

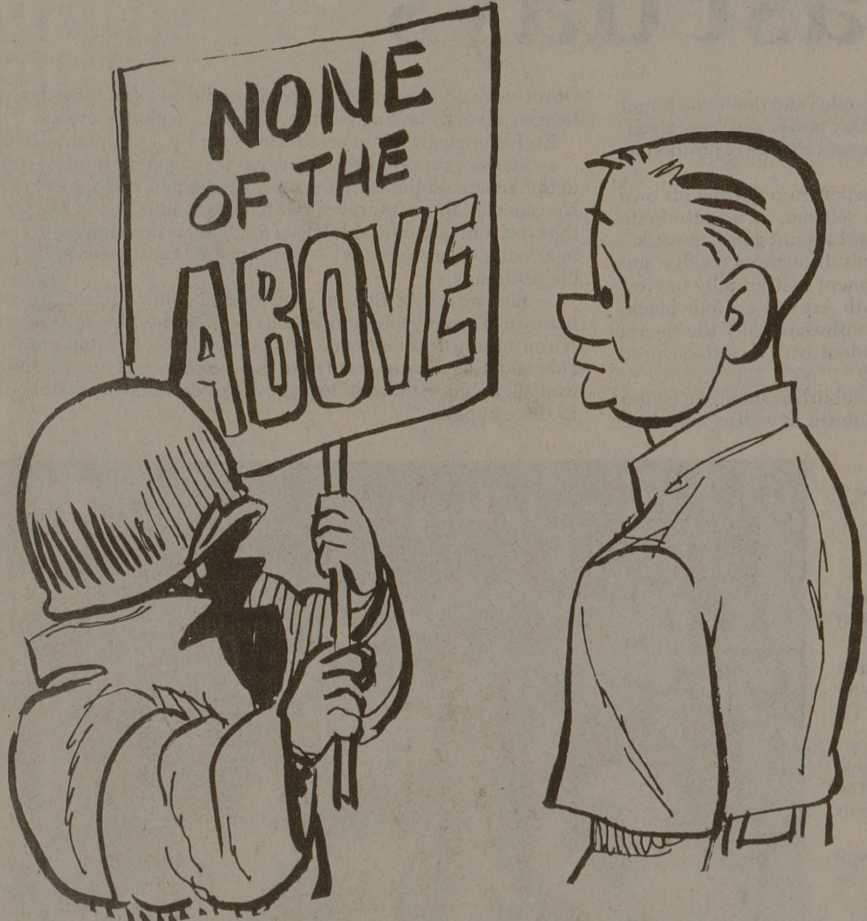
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 31, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I just figured that I ought not sit idly by, but get involved in politics."

Why on earth would a thief want Miss Piggy from a door?

My wallet was stolen last week. Someone walked right up in broad-open daylight and took my wallet out of my Phillippe leather clutch purse and walked off.

As soon as the culprit got his greedy little hands on the big bucks he found there, he deposited the rest of the contents in the men's room of the Memorial Student Center. Some nice man found it and turned it in. Other than the funny looks I got when I told where the wallet had been found, I was lucky.

I don't begrudge the thief the \$3. He probably was hungry and fighting the tragedy of inflation. I can identify. I have often been tempted by filthy lucre myself. But, this thievery thing has gotten out of hand. Wednesday, someone stole my Miss Piggy off my door.

Miss Piggy could not have been a matter of survival. To explain, Miss Piggy was given the position of name card on the door of my dorm

Offhand

By Venita McCollon

room. My resident adviser, being particularly brilliant and creative, turned the whole wing into Muppet-mania with the cute little animals beaming down from every door. Miss Piggy had pink felt ears that really flopped, cutesy eyes, and a baked and varnished dinner roll for a nose.

I was so proud of her. But Wednesday some despicable person walked right up and jerked Miss Piggy off the door and out of my life forever. Whoever it was

didn't even bother to knock to see if I was home before he ran off with my Piggy. The thief was left to hang on the door in that fashion. It makes me wonder why people keep their hands in their own pockets and other peoples' belongings.

It could have been worse. At least Miss Piggy left in one piece. My roommate had her brown-and-serve nose pulled down and was left to hang on the door in that fashion. It makes me wonder why people keep their hands in their own pockets and other peoples' belongings. It wasn't like the roll was edible. I can imagine why Miss Piggy would be of use to me. Some people have no sympathy for a college woman who merely wants to keep her scrapbook.

Is nothing sacred anymore?

Campaign enhanced by minor candidates

By DAVID BRODER

WASHINGTON — At long last, the endless campaign has come down to decision time. The opportunities for procrastination and hesitation and equivocation on the part of us voters are as limited as the candidates' chances to come up with the freshly persuasive arguments that will sway our votes.

No more than in the past is the intention of this column to persuade anyone how to vote. But there are some final observations on the candidates that may be worth making.

One problem we all have had in getting this campaign into focus has been the plentitude of contenders. Either Jimmy Carter or Ronald Reagan will be elected President, but three other men — Ed Clark, Barry Commoner and John B. Anderson — are also running large-scale campaigns and attracting support.

The electorate has been well-served by what Anderson, Clark and Commoner have contributed to the rather meager content of 1980 politics.

Ed Clark and the Libertarians have had a great success in terms of their own objectives. Clark has emerged as a man of charm and conviction. With the extensive advertising his contributors have purchased, the Libertarian message has reached a far wider audience than ever before.

It is a doctrine that cuts across the normal constituency lines of American politics, embracing an extremely expansive view of civil liberties, for example, along with an almost-isolationist approach to foreign policy. But it has an internal logic that challenges conventional thinking and stimulates debate.

Barry Commoner and the Citizens Party have been less successful in this educational mission. But at least he waved a flag for the Left, which would otherwise have gone virtually without a voice in 1980, so pale is the liberalism of the Democratic Party. Commoner's is an honorable role.

Anderson set out to run more than an "educational" campaign, and there are some still in his camp who see his candidacy in larger terms — perhaps even as a launching pad for a new party. I think they are wrong, and I think, in retrospect, Anderson's impact would have been greater had he accepted the "educational" role that Clark and Commoner set for their campaigns from the beginning.

It is true that Anderson, unlike the other two, is no ideologue. But he represents an important strain of political thinking — progres-

sive Republicanism — that has not had a comfortable home anywhere since the 1964 Republican convention nominated Barry Goldwater in the campaign that first brought Reagan into national prominence.

Progressive Republican governors in such states as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Iowa have produced exceptionally competent government and innovative approaches to energy, economic, urban, farm and social problems. Historically, progressive Republicans have been among the most upright lawyers and judges and among the most competent managers of American foreign policy.

The best of the breed — like Elliot Richardson, who has slipped quietly into private law practice after another unheralded success in public service — have demonstrated their quality in all three fields: state government, the administration of justice and international diplomacy.

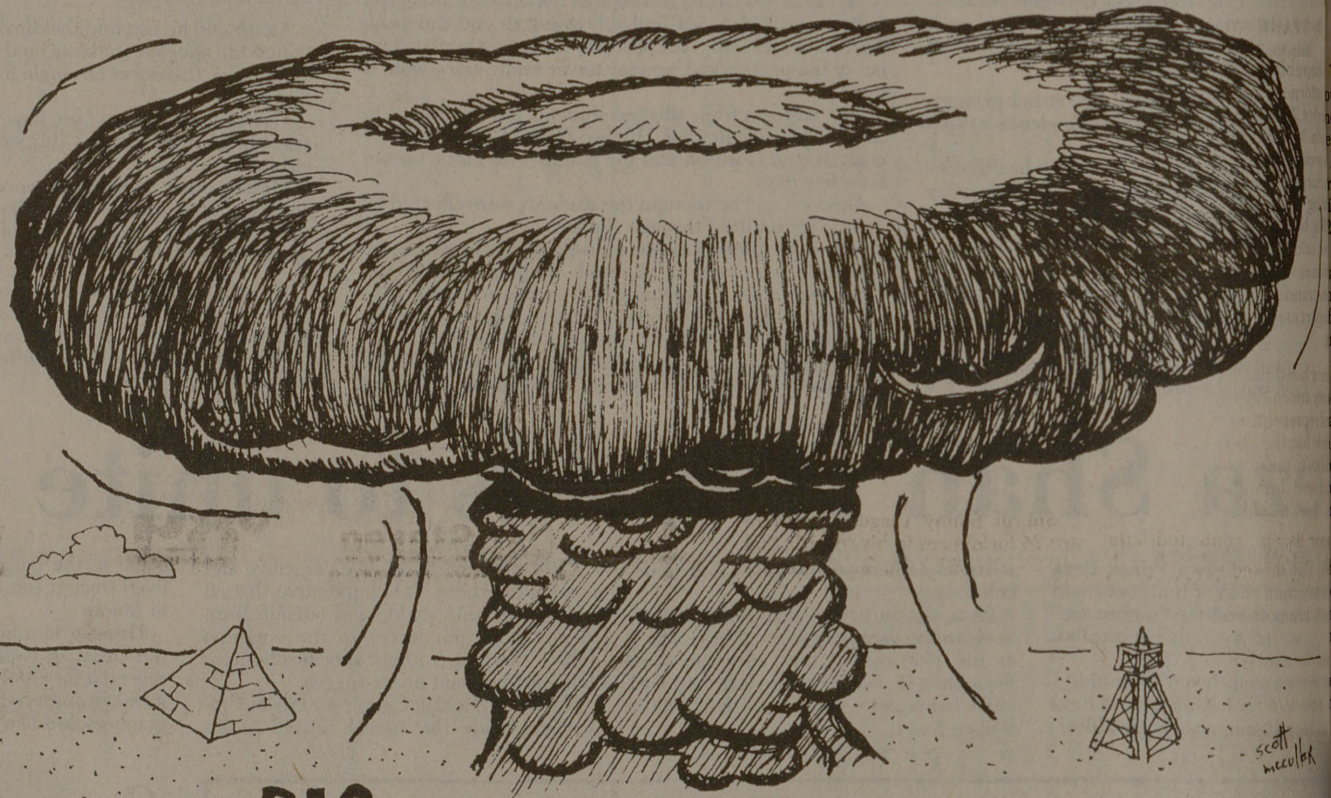
Anderson drew on the accumulated wisdom and experience of the progressive Republican tradition. What he said about foreign policy, economic policy, energy policy, urban policy and the management of government made such good sense that many of his ideas will undoubtedly be appropriated by whoever is President.

Those who are voting for Anderson because of the man and his policies need offer no apologies to anyone. The only part of the Anderson campaign that made no sense was the pretense that he might win. Those who support him must be prepared to admit that they pay the price of letting others pick the next President.

It is false to argue, as the Carter campaign did, that a vote for Anderson is a vote for Reagan. It is not. But neither is it — as some Anderson supporters contend — a way of "sending a message" of dissatisfaction to the parties that nominated Carter and Reagan.

Those who wish to rebuke the Democrats for nominating Carter would be better advised to vote straight Republican. And those who wish to discipline the Republicans for picking Reagan should vote straight Democratic. That message the parties will understand.

A vote for Anderson — like a vote for Clark or Commoner — is a justifiable salute to a man who is offering ideas and policies that can enrich the political dialogue now and in the future. But it is — and this should be understood — also a decision to turn one's back on the choice of the President for the next four years.



ONE BIG REASON TO VOTE FOR CARTER...

It's your turn

County attorney candidate rebuked

Editor's note: The following letter was addressed to Jeff Brown, candidate for Brazos County attorney. A copy of the letter was sent to The Battalion.

Dear Mr. Brown:

While in Bryan recently, I happened to obtain one of your campaign circulars which stated that you "previously worked with two outstanding Houston law firms — Fulbright & Jaworski."

The tone and tenor of your statement implies that this law firm employed you as an attorney. In fact, you were employed as a briefing clerk from April 11, 1978, through May 2, 1979, which by no means attests to your ability to practice law.

Although I am not implying that you are or are not a competent lawyer, I do not appreciate the use of my firm's name in your campaign literature without our consent, and we would appreciate your setting the record straight.

Very truly yours,
M.P. Martin

Don't blame Greeks

Editor:

This letter is in response to Kevin Bailey's letter on Wednesday, Oct. 29, about fraternities and unfriendliness on campus. I too have noticed since I have been here the past three years, that the number of people saying "how-

dy" and/or making "eye contact" has decreased. But I don't understand how you can single out Greeks. Fraternities and sororities make up only two percent of this campus. I think it is unfair of you to accuse Greeks as the sole cause of this problem. Every group, regardless of who they are, Corps, non-regs, or Greeks, all have their respective two percenters. It is not only one group's problem, but everyone's. Therefore, it's up to everyone to solve this problem. With the increasing enrollment of students it is unavoidable that things will become less personal. My suggestion, Kevin, is that you start saying "howdy" to people with their heads in the sand and make them look up so they can see A&M's true spirit.

To you, I give my personal "Howdy!" from a green-eyed Greek who shows her "True Ag" spirit every day. Pass it on!

Sally Reigle '82

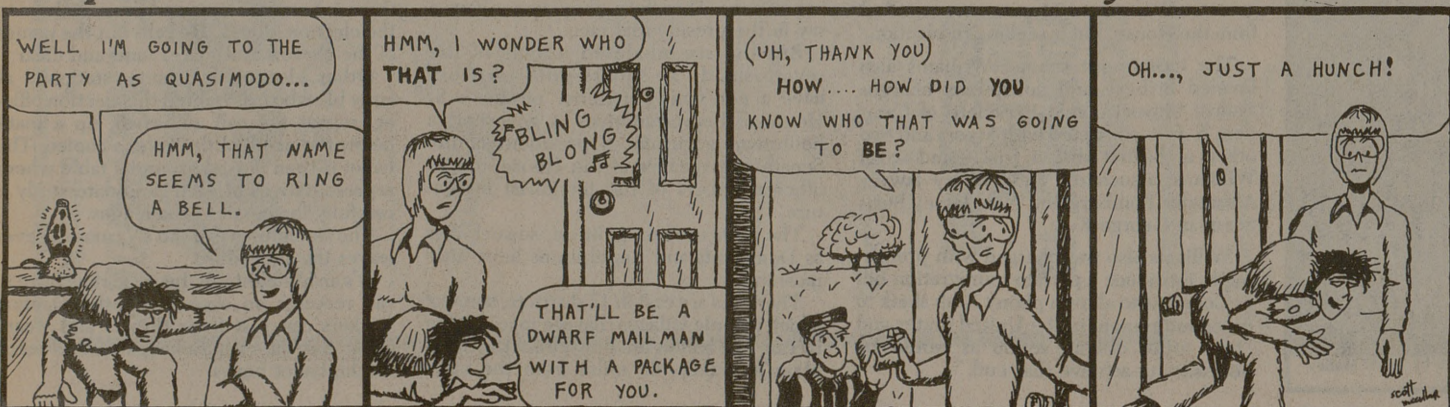
Does transitivity apply?

Editor:

Being a practical engineer I must have some math majors to get help in answering a theoretical question, "Does the property of transitivity apply to football teams?" If Baylor beats the Ags 39, and Baylor beats Lamar by 35, then can Lamar beat Baylor by 4?

I think it's an interesting comparison. I don't believe Lamar could win by 4 points all, that team just uses Beaumont area players who could not make it anywhere else. The Ags place more players in the NFL than any other SWC school by far. Surely, they would be able to pound Tom Wilson's team much more thoroughly than 4 points worth.
Geoffrey W. W.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M University's spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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