke up I was locked in the Astrodome. Who won?"

Sit-in protests ridiculousness of late A&M-Houston game

I was a Bad Ag Saturday night. I sat down during part of the Aggie game. I realize that Highway 6 runs both ways, but I'm not taking it in either direction. I'm going to stay here in Aggieland and confess my sins. I couldn't help it. About the middle of the third quarter the absurdity of the whole situation hit me.

There we were, watching the Ags play football on a modified baseball diamond, at 1:30 in the morning, 10 feet from the top of the Astrodome.

It was ridiculous, and I was tired, so I sat down.

I stood patiently as pictures of UH players flashed across the king-size Lite-Brite Astrodome scoreboard. When the words to the UH school song appeared, I expected a bouncing ball to lead us through it.

The little cowboys hopping around above the board are cute, but I was ready to pull the plug on the whole thing when the third Cook Paint commercial came on.

A small, brave group of Ags in our section stood, even though we were a definite minority in that half-full section of nosebleed seats. I want to thank the C.T.s standing in front of me, because without them I would have given up a

Sidetracks

By Cathy Saathoff

lot sooner. Those Astrodome padded seats looked inviting, even with trash from the Astros game stacked ankle-high around them.

Watching the sidelines helped keep me awake and on my feet. Reveille showed a definite desire to bite the Houston mascot's tail off, just like last year. The only difference was that this tail was on the real thing, not a coed in tights and whiskers.

I was dying of thirst, but of course I was sitting next to a former Astroworld employee who told me some rumors about Astrodome concessions that made me decide to stay thirsty.

When halftime came I was the first one down, and the first one back up when the Aggie Band took the field. They made the cutest little footprints on the dirt left in the middle of the

field from the Astros' game.

I guess three years of watching Band has made me lose my acceptance of Fantastic band outfits and wiggle on the sidelines.

We have a rule at The Battalion University of Houston is not to be called High, but the name fits so well I can't break that rule.

Little plastic footballs thrown out with ostrich feathers in their black brought it all back to me. My high school little footballs at the games, too.

I stood again after halftime, until something became too much. It was some of the two school bands had a play-off to the loudest. (We won.)

So I sat down. I didn't stay down, exercise jumping up and down, and my voice when we made the touchdown wasn't a touchdown.

Around 2:30 a.m., when the Aggie losing his battle with me. I gathered my things (which did not include a World's Day NCAA Football Game T-shirt, Astrodome, and headed home to Aggie on Highway 6.

'Desperate' Carter needs Chicago's votes

By MARCIA STEPANEK

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Tattered and bloodied by bitter local rivalries, the remnants of Chicago's once-mighty Democratic machine are being drafted into national service — this time by a desperate president.

It is uncertain, however, whether the neglected legacy of Chicago's late Mayor Richard J. Daley can hold up under the pressure.

While supporters of both President Carter and GOP challenger Ronald Reagan are calling Illinois a toss-up, it is clear Carter is in trouble. Since mid-August, polls have shown Reagan with a slight lead. In recent weeks, that lead has been blurred by a high percentage of undecided voters — 35 percent at last count.

The candidates have been devoting an inordinate amount of time to Illinois. Since Labor Day, Reagan has visited the Chicago area three times and his running mate, George Bush, has been in the state twice. Carter has visited Illinois four times and Vice President Walter Mondale twice. "Surrogates" for the candidates also have toured the state.

"If the election were held today, there is no question Reagan would carry Illinois," said Carter spokeswoman Karen Scates. "But it's not being held today. The key will be all the undecided votes in the Chicago area."

These votes, both sides agree, are hidden among wavering backers of independent John Anderson who live in the liberal lakefront wards of the city and among the more affluent, liberal northern GOP suburbs. The recent closing of a steel plant on the city's Southwest Side, said Scates, apparently has turned a large bloc of angry blue collar ethnic Democrats away from Carter.

The Rev. James Wall, one of Carter's earliest supporters in 1976, says, "What worries me is that this whole bloc will turn out to be one big protest vote, with much of the people being liberal and/or regular Democrats."

Anderson has launched a "grass roots" campaign in Illinois to "keep the undecided undecided," said Anderson's state coordinator David Schulz.

GOP state Chairman Don Adams, however, predicts those votes will split.

"We're probably the only state in the union where the major media endorsed Anderson in the primary and they did one super job of boosting him. Now, a lot of voters don't know where

to turn," Adams said.

Much of the confusion has been blamed on Chicago's volatile Mayor Jane Byrne. A general attitude of fatalism and frustration, whispered among Illinois' top Democrats, has renewed old fears Carter will be sandbagged by Byrne in Chicago, devastated by Reagan in suburbia and polished off by downstate farmers. Carter was able to woo much downstate support in 1976 because of his rural and religious background but now faces a growing number of nonbelievers.

Democratic state Treasurer Jerome Cosentino — a state party leader — insists the president cannot win Illinois' 26 electoral votes until he wins Cook County and makes peace with Byrne.

This peace so far has been cosmetic, too little too late, throwing even still more uncertainty into the contest. And while Carter's recent visits to Illinois have been sweetened by a gush of federal loans and grants, Byrne's support of the president has vacillated.

Byrne, an early supporter of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, is refusing to back away from a Jan. 25 prediction, repeated Aug. 1 and again last month, that Carter will lose in Illinois.

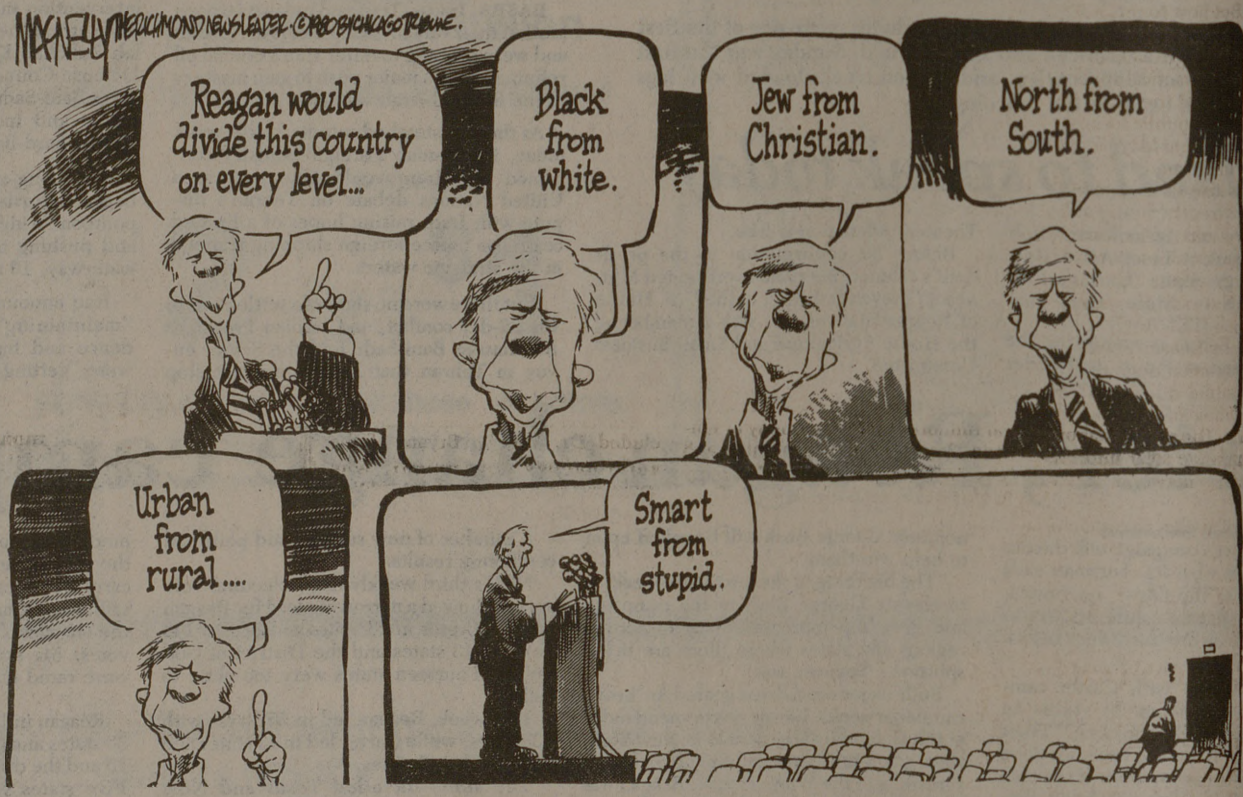
Each time she is asked whether she's changed her mind, she has said only, "He has a lot of work to do. It's no piece of cake in Illinois. I'm working as hard as I will be able to for him, and I think other people are."

Her bitter feud for city control against state Sen. Richard M. Daley — son of the late mayor — has made pro-Carter politics and loyalties in Illinois less stable.

As a result, Democratic ward committeemen have been tentative in their backing of Carter and are pushing him merely for the sake of the local ticket, Cosentino said. He said Carter's decision to phone ward committeemen during his last Chicago visit helped, but Carter's failure to visit the city until late last year has not been forgotten.

Secretary of State Alan J. Dixon, who once viewed an easy road to the U.S. Senate this year, now is threatened by the prospect of a Reagan win. The GOP's quest for the seat now held by the retiring Adlai E. Stevenson III has been formidable.

"A president can usually control events but this time around, these events in this city are controlling him," said Cosentino. "He desperately needs Chicago. I just hope it can deliver."



It's your turn

Changing of 'parking situation' urged

Editor: I think something really ought to be done about the parking situation here at A&M. I, for one, am sick of seeing those little yellow tickets on my windshield every time I turn around. I had never had a parking ticket of any type until I came to A&M, and in under one week's time, I have had two. I have several reasons for this.

The parking areas here on the immediate campus are at best crowded and poorly planned. Freshmen have few convenient places to park on campus, except across the railroad tracks on the west side. This is inefficient for those on the north side dorms, and impossible for the rest of us, especially those at the Ave. Apts. Being a resident of Ave. A, I am already far off campus, and am forced to ride bikes as the only means of transportation. We have no shuttlebus service. My class schedule is arranged so that I have straight classes 8-2 on Wednesday and Friday, and I have no time between classes to waste. Add to this the locations across campus, and bad weather, especially rain, which frequents this area. Many of us here, especially the engineering and architecture majors, have large drawing pads and design kits to carry. Several of us have been ticketed while attempting to pick up class materials to bring home.

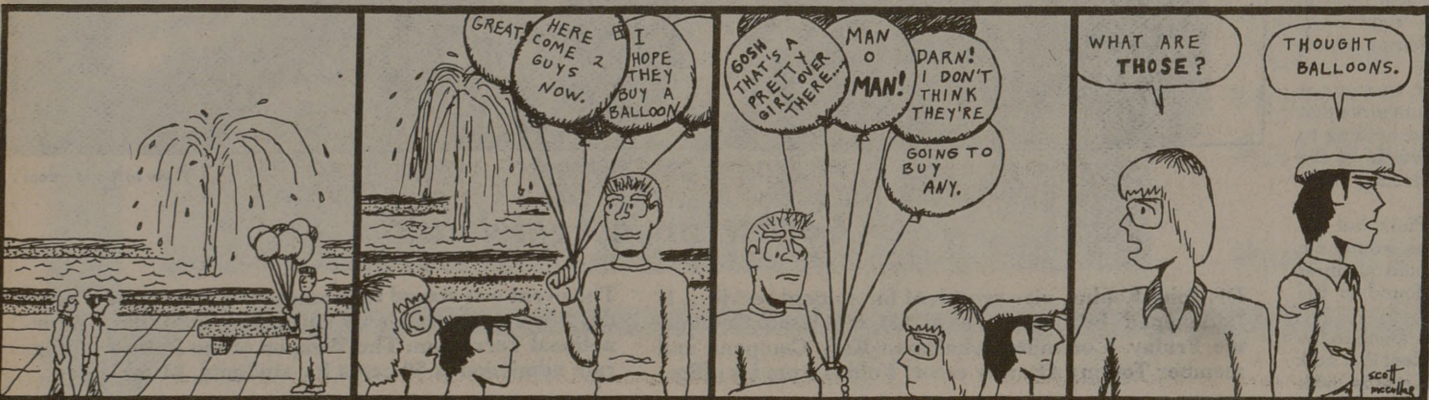
I feel that the main reason for this large amount of ticketing is negligence on the part of

the University Police to inform students where restricted areas are. All parking lots on campus are at best only badly marked — signs are vague and far separated. No information in form of pamphlet regarding parking areas has been given to most students, although a map is available at the police station. Many students are simply unaware or confused of the regulations of these areas, and hence are justifiably mad when ticketed. As an example, an incident occurred at Ave. A earlier this week. Police threatened to give tickets to cars parked in specifically designated parking areas, because of an attempt to start a lawn there. The fact is, no prior warning had been given. Here again, the police fall back on the "ignorance of the law is no excuse..." cliché, and regarding on campus parking, make some curt reply "You should have seen the map..." (as in my personal experience). However when maps are not distributed, we can't help but feel that entrapment is the case.

With the revenue acquired on these violations, I feel that several things should be done. Firstly, more limited time parking areas such as those marked for 15 or 30 minutes should be designated. New signs clearly showing exactly where restricted parking areas possibly with the use of a simple color coding system, should be designated. A better information program on the part of the University Police should be distributed, logically in time of car registrations. Possibly the multi-level parking garages at key locations such as the present site of Lot 60 near the complex, facilitating student and conference parking needs. The money generated by these tickets should be used toward the improvement of this terrible parking situation. We happen to see shiny, new police cars every semester, we'll all know where it went.

Tom Kostelny
Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 10 other signatures.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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