

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"You know, I think I'm in agreement with you. Playing a good game, winning a moral victory, showing your courage and that sort of thing is okay, but winning is better."

Blackout presents chance to appraise crisis procedures

Monday's campus-wide power blackout presented a number of interesting and alarming consequences for those who were caught unprepared in an electricity-controlled environment.

Most Aggies managed to handle the hour-long outage with a fair amount of indifference. Some, like the engineers in Zachry, spent their hour without power in more flighty pursuits.

But the loss of power throughout the campus presents the opportunity to examine a uniquely artificial aspect of our environment.

We've hermetically sealed ourselves into a mayonnaise jar, with only one avenue of escape — somebody else has to unscrew the lid. The power plant people, ever so slowly, have to begin bringing buildings back "on line."

When the lights go out, we're more than merely powerless; we become POWERLESS. The electricity god probably grins slyly as he wreaks havoc among humans who have become too dependant on him for their own good.

Aside from the inconvenience of typewriters that won't type, telephones that won't ring and drinks that don't stay cold, a power failure also presents a number of more significant handicaps.

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

Some people are caught in elevators. There's no hope if you're caught in an elevator. If you're not a complete claustrophobe when the car stops and the lights go out, you will be by the time you get out. After all, who's to say how long the crisis will last — and when they'll come pull you out of the elevator? And if the campus phones can't receive any incoming calls, is anyone ever going to know you're stuck?

Stairways are supposed to have safety lights — but the ones in Harrington didn't. It presents a real safety hazard to those trying to navigate up and down.

If the building you're in has lit stairways, what about the handicapped, caught with no way of getting down except the elevator? Col-

lege Station firemen responded gallantly to a man's needs Monday, helping him down the 11th floor of Rudder Tower, but it was those cases of being in the right place at the right time.

You can't expect the CSFD to appear in shining armor to come to the aid of everybody in need.

On the other hand, it must have been a relief to be able to sit outside the library at the faces at everyone trapped behind the heavily sealed glass doors. Serves the boys right; besides, who could ever dream of an excuse, "I was trapped in the library."

To the credit of most, the power outage didn't affect some of the more important of Texas A&M. Sbsisa kept serving the computer at the Remote Computing Center stopped, but it didn't lose any programs. The health center service continued uninterrupted.

It was evident that a power failure of this magnitude doesn't enter the thoughts of emergency planners. And while we were managed to cope, there are some significant improvements that can be made to those caught in the next blackout.

Economics cost Carter in his reelection bid

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — The implications of a huge Ronald Reagan/Republican victory will be unfolding over a long period of time, but some basic points were clear even as the final returns were being counted.

What defeated Jimmy Carter and the Democrats was the failure to control the costs of necessities and to demonstrate an ability to protect American lives and interests abroad. A year ago, when the campaign was just beginning, voters saw inflation as a threat to their personal security and viewed the plight of the hostages as a symbol of America's impotence in the world.

Nothing that happened in the last 12 months persuaded them that the dangers to personal freedom or national independence were diminishing under Carter and the Democrats. So when Reagan asked if voters thought they and the country were better off than they had been when the Carter presidency began, the answer was an overwhelming no.

Reagan's definition of the issue was so rooted in the reality of voters' own experiences and perceptions that none of Carter's scare-tactic efforts to shift the focus to the challenger could work. And the Reagan tactic played perfectly into the year-long, multi-million-dollar Republican Party advertising campaign to make voters believe that the source of their discontent was not just four years of Carter but 26 years of Democratic control of Congress.

That unprecedented party effort laid an effective foundation for dozens of individual GOP congressional and senatorial candidates to tell their constituents that "if you're going to throw Jimmy Carter out, you ought to defeat the legislators who supported him." With this approach and the resources provided by the party, the PACs and the issue activists, they tied local Democratic candidates to Carter's fatal coat-tails.

As a result, the conservative victory could hardly be more complete. The back of the liberal cadre in the Senate had been broken. Five liberal Democrats went down to defeat in 1978; in the spring of 1980, Ted Kennedy was rejected for the Democratic nomination; now seven more liberal senators have been eliminated, along with some of the best-known and most influential of their counterparts in the House.

Except for a few, aging traditional liberals, like Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill and Sen. Alan Cranston of California, the Majority Leader Jim Wright of Texas and his Senate counterpart, Sen. Bob Byrd of West Virginia. President Reagan will find them accommodating on most matters.

As for the younger House Democrats, many are political weathervanes and they will be ea-

ger to adjust to the conservative winds, lest they be swept away when the Republicans go all-out for control of the House in 1982, as they surely will do.

So, for next two years at least, Reagan and the conservatives in Congress will have things very much their own way. The question for the country is whether they will govern in a broad, expansive spirit or a mean and narrow one.

Reagan projected himself during the campaign as a comfortable, outgoing leader, reaching out for support and seeking to broaden his understanding as he widened his constituency. But historically, he has, as he puts it, set his "feet in concrete" on many divisive issues. And many of the newly elected conservatives in Congress look like grim apostles of the right-wing version of revealed truth, who view any dissent as heresy.

The atmosphere in Washington may be like London under Cromwell when, as when the doggerel goes, people said, "England's governed by Objectors. Lord protect us from Protector's."

The first tests of the Republicans' tolerance will be internal. Will the GOP senators keep Howard H. Baker, Jr., of Tennessee as their leader, or will they purge him for "crimes of moderation," as they blackballed him for a place on the national ticket?

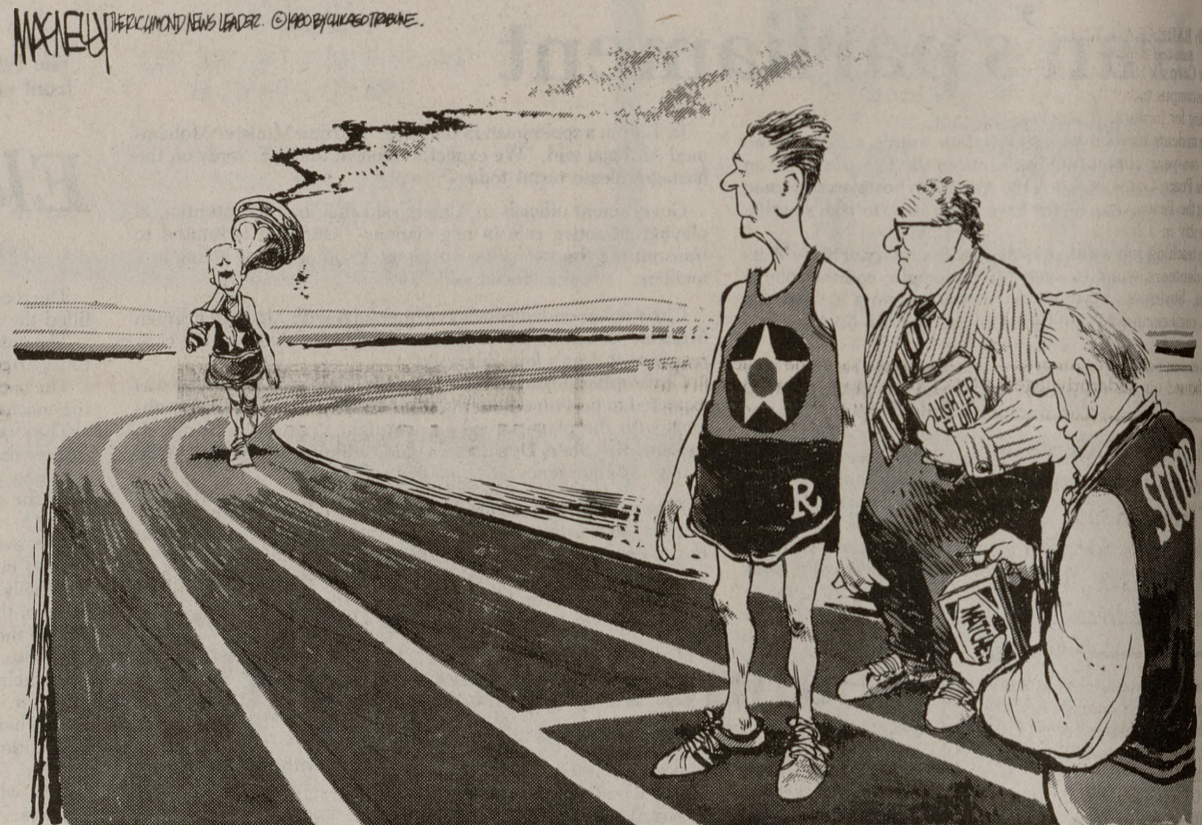
Will Reagan insist that places on his White House staff and in his administration be open to all Republicans and to "discerning Democrats," or will he permit the ideologues who have a long investment in his career to bar access to everyone but their philosophical clones?

Those are the earliest clues the country will get about what kind of people it has voted into power, but the most important test — in my view — will lie in what Reagan and the victorious conservatives do to reassure worried black and brown Americans about the implications of their victory.

Carter was accused of demagoguery when he said a Reagan victory might separate the races on America. But, in fact, that separation occurred in the voting booths last Tuesday, as blacks and brown, almost alone, gave their support to Carter in overwhelming numbers.

Many in the minority communities are frightened by their isolation from their partners in the old New Deal coalition and by the fact that the victorious conservatives owe them nothing politically. There is little they find reassuring in Reagan's past pronouncements on civil rights laws and social welfare issues.

Dealing with those fears will be the work of many years, but it can begin by including strong black and brown leaders in the planning and staffing of the new government. Nothing would contribute more to letting Reagan launch this new conservative era on the right note.



It's your turn Rebuttal about Texas A&M soccer team

Editor:

This is in reply to the letter which appeared in the November 10th edition of The Battalion entitled, "Soccer good but it could be better," by John Wainio.

First, it was not until this past June that Coach Telmo Franco accepted the task of coaching the A&M team. Because of this, there was little time for recruiting. Also, most major universities had completed their recruiting earlier in the spring. Even if Coach Franco had arrived in time to recruit players, what could he offer them? We receive no scholarships and certainly he could not brag about the facilities.

Secondly, the players that are presently on the team are forced to make great sacrifices in order to play and represent the University. Because of the time we put into the practice and games, we are forced to take lighter class loads than we normally would (we must take at least 12 hours) and therefore, must stay an extra year to finish our degrees. Many of the players which Mr. Wainio speaks of were not willing to make this sacrifice.

Physical fitness is very important to soccer, Mr. Wainio, and it is not obtained quickly as you stated. During tryouts, every player was required to run two miles in under 12 minutes before practice and after three hours of practice, run wind sprints and other conditioning drills. Many players were cut or quit because

they could not or would not meet these requirements. No matter how skillful a person is, he must be in good shape to play against the very physical teams that comprise the SWC. What good is skillful player if he is too tired to run and must sit down and rest on the bench?

As for the friendly scrimmage Mr. Wainio talks about, he did not tell the whole story. The TAMU team had practiced for an hour before the scrimmage started. During this time we had to run five miles and completed other conditioning drills. The team that we scrimmaged consisted mainly of players who had, at one time or another, played for, or tried to play for, the A&M team. Some of these players are good enough to play for the A&M team, but chose not to because of schedule problems or they were not willing to do the work required. None

were cut because Coach Franco did not want them. This is a poor excuse which some use to justify their lack of skill and ability from the team.

To those of you who think you know about soccer than Coach Franco, I ask you to compare your qualifications to his. He has coached his life to soccer. Before he left he starred as a professional player, and after coming to the U.S. he has coached college soccer for eight years and earned a master's degree in physical education. Mr. Wainio, if you can match up to these qualifications, invite you to come out and practice with the team for a week and we will see if you are the same way. I don't think you will.

THE BATTALION

U S P S 045 360

MEMBER

Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor Dillard Stone
Managing Editor Rhonda Waters
Asst. Managing Editor Scott Haring
City Editor Becky Swanson
Asst. City Editor Angelique Copeland
Sports Editor Richard Oliver
Asst. Sports Editor Ritchie Priddy
Focus Editor Scott K. Meyer
Asst. Focus Editor Cathy Saathoff
News Editors Lynn Blanco,
Gwen Ham, Todd Woodard
Staff Writers Jennifer Allerbach, Kurt Allen,
Nancy Andersen, Marey Boyce, Jane G. Brust,
Mike Burrichter, Pat Davidson, Cindy Gee,
Jon Heidtke, Uschi Michel-Howell, Debbie Nelson,
Liz Newlin, Rick Stolle
Cartoonist Scott McCullar
Photo Editor Pat O'Malley
Photographers George Dolan,
Jeff Kerber

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial should be directed to the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. We make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Letters must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and subject to the same length constraints as letters. 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 spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.50 per year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Hall, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the reproduction of all news dispatches created by the reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX.

Warped

