

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
OCTOBER 27, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I don't know who did it. This is a season that brings out the clowns as well as the witches and goblins."

Hooray for Governor Bill! His honesty is appreciated

People who say what they think have my respect.

Gov. William P. Clements is one of those people.

In remarks to editors of the Texarkana Gazette, Clements called President Jimmy Carter "a goddamn liar" regarding national defense.

Now that's great stuff. I have long wanted to hear a politician say what he thought rather than what might be politically expedient.

Clements certainly has a way with phrases. Beside this latest jewel, rank his comments on underwater pressurized abortion and praying for a hurricane to clean up the Texas coast oil spill last year.

I admit those comments belong in the dung heap. I would not publicly endorse calling the president a liar or any other of a hundred diatribes Carter causes me to utter. But I enjoy straight talk, especially public, and that's when Gov. Bill shines.

Leftovers

By Todd Woodard

I see Gov. Bill like this. Talking over a beer, he leans back and lets the words flow. He isn't concerned with the trivialities and nuances of fine grammar and namby-pamby prose, he just talks. His brow is creased and little particles of fluid fly from his mouth as he goes on.

Now the ideal situation would be that Gov. Bill's comments stay off the record, that is, not for publication. You gotta watch journalists, he says, they'll take your rig down every time.

And that is the truth. We'll do anything for a story, ask any politician. But Gov. Bill needs no prodding. He is quite a story.

Who would believe a state executive would say such a terrible thing? Who would print trash in family newspapers? Look for more in the air.

Clements is my folk hero. He says the outrageous things. I love it.

All the Limo-crats cry and moan about comments degrading the governor's office. He responded as many other people privately. The dividing line between public and private is very hazy for me; therefore, Clements' remark causes me no heartburn. He just had the misfortune that everyone's voter registration card heard.

The best part of this furor was Clements' refusal to retract his statement. He said the remark was justified and would not be retracted. He is hardheaded, offbeat, and ribald. I like that.

But I would watch my mouth in mixed company.

Mondale, Bush picking up support 'on location'

By DAVID S. BRODER

DETROIT — The two islands of civility in the ocean of calumny and cliché that is the 1980 presidential campaign are populated by Walter F. Mondale and George Bush and their respective vice presidential entourages.

The very existence of these two traveling courts is one of the best-kept secrets of the year. But journalists who stumble across them, as I did with Bush in Michigan and a bit earlier with Mondale in Illinois and Iowa, know instantly that they have entered what are — by 1980 standards — blessed realms.

Life is not leisurely. Neither the incumbent No. 2 man nor his would-be successor is keeping the gentleman's hours that made, say, the Henry Cabot Lodge campaign of 1960 a happy rest cure for frazzled reporters.

Quite the contrary. On the typical day, Mondale and Bush will make more speeches, give more interviews and beer with a handful of reporters covering him. Bush wanders around a hotel restaurant, jolly the patrons and challenging friends with such political trivia questions as the name of Eugene McCarthy's vice presidential running-mate when he ran as an independent in 1976.

Mondale has time to kick off his shoes and have a hamburger and beer with a handful of reporters covering him. Bush wanders around a hotel restaurant, jolly the patrons and challenging friends with such political trivia questions as the name of Eugene McCarthy's vice presidential running-mate when he ran as an independent in 1976.

On the stump, both men can sound the required battle cries. Mondale tells a black church audience in Chicago, "Ronald Reagan is to the American worker what Colonel Sanders is to the American chicken." Bush tells a television audience here, "What burns me up are the outrageous charges that they are making in their effort to distort Gov. Reagan's proposals and destroy his candidacy."

But they also play their audiences for laughs, and they seem to be enjoying the campaigning themselves. Mondale has built a wonderful standup comic routine out of Reagan's flip-flops. It winds up with the line, "My father was a Methodist minister and he once told me, 'The

only trouble with deathbed conversions is that, occasionally, they get well."

Bush is the master of self-deprecation, telling a youngster who had surprised him with a question on the Equal Rights Amendment, "Amy, I wish I hadn't called on you. I support it. Gov. Reagan does not. And I support Gov. Reagan."

Somehow, their effectiveness does not seem diminished by their evident good humor. Mondale is the main rallying point for Democrats who are doubtful about Carter. Ed Campbell, the Iowa Democratic chairman, introduced Mondale as "the great ecumenist of our party, our own Pope John." He is being credited with swinging Wisconsin from Reagan to Carter by the work he did last week with farmers, unionists and dissenting liberals.

Bush plays a similar role on the Republican side, with his appeal to the ticket-splitters, independents and moderate Republicans who are nervous about Reagan's social policies and international pronouncements.

At the urging of Michigan Republicans, the Reagan campaign put together a statewide 14-station television network to saturate the airwaves with a half-hour "Ask George Bush" program. Similar programs have been or will be broadcast in almost all the Great Lakes battleground states.

"The only reason most of our ticket-splitters are breaking to Reagan," said a key Pennsylvania suburban county GOP chairman, "is Bush. They figure that voting for Reagan, they'll eventually get Bush as President, too."

That is not so much a reflection on Reagan's age as it is a commentary on the future presidential viability of his running-mate, Mondale, too, appears to have that potential, whatever happens in 1980.

The publicity Bush and Mondale are not getting from the national networks and newspapers is more than offset by the heavy local coverage they receive in the cities they have visited.

Both men have small but expert political staffs of their own with them, and an ever-growing list of local contacts that can be exploited come 1984.

The reason they may be so civil and cheerful is that for both of them, the fun is probably just beginning.



It's your turn

Students' children deserve a break

Editor:

Please help us with this problem: A couple of years ago, the students voted not to allow faculty children to play on the campus tennis courts. We live in College Station and the courts are the best available for our two daughters to use.

My husband has taught at this University for seventeen years, has received three degrees from A&M, has turned down many jobs which offered over twice his present salary in order to dedicate his teaching abilities to the Aggies, and is one of the world's leading authorities in his field, which gives his students a great advantage when they enter the job market.

This dedication seems to be a bit misplaced when professors make sacrifices to stay here to teach in order to turn out the best qualified graduates in the many fields offered, but their families are denied access to campus facilities. Don't the students realize that all of these professors have families with needs to be met just as the students have their needs?

Give us a break Ags, we are part of the campus machinery also!

Thanks for listening!
Mrs. Lee Lowery Jr. '67

Policy not sound

Editor:

We would like to comment on the Physical Plant's recent directive which forbids the maids and janitors to sort aluminum cans from campus trash for the purpose of recycling. The practice of recycling aluminum is an environmentally sound one, while the directive against it is irresponsible and wasteful of our natural resources.

The objection is that it takes the maids too long to sort the cans from other trash. Unfortunately, most worthwhile objectives do take a little extra effort. In this case the extra effort to sort cans from piles of crumpled papers is very minimal. We are on campus most of the day and into the evenings on many occasions, and have seen first hand that the maids perform the task

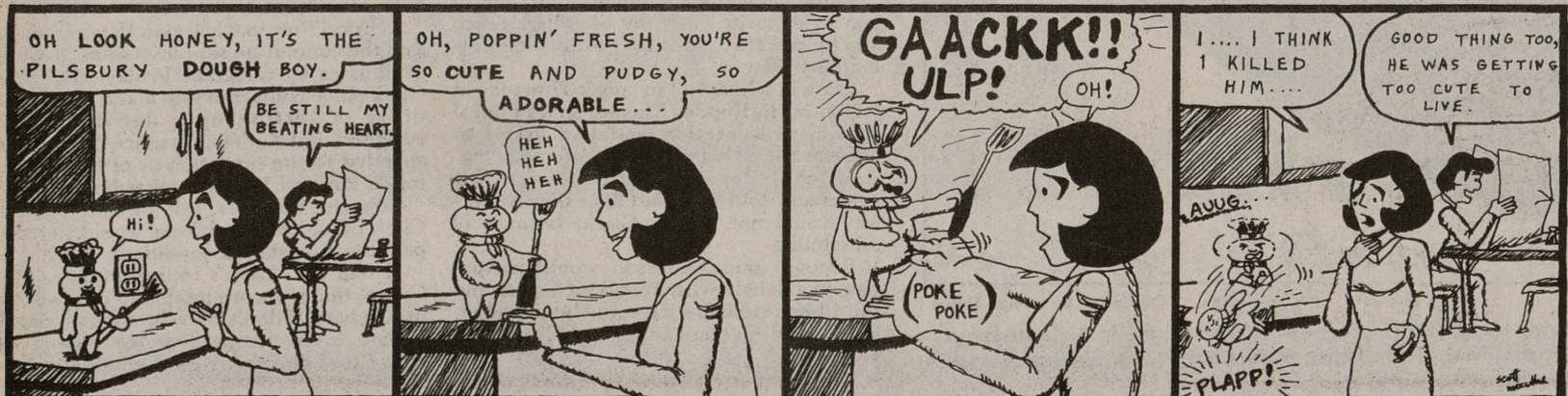
of sorting cans very efficiently. It takes seconds more for the maids to put cans in separate waste container from other trash.

Texas A&M should be the leader in recycling, yet the University is not. How can the country as a whole effectively control the waste of our natural resources if other leaders of other communities follow A&M's example of actively discouraging practices.

The Physical Plant should reassess its priorities and make appropriate changes.

Cindy De...
Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by 48 other signatures.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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