

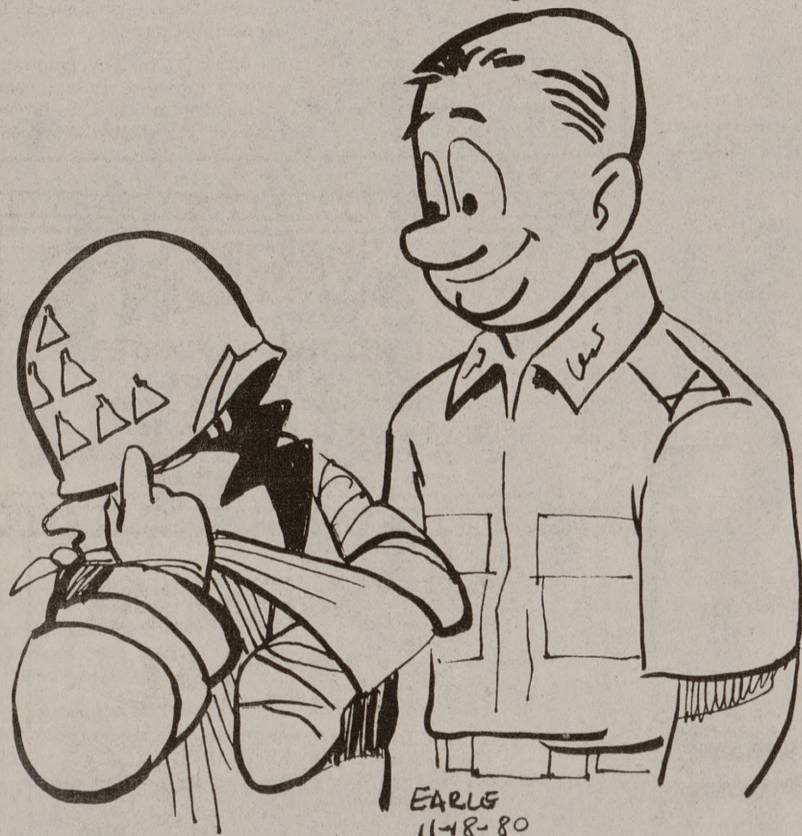
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"These stickers? They're for heroic service on the bonfire."

Real politics to begin

By DAVID S. BRODER
United Press International

WASHINGTON — When the Democratic leaders of Congress scheduled the post-election lame-duck session for this time, they had no idea how many broken-winged birds there would be. By my calculation, there will be 17 senators and at least 65 representatives who will be filling their perches for the last time in this shortened session.

The case for caution in passing much legislation of any moment in such a session is obvious and overwhelming. The Democrats arranged the session in order to avoid the political embarrassment of formally ratifying a \$60-billion budget deficit in a pre-election vote. But they took the bitter medicine of defeat anyway. When the new Congress comes in next January, their 18-seat Senate majority will have turned into a 6-seat deficit, and their House margin will have been shaved from a healthy 114 seats to a shaky 51.

There is some necessary housekeeping work on budget, appropriations and related matters for the lame-duck session to complete, and a few big bills that were passed in varying forms by the House and Senate, which could be moved off the agenda. But the main business before the two bodies — or at least those members who will be returning — will be to compare notes on the meaning of the mandate the voters sent.

There will be as many interpretations of that mandate as there are members of Congress, but I heard two interpretations from young congressmen last week that I found particularly interesting.

One of those congressmen takes the oath of office for the first time in January. State Rep. Barney Frank (D) of Massachusetts may well be the most liberal individual elected to the House last week. He is the successor — in every sense — of retiring Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.), the Jesuit priest who was ordered out of politics by the Pope.

Frank is a leader of the liberal Americans for Democratic Action and a man who tried to dump both former Gov. Michael Dukakis and President Jimmy Carter, on grounds they were not sufficiently liberal for his tastes, only to see both of them lose to markedly more conservative figures.

All of this background adds poignancy to his interpretation of the Reagan-Republican landslide. "The voters were saying they are unhappy with the state of the world, and they think the Democrats and liberals are to blame for it," Frank said in a phone call from Boston. "We've been running the show for so long, I think we got ourselves painted as the defenders of the status quo."

The political implication of this view, he said, is that "we Democrats don't obstruct Ronald

Reagan. He is the President and he and his supporters are entitled to their shot. It would be a great mistake for the Democrats in the House of Representatives to let Ronald Reagan say he was blocked from doing what he and the Republican Senate wanted to do by a group of willful Democrats in the House.

"We can't let him," Frank said, "run around the country in the 1982 campaign saying we kept him from changing the status quo."

The other comment came from Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), who was elected to his second term last week from a previously Democratic district. As a freshman, ex-professor Gingrich was exceptionally active and vocal in promoting Republican alternatives to basic Democratic budget policies, and he was one of the initiators of the mid-campaign ceremony on the steps of the Capitol, where Reagan and congressional Republicans pledged to work in concert for the enactment of new national policies.

When I asked Gingrich what he thought the triumphant Republicans would really do, "now that you are in power," his answer was as surprising as Frank's comments. "We are not in power," he said. "If the Reagan people let that idea get abroad, we are in real trouble."

"We do not control the senior bureaucracy as yet and we do not control the House of Representatives. If Tip O'Neill (the Democratic Speaker of the House) is shrewd, he will encourage the Reagan people to think we're in power, and he'll encourage the country to think we're in power. And then he will systematically slow us down. And two years from now, when nothing has changed, he'll let us take the blame... If Reagan seeks to govern by seeking accommodations with the people in power in the House of Representatives, he will leave us terribly vulnerable in 1982."

These two views seem paradoxically contradictory. The liberal Democrat, who might be supposed to vow die-hard resistance to Reagan schemes, says, "Don't obstruct him." The conservative Republican, who might be thought to be savoring power, says, "Don't think for a moment — or let the public think — we have really taken control."

But they are not at odds. Both understand that the vote last week was a sweeping condemnation of the political and governmental status quo. Both understand there will be further penalties for the voters in 1982 if that status quo has not been changed. And both are saying "If there is not change, my side better be in a position to claim it was the fault of the other guy."

I think that is a realistic preview of the politics of the new Congress and the new administration, an intriguing chapter that will begin as soon as all these lame-ducks are removed from the scene.

Sadistical tendencies emerge upon siting of (yech!) roaches

Even though I have a geology lab assignment due tomorrow, a research paper due in history, Spanish homework AND a story to turn into The Battalion tomorrow, I'm going to take time out to write about a problem — a problem common to all College Station residents, one that cannot possibly be solved by me writing this.

Roaches — those beastly, little nasty creatures!

You ask, "Why do you want to write about roaches?" I guess because if I wasn't writing this, I'd still be cringing from my latest encounter with a roach.

I was sitting at my kitchen table with my tasty, hot bowl of chicken noodle soup when I decided I needed a few crackers to go with it. So I pulled out a previously opened package of crackers and checked them out thoroughly for roaches. (I've learned to do this since living in College Station.)

They passed the test, but just to be sure, I discarded the top cracker. So when there were only a few spoonfuls of soup left, and four of the crackers were resting nicely at the bottom of my stomach, I heard this funny, crackling noise. I looked up and saw a blasted roach crawling in

Staff notebook

By Cindy Gee

between the remaining crackers and the wrapper.

It's hard to describe the feeling of knowing you've just eaten those same crackers that roach was nibbling on only minutes before.

No, this wasn't the first time something like this had happened to me. Then there was the time I was munching on Fritos. About the third handful I pulled out, I found two little roachlings weaving in and out of the croutons.

There was also the time I got up extra early so I could fix pancakes. As I was pouring out the Bisquick mix, out came a big, brown roach. He was so big he must have been the granddaddy. Needless to say I didn't eat pancakes, but at least that time I hadn't already eaten some of it.

There was also the time when I ran my bathwater, and as I was about to step in discovered a

roach floating on the top. Or the time I discovered a roach crawling on my toothbrush that was in a container I specially bought to keep roaches off.

Or the time when I was eating dinner at some friends' apartment and listening to them brag about not having a roach problem. No sooner had they finished telling me when something fell from the light fixture and into the plate of pork chops. We looked down to find — I guessed it — a roach crawling out of the mushroom gravy. It's always funnier when it happens to someone else!

However, I don't think they were lying about not having many roaches because they do react like veteran roach killers. They went wild whereas I would have calmly gotten up from the table, taken a paper towel and smashed the heck out of that little devil.

I have to confess roaches do bring out a sadistic nature in me. It's almost a thrill to squish them with Raid and watch them squirm, or to see them on the hot water when they're in the sink.

I'm looking forward to the day when I'm a reporter living back in West Texas and I'll be able to laugh roaches off as just another one of those college experiences.



Planet's smog indicates higher life forms

Reverse evolution — Saturn explained

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Astronomers profess themselves baffled by some of the data sent back from Saturn by the Voyager 1 space apparatus.

Perhaps they are looking at it from the wrong angle.

My memory is about as reliable as a Tehran hostage communique, but as I recall it was architect Buckminster Fuller who provided the proper perspective. For he was the father of Niwrad, the theory of reverse evolution.

Niwrad (Darwin spelled backwards) challenges the notion that man descended from monkeys.

"Man may have come to Earth from another planet," says a Niwradian precis. "Evolution may be going the other way... it is possible that we may be making monkeys of ourselves."

For some strange reason, the concept of earthly life beginning at its highest form and gradually undergoing diminution never quite caught on.

Nevertheless, it seems to fit right in with the Voyager 1 signals that have caused so much perplexity.

For example, Voyager found one of Saturn's moons enveloped in a smog-like cloud. Astronomers conjectured the smog was a natural phenomenon. But when the Saturn smog is

considered within the framework of reverse evolution, a more plausible hypothesis emerges.

It may be postulated that Saturn once had a life form higher than any known on Earth, including Henry Kissinger.

Over the eons, as the reverse evolution process worked its inexorable pattern, this life form steadily degenerated to a level only slightly above what is now your basis Earthling.

That, of course, explains the smog. Rather than being a product of nature, the toxic haze was created by our Saturnian ancestors.

Being, as I said, somewhat superior to present day Earthlings, the Saturnians could foresee that smog would render their planet uninhabitable. Also because of this superiority, space travel was no problem. So they all migrated to Earth and points south.

Had our ancestral life form remained on Saturn, reverse evolution would have con-

tinued much as it has on Earth.

As the smog grew thicker, Saturnians would have taken ape-like to the trees, hoping they would be better up there. Then they would have burrowed reptilian fashion into the ground, or what passes for ground on Saturn, hoping the smog would not seep down there.

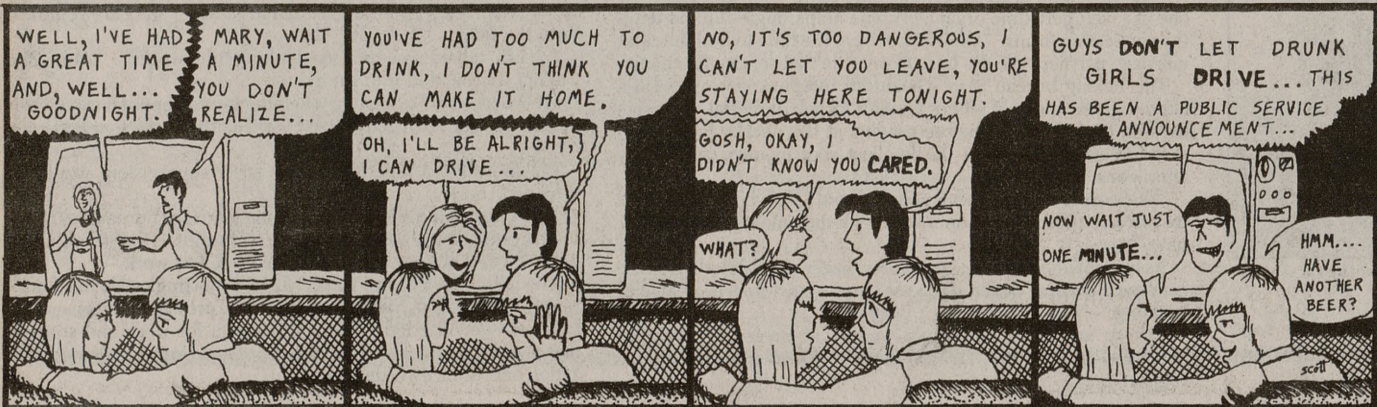
From their subterranean existence, they would have moved under water, first to amphibian characteristics and then totally to fish-like.

From that point, as evolutionary time is measured, they would soon have turned into blobs of protoplasm.

If you play out the Niwrad string, you see that the end result of reverse evolution is the complete disappearance of the species. It can happen here.

The signal from Saturn is clear: Some day there may be nothing left of life on Earth except cosmic gasses and presidential candidates.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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