

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Carter's campaign comparing Reagan with 1967 Goldwater

By **ARNOLD SAWISLAK**
United Press International

WASHINGTON — It now seems clear that Jimmy Carter was trying to do to Ronald Reagan what Lyndon Johnson did to Barry Goldwater. It remains to be seen whether he will give up the attempt as a bad idea.

Those who remember the 1964 presidential campaign may recall the most striking example of the hatchet job the Johnson campaign did on Goldwater — the television commercial with the pretty little girl picking a daisy followed by a nuclear blast.

The purpose was to suggest that Goldwater would start a holocaust and it worked. The Johnson campaign succeeded in making Goldwater seem to be a trigger-happy hawk and the president was re-elected in a landslide. Then Johnson went on to build up the U.S. commitment in Viet Nam to half a million men, which resulted in more than 50,000 American deaths.

Through last week, Carter repeatedly tried to plant the impression that Reagan would be too quick to shoot in the event of international trouble.

He has said several times in different ways that the question of peace or war is riding on the

1980 election, and several of his commercials have had others directly questioning Reagan's ability to keep cool in times of stress.

The Democrats have compiled a long list of Reagan quotations about what should have been done in various international situations in the past to back up their claim that he might be trigger-happy.

They consider their approach perfectly proper and their ads may continue to use it even if Carter, as he told Barbara Walters, decides to take the high or "presidential" road in his own speeches.

His jobs at Reagan in the first half of the campaign raised charges of "mean" and "dirty" campaigning against Carter, not only from the Republicans but from much of the news media, which expected the Democrats to try to recreate the 1964 campaign.

Interestingly enough, the first indications were that Carter apparently was not being hurt too badly by the criticism of his campaign.

The CBS-New York Times poll released late in September showed 58 percent of the people did not think the campaign had been dirty, and of those who believed it was, exactly the same percentage put the onus on Reagan as Carter.

Further, 42 percent of the people in the poll said Reagan had been making "charges" against his opponents as compared to 36 percent for Carter.

The attack on Reagan on the war and issue is particularly inviting to the Carter campaign because this is one area where president's record actually gives him a clear advantage.

Even the Iran hostage situation, which doesn't seem like much of an asset to the president at this point, can be said to demonstrate that he is not one to move rashly in international situations.

Reagan has no foreign policy record, and the Democrats can seize on his statements in the past — such as blockading Cuba to the Iranians to free the hostages — to suggest that he would be a disaster or bring on a crisis.

For the most part, Reagan's response has been to accuse Carter of underhanded campaign tactics. That may not seem very funny, but neither is the alternative, which would be to attempt to describe what he would do as president in the case of hypothetical crises.



Reagan showing signs reminiscent of Nixon

By **HELEN THOMAS**
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter's strategists say that Ronald Reagan is "avoiding the issues" in the campaign. And it appears that a face-to-face debate between the two is not in the cards.

Carter had counted on debating with Reagan on television, hoping to show the differences in political philosophy before millions. Now he is finding that it is difficult to fault Reagan without being accused of unfair tactics, and Reagan has adopted a "more in sorrow than in anger" attitude toward Carter's attacks.

Campaign manager Robert Strauss says the press is letting Reagan "get away with murder" and not cross examining him, especially when he speaks of returning to the military "superiority," a policy dropped at the start of the Nixon era.

Both candidates are being packaged and programmed. But after the foot-in-the-mouth gaffes at the start of his campaign, Reagan, is sticking to his "cue cards," according to Strauss. Obviously, Reagan's strategists feel if they can keep him in line for the next few weeks, they will be home free.

The strategy is very reminiscent of Richard Nixon's 1968 and 1972 election campaigns when he laid low, avoided reporters' questions and had enormous amounts of money to spend.

In those days, Nixon forces also made sure that the reporters were comfortable, well-fed and little.

In fact, Reagan may be learning from the master. His press secretary Lyn Nofziger told reporters that Nixon is sending "memos" on tactics to the Republican nominee.

Aides say the president, whose ratings in the polls have been on a roller coaster since he took office, feels sincerely that the Reagan policies are fraught with "danger" for the country. But, Strauss has said, "maybe he doesn't express himself clearly."

There is no question that Reagan is a communicator and a smooth speaker on the stump. He keeps his audiences with him as anyone would who has mastered the podium for more than 30 years.

He needs no introduction. Whether through his movies or the fact that he has been on the banquet circuit and on radio since the '60s, Reagan is a household name.

As president, Carter is accountable for the state of the nation, domestically and in foreign policy. In many ways, he will be getting his report card on Nov. 4.

Not one to admit a mistake, Carter feels he has accomplishments he can boast about, including the nation's first energy policy that already has achieved a 20 percent drop in imported oil. He laid the groundwork for the nation to develop synthetic fuels to end dependency on foreign oil, and to reap some of the revenues from the windfall profits tax.

In his nearly four years in office, he has also kept the nation out of war, and he played a major role in the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. He also helped pave the way for Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) to achieve independence and rule by the black majority.

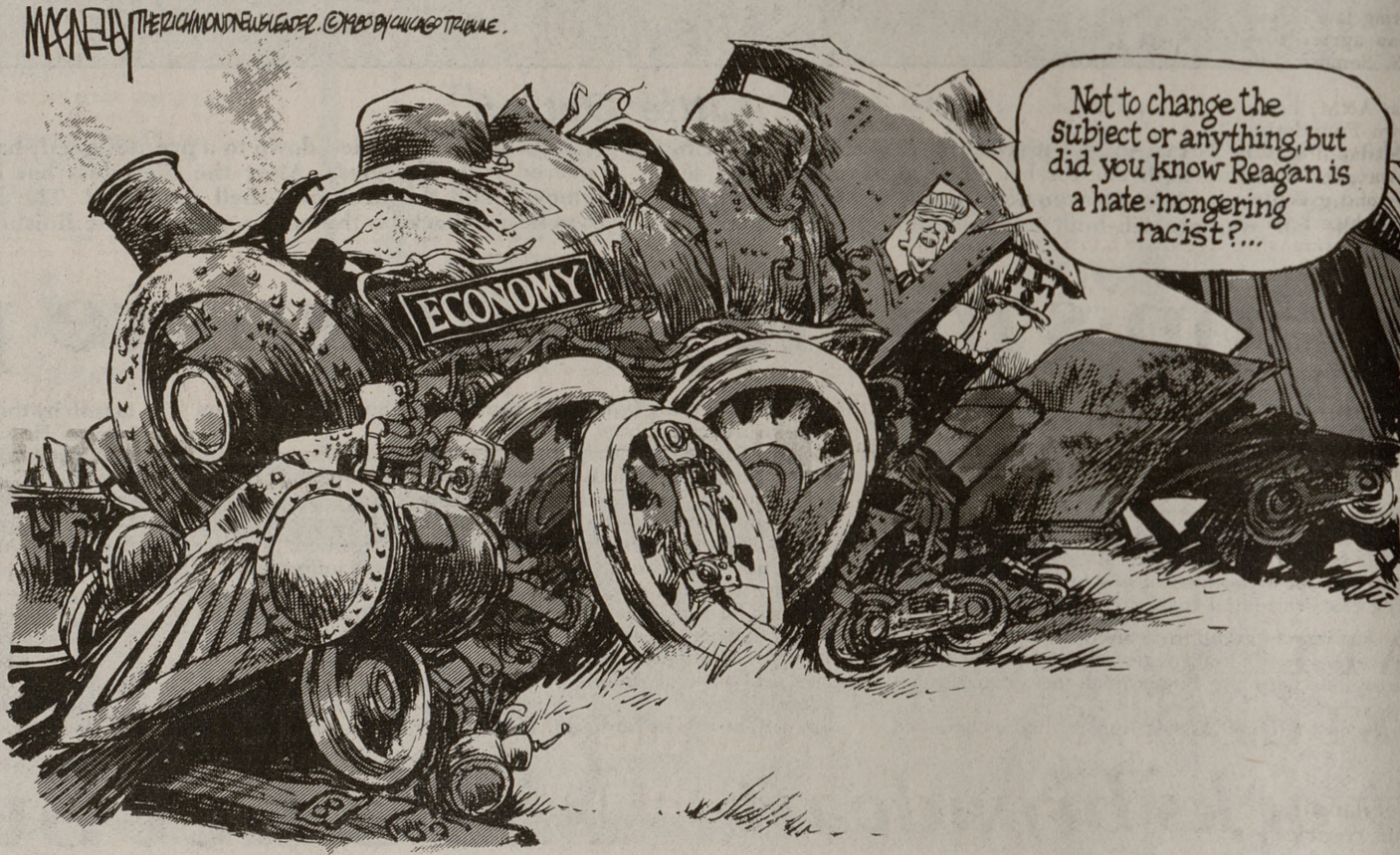
And he negotiated a strategic arms limitation treaty with the Soviets although he shelved it when Russia invaded Afghanistan.

He and his family have pursued ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and he has made more appointments of women, Hispanics and blacks to high places in government and on the bench.

On the other side of the coin, Carter has not had a firm grip on the economy and it falters now between recovery and recession, hardly a happy thought for a politician seeking re-election.

And then there is the one-year anniversary of the capture of the American hostages in Iran, which falls on election day. Reagan keeps saying that Carter will pull an "October surprise" like a rabbit out of the hat and suddenly, presto, the hostages will be home in time for the president to win re-election.

The likelihood of their early return now seems far fetched with the war in the Persian Gulf unabated. And so far, no one is ready to say "peace is at hand" as Henry Kissinger did in Nixon's 1972 campaign.



It's your turn

12th Man needed leadership at Houston

Editor:

Since the yell leaders take it upon themselves to lecture the student body at midnight yell practice on how we should conduct ourselves at the football games, we would like to take this opportunity to comment on Mark Outlaw's action (or rather lack of action) at the football game against Cougar High. The Twelfth Man was ready and willing to support the team throughout the entire game, but due to a lack of leadership during the second half, we could not fully express our support. We feel that the Aggies needed as much if not more support when they were behind during the second half of the game. Apparently, Mark Outlaw disagrees since he could not find it in himself to start more than two yells throughout the entire second half besides the traditional yells after scoring and kickoff.

We think that Mark Outlaw needs to uphold the tradition of the Twelfth Man by using a little more ingenuity in the future. After all the

Twelfth Man should support the Aggie team whether it is ahead or behind. If Mark Outlaw is not capable of fulfilling his duties as head yell leader, we suggest that he resign and let a "True Ag" take the responsibility.

Stacy Surles '81

Blood drive challenge

Editor:

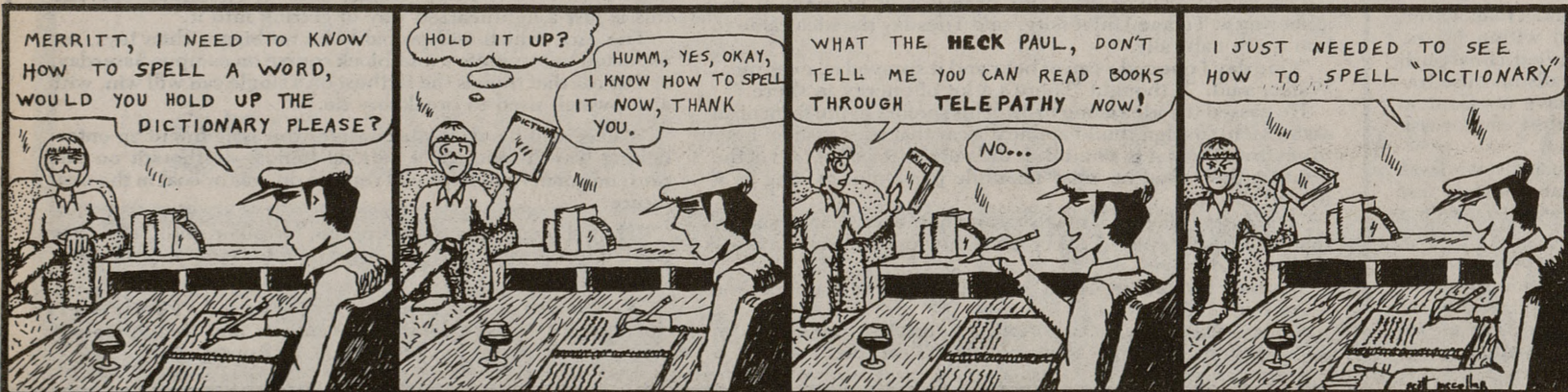
Aston Hall, the defending Texas A&M Blood

Drive champions, do hereby issue a challenge to the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. We challenge you to give more blood than we do. This semester, the Band attempts to match our donations, but have failed miserably in four of the last five attempts. This semester we will prove once and for all that Aston is undefeatable.

Bob Hancock '82 President

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied three other signatures.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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