

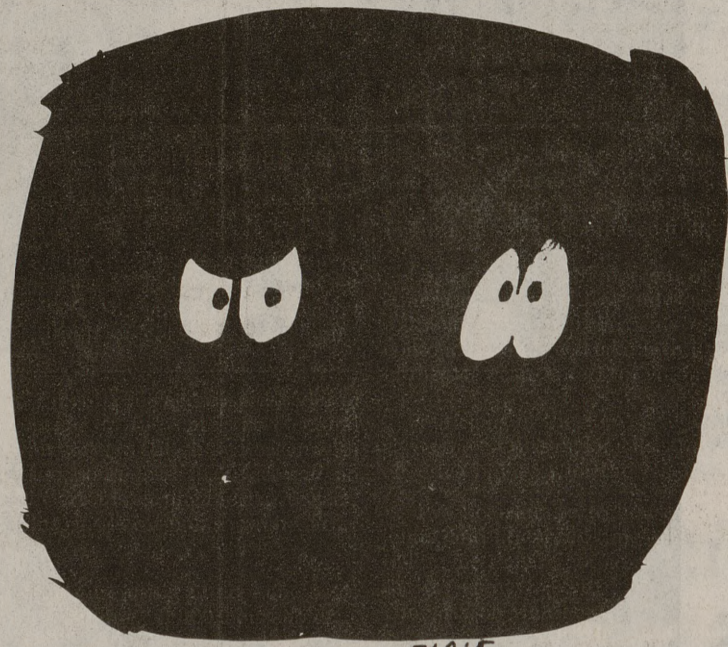
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 30, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Will you promise not to try any more indoor barbecuing?"

ABC's straw poll ridiculous

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

While everyone is still talking about the debates, I'd like to chip in my thoughts on one of the most irresponsible mass media hypes I've ever seen.

ABC deserves ample criticism for its straw poll after the debates.

The telephone straw poll produced an awful lot of unreliable data, and presented potential problems for people in crisis.

Locally, telephone lines were tied up until well past 11 p.m. by people calling the polling numbers.

Every light in the board was lit up on local exchanges, an operator said.

ABC had to remind people to dial the "900" prefix — they were flooding the Long Beach, Calif., police station with phone calls.

Those two instances, 1,500 miles apart, represent the potential danger in such a situation. What happens when the telephone lines are tied up, and there's an emergency?

The victim, or whoever, can't get through because the lines are tied by silly people re-

cording irrelevant votes to help a network boost imaginary ratings.

The whole process reeks of the kind of superficial nonsense which can and has cost lives in the past.

And for what? The poll, for its tremendous exposure on "ABC Nightline," is the most invalid piece of crap to emerge from any recent election. Consider:

— There's no telling how many votes were incorrectly recorded when the phone lines got crossed.

— The poll is biased toward people who will

volunteer their time and money (a call costs cents) to phone in a preference.

— It's biased to begin with toward people who have telephones.

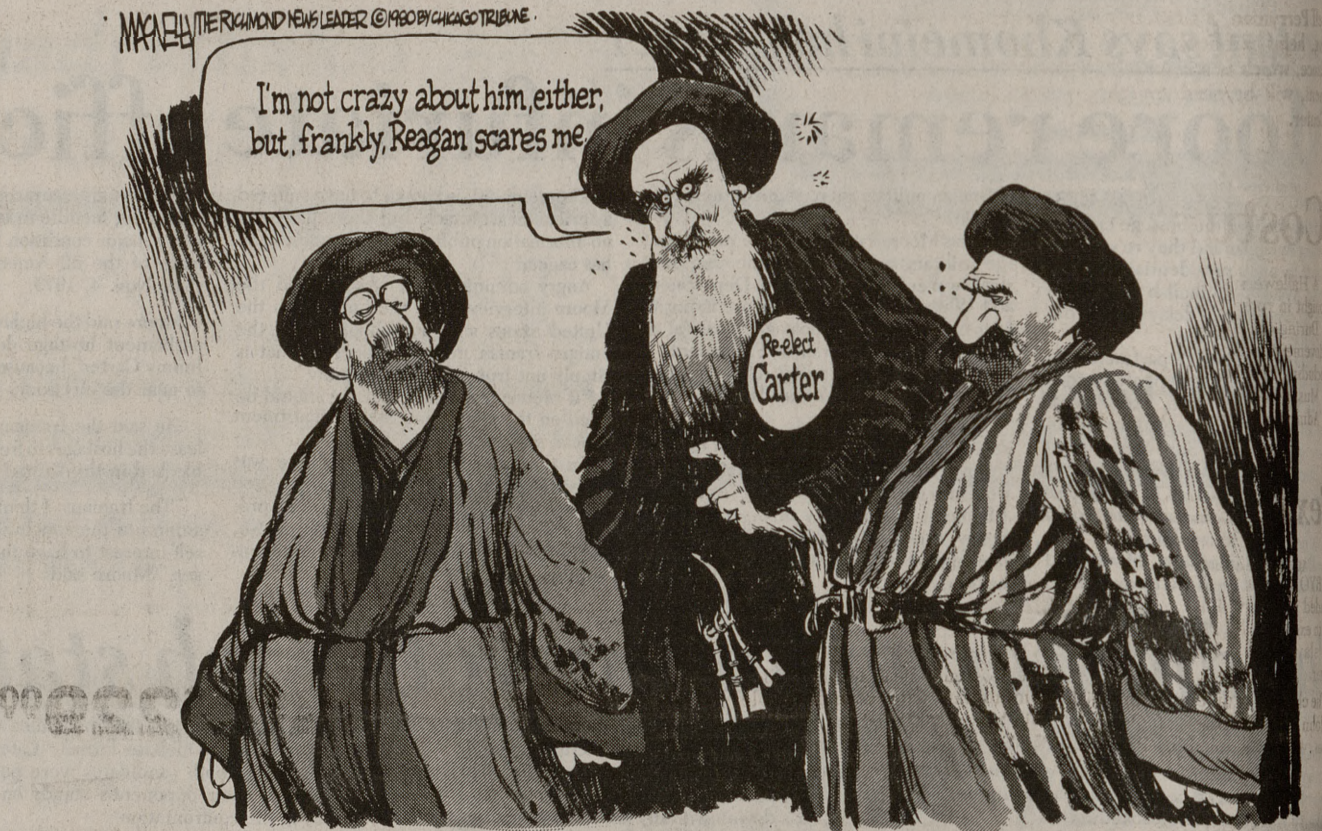
— There's no guarantee against multiple responses — some people have more than one phone.

— And every Republican and Democrat precinct chairman in the country probably led in to record a preference.

ABC, if your poll is as random, unscientific and unscientific as you claim it to be, why so much exposure in the first place? The continued assurances about how it all really mean anything — so why have it in the first place?

Does the gain in ratings merit the sacrifice of all degrees of accuracy in conducting a poll?

Do meaningless facts delivered simultaneously outweigh the dangers of people being able to use a telephone in an emergency? Not by a long shot.



Turnout to determine Texas election outcome

By ROLAND LINDSEY
United Press International

AUSTIN — Texas Democrats' claim President Carter has pulled even with Ronald Reagan but an energetic get-out-the-vote campaign by Reagan's campaign still may spoil the president's comeback attempt.

The primary problem, Texas Democratic leaders say, is little enthusiasm among Carter supporters for their candidate, which may result in traditionally Democratic voters staying at home on election day.

A party official discussing the campaign at state Democratic headquarters acknowledged there are few Carter backers in Texas who are pushing Carter's re-election with enthusiasm.

"You won't find any here either," the official responded.

Bob Beckel, Carter's Texas campaign director, said: "Our base in Texas is much bigger than it was in 1976. The question is, do we get them to the polls? If we get them to the polls, we win."

Gov. Bill Clements, the aggressive leader of Reagan's campaign for the state's 26 electoral votes, claims his surveys still show Reagan with a 12 percentage point lead in Texas and no indication that Carter is closing the gap. In fact, Clements claims, his latest poll showed Carter losing ground.

The Republicans are using a telephone bank operation that is calling 90,000 households a day to locate GOP voters and persuade them to vote on Nov. 4, and by election day the phone operation will have contacted 2 million households — about half the registered voters in Texas, Clements said.

Democrats are using their own telephone operation on a smaller scale, and asked former state party chairman Calvin Guest to head a special get-out-the-vote effort.

"I am very confident we are going to win this race in Texas," Guest said. "Right now it's even-steven, and there are more of us than there are of them, and if we get out people to the polls we're going to win."

Guest concedes Reagan has a solid lead in urban centers such as Dallas and Houston.

"I think basically we have to offset the losses we'll have in Dallas and Harris counties. We're going to come out of there some votes behind, and if we can keep that deficit to a minimum and pick it up in traditional Democratic areas as well as in San Antonio and the South Texas area, we'll be all right.

"I don't think anybody believes either side is 5 or 6 points ahead. If you talk to people that have been in this business a long time, they'll tell you that it's absolutely neck and neck."

South Texas, where the Mexican-American vote is concentrated, will be critical. There are 800,000 Mexican-Americans registered to vote in Texas this year, compared to 465,000 in 1976.

Carter received 87 percent of the Mexican-American votes in 1976, and won Texas by only a 129,000-vote margin. This year, Clements contends Reagan will take away 25 to 30 percent of the Mexican-American vote.

Politicians in the Lower Rio Grande Valley agree the GOP is making its strongest and most effective bid ever for the Hispanic vote.

"I've been house to house and in the beer joints, and I hear old time Mexican-Americans telling me they're not going to vote for Carter, they're going to vote for Reagan," said Juan Hinojosa of McAllen, a Democratic nominee for state representative.

"Quite frankly, there doesn't seem to be much enthusiasm for Carter. One of the problems is, and you can sense it, there is a lack of confidence in Carter. He doesn't project leadership, and it turns people off."

A visit to the area by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., last week may help Carter's chances by enticing more Mexican-Americans to vote.

"It does help," Hinojosa said. "It motivates voters and reminds them again that the Democratic party has always been the party that helps the Mexican-American people."

It's your turn Coaching should be faulted for losses

Editor:
Tom Wilson wake up!
The Ags are 2-5 on the season; we get destroyed by good teams and get beat by marginal teams. It is past time to look for something different.

Who calls the plays during the game? If the "I" formation allows only 5 different plays (6 including punts) why not get a different formation?

Why do we keep the "I"? Is it because someone is trying to save face? I would like to challenge Tom Wilson to view any A&M game film from an opponent's defensive viewpoint. What the play formation does not tell, the players' motions and stances do. Any defense can read A&M's "I" like a book.

Why do we not have a working punt strategy? Why not rush the punter and possibly block it or make him mess up? Rice, Baylor and Penn State all seemed to make it work.

Why do we not have a kickoff strategy? There is nothing magical about a center field kick. Why not kick from various positions and at various angles to keep the opponents mixed up?

We have all heard the "reasons" why we lost: first came drugs, second it was inexperience, then it was poor execution. Tom Wilson, when is the "reason" going to be "we got out-coached." We have 4 more games.

Ted Arnold '82

purpose of recycling." These students should look at the situation from a few realistic standpoints.

1) The portion of the University staff responsible for the cleaning on the campus is very small when compared to the 33,000 students here.

2) It is a health hazard to be digging in trash cans.

3) Most people who dig in trash cans to recycle cans do it for their own personal gain ... on University time.

Come on people, ecology (and recycling) is not someone else's responsibility, it's everyone's. If you have the problems with the new directive, do things such as the Europeans do ... place your recyclable material in one waste basket and your trash in another then give the cans to your friendly Aggie maids. I'm sure they will appreciate it greatly.

Chris Young '82

Thanks, Mr. Hall

Editor:
I would like to thank Mr. Hall and the multimedia staff of the Evans Library for doing an outstanding job under adverse conditions during the showing of the Oct. 28 presidential debate.

The students showed up in such great num-

bers that the original room was filled to capacity early in the debate. Instead of turning interested parties away, Mr. Hall continued to make use of every available space where additional screen could be set up. His staff and those of his staff members exemplified every faculty and staff member should have goal — that of enlightening the student body.

May Reagan beat the hell outta Carter.
Richard "Dick" Stevens

Correction

A story on page 1 of Wednesday's Battalion said that alcoholic beverages were permitted on-campus housing. Texas A&M University System policy states that alcoholic beverages are permitted in long-term leased properties such as the Kyle Field suites or on-campus houses of University administrators.

Among the places where alcoholic beverages are specifically prohibited are University dormitory rooms.

Also, in Wednesday's Battalion, an article about state senatorial candidate Dr. McNeil incorrectly spelled the candidate's name "McNeil."

The Battalion regrets the errors.

Can trash be sorted?

Editor:
In The Battalion of Oct. 27, 1980, a few (49) students complained about the Physical Plant's "directive to forbid the maids and janitors from sorting aluminum cans from the trash for the

Warped

By Scott McCullar



THE BATTALION

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