

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 9, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"This is the week I've been holding back for. I'm gonna pop out of bed and study, and work, and prepare, and review and... ZZZZZZZ... ZZZZZZ..."

Political revolution felt in Washington St.

By DAVID S. BRODER

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Republicans in Washington state act like a lot of little Gene Kellys these days. They are singing in the rain.

On election day, they picked up the governorship, a Senate seat and a second House seat — the best day the GOP has had here in a generation. King County (Seattle) Executive John Spellman defeated state Sen. James A. McDermott, who had beaten Gov. Dixy Lee Ray (D) in the Democratic primary. State Atty. Gen. Slade Gorton defeated Sen. Warren C. Magnuson (D), who had been in Congress for more than three decades. State Sen. Sid Morrison ousted five-term House member Mike McCormack (D), joining Rep. Joel Pritchard as the second Republican in the seven-member House delegation.

The man who savored the victory as much as anybody — and who was, in many respects, its author — was former Gov. Daniel J. Evans (R). That it came on a day when another West Coast gubernatorial alumnus, Ronald Reagan, was winning the presidency added the proper touch of irony, because Evans and Reagan are, in many respects, the opposite sides of the Republican coin.

Just as in the 1964 election offered Reagan his first hour in the national spotlight (as a television speaker for Barry Goldwater), so it launched the national career of Dan Evans. In that year of Republican disaster, he was elected as the Republican governor of normally Democratic Washington. Where Reagan became the standard-bearer for the Goldwaterites, Evans quickly lent his voice to the effort to purge Goldwater's man, Dean Burch, from the national chairmanship and bring the party back to a more moderate posture.

At every subsequent turn in the road, Evans and Reagan chose opposite courses. In 1968, while Richard Nixon was moving down the middle, Reagan challenged him from the right — and Evans supported Nelson Rockefeller's challenge from the left.

In the eight years they were together at governor's conferences, they were contrasts in both personality and policy. Evans was a staunch defender of the environmental cause, while Reagan ridiculed those who thought, as he said, "we ought to live in bird houses."

Reagan drew headlines with his oratorical thrusts at big government in Washington. But it was Evans — who was as influential with his colleagues as he was unostentatious with the press — who led the governors into a coalition with mayors and county officials that lobbied effectively for revenue-sharing and bloc grants.

The 1980 Republican triumph in Washington state was due more to the legacy of Evans than the coattails of Reagan. Reagan carried the state with a 49 percent plurality, while Spellman, Gorton, Morrison and Pritchard won with 56, 54, 57 and 78 percent margins, respectively.

The four Republican winners here are moderates in the Evans tradition — men who, like their mentor, have often found their toughest tests in surviving the attacks of Reaganite conservatives within the Republican party.

Evans, an engineer by profession, was elected to the legislature in 1956 and helped bring Gorton and Pritchard into the legislature two years later. Morrison came into the state house of representatives in 1966, when Gorton was the Evans-backed majority leader. The Evans organization also helped Spellman defeat the powerful conservative faction in his race for King County Executive in 1969. And now in 1980, Evans has seen all four of them move into positions of greater influence.

As for Evans himself, after 12 years in the governorship, he "retired" in 1977 to the presidency of Evergreen State College here. It is remarkable and exciting and controversial campus, which was created during his governorship and has won, after only a decade of life, a national reputation as an innovator in liberal education, environmental sciences, and the preparation of students for public-service careers.

Even a short-time visitor catches the enthusiasm among its students and faculty for the challenges of public policy and politics — the very qualities that Evans communicated to his own associates in public office.

No one can guess what the ultimate impact of the men and women of Evergreen will be on politics and government in the Northwest. But looking at what Dan Evan's disciples have just done in the election of 1980, one can guess that, over time, his influence may match or exceed that of his more famous and conservative neighbor to the south.

Liberals must learn lessons before it becomes too late

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Liberals, and to some that erroneously includes everyone whose words regularly appear in print, have been getting an earful of derision from conservatives since Election Day.

However, sauce for the goose, etc., and after the razing folks of the right have had to take in previous Novembers, it seems only fair that they get to do some strutting after their big and unexpected 1980 victory.

Actually, the liberals may find this loss and the minority status they will have to assume in Washington come January good if bitter medicine.

Someone said recently American political liberals haven't had a new idea since the Peace Corps. That seemed to be the case with Sen. Edward Kennedy's ill-fated challenge of President Carter, which left behind a lot more clever bumper stickers than original suggestions for dealing with national or international problems.

The conservatives haven't done much in the

way of innovation, either, but after all, that isn't supposed to be their role.

The fact that they have latched on to a old liberal Democratic idea for restoring the economy — John Kennedy's stimulative tax cut — is no stranger than the fact that the moderate Democrat Carter adopted the same restrictive monetary formula for fighting inflation as moderate Republican Gerald Ford. (Nor that he got the same result: inflation AND unemployment.)

In any case, the liberals certainly did not offer the nation anything it wanted during the 1980 campaign. After all, if Kennedy couldn't sell Democrats on wage and price controls, how could he expect to win over the country at large? And if Carter savaged Ford in 1976 for producing high prices and scarce jobs, how could he expect to be re-elected on an even worse record in the same areas in 1980?

Now both moderate and liberal Democrats are going to have the time and should have the motivation to look for some better ways.

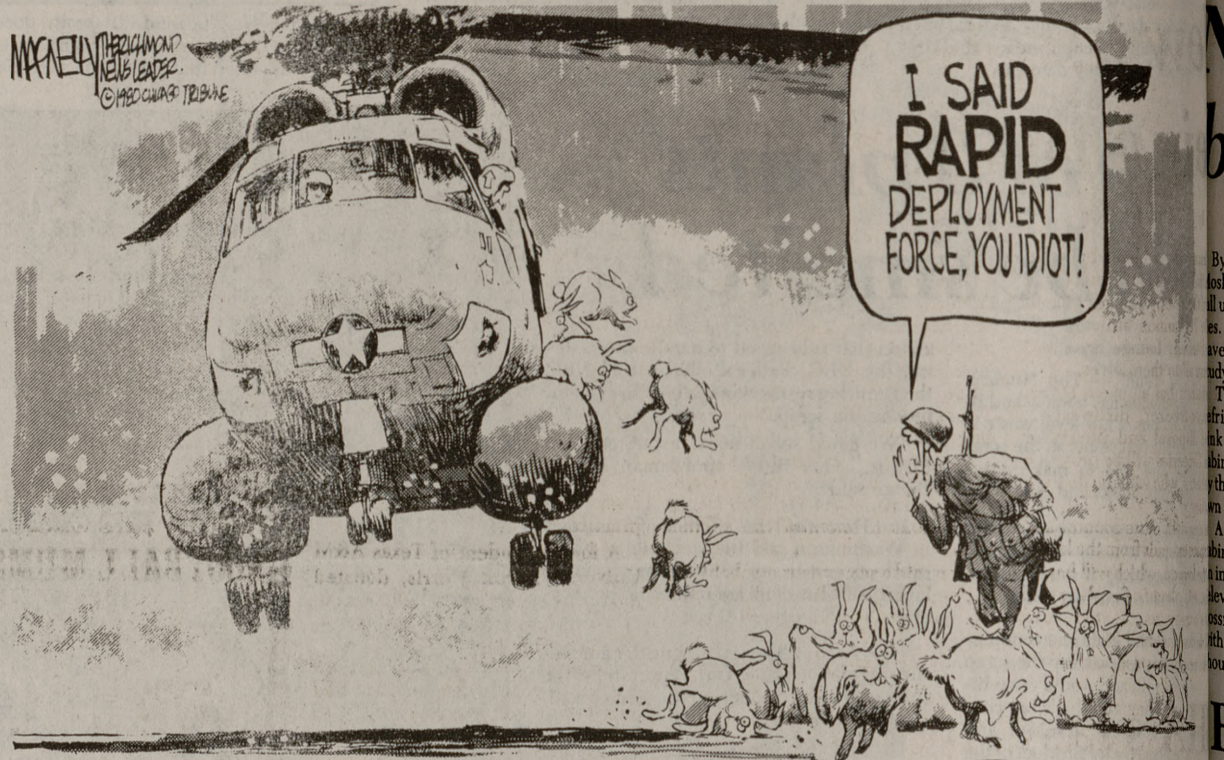
Just in case they wonder where to find them,

they might do what the Democrats the Republicans took over 60 years ago: look to World War I. They looked to the times for useful new ideas.

Those Democrats appropriated man Thomas's Socialist platform, look at both Ed Clark's Libertarianism and Compton's Citizen Party programs, concepts that might really work.

It also should be noted that the Democrats with the aforementioned tax cut, for example, did not hesitate to assume once regarded as heresy in their effort to power. It may not have been lost on the century GOP that it owes its very existence to the Whigs, who could not and would not with changing times and circumstances.

Of course, the Democrats can spend a couple of years trying to decide what for what happened to them in 1980. It's a good bet that it will happen to them in 1982. And if that doesn't teach them anything, by 1984 they may be able to reap the Republican performance of 1964.



It's your turn

Bonfire does more good here at A&M

Editor:

This is in reply to the letter by Sam McClatchie regarding the Aggie bonfire.

Mr. McClatchie, I can certainly agree with your sentiments on conditions in the Third World. It is a terrible shame and something should be done about it.

However, consider the wood used in the bonfire. Had we not built a bonfire would any of that wood have gone to aid any of those people? It is hardly probable. It would have been bulldozed to clear land or possibly sold for firewood in some middle-class home.

We are fortunate to live in a country where we do not have to fight daily for survival. We live in a country where we can afford to enjoy what to others would be a sinful waste. A bonfire would look no worse to those people than candy bars, teddy bears, movie tickets, or paying for pet food.

There is much that needs to be done in this world. In response, Americans annually donate more to charity and relief aid than any nation on earth. Maybe we can and should do more, but our bonfire is not taking food out of anyone's mouth.

It would be hard for a non-Aggie to understand our attachment to this bonfire tradition. But, corny as it may seem, it really does symbolize our love and devotion to this school. And I believe that, without a doubt, that wood does more good in our bonfire than it would rotting bulldozed in a field or being sold for firewood at a 7-11.

R. S. Hilliard '82

We're losing the 'T'

Editor:

It has recently come to my attention that Texas A&M is losing a very old tradition. We are losing the Block T. Since the early part of this century the popular logo for Texas A&M has been the Block T. But in recent years it has been gradually pushed aside for the new aTm. The aTm logo first gained widespread popularity during the Gene Stallings years. He replaced the numbers on the football helmets with an aTm. This change met with little notice despite the fact that lettermen on the team are inducted into the "T" Association and awarded a Block T, not an aTm.

Looking back through old Aggie yearbooks, the football coaches like D. X. Bible, Homer Norton and "Bear" Bryant are all seen wearing the customary baseball caps with a large Block T emblazoned on the front. You don't see the new aTm caps until the 1960s.

To this day you still see remnants of the Block T on the campus: Reveille's monument at Kyle Field is a large granite Block T, members of Corps Staff still wear maroon battle scarves with white Block T's on the front, and the traditional

signature of the Aggie Band is the famous Block T. Even the official seal of the university bears a large maroon Block T. Say more?

This was all brought to my attention when I attempted to buy an Aggie hat at a camp with a traditional Block T. Now a hat can be found. Not at the MSC, not at the Old Army, not even at Old Army Lou's. I was asking for much. All I wanted was a hat like the Aggie Baseball Team wears. Hundreds of hats in dozens of styles, but one, down to the last, had the new aTm looking. Coats, jackets, windbreakers, things had the new "amended" Block T. It's meant to distinguish us from (TUs and countless other.) I couldn't even find a T-shirt, they were all aTm shirts.

Have I uncovered a conspiracy? Has a sipper infiltrated our ranks with the intent of getting the Aggies to abandon their logo which rightfully belongs to Texas A&M state's oldest school? I doubt it. But the time we drag the old school letter from the attic, dust it off, maybe use a little glue and put it back where it belongs.

Pete Normand '71

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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Texas Press Association
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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and 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'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.

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

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