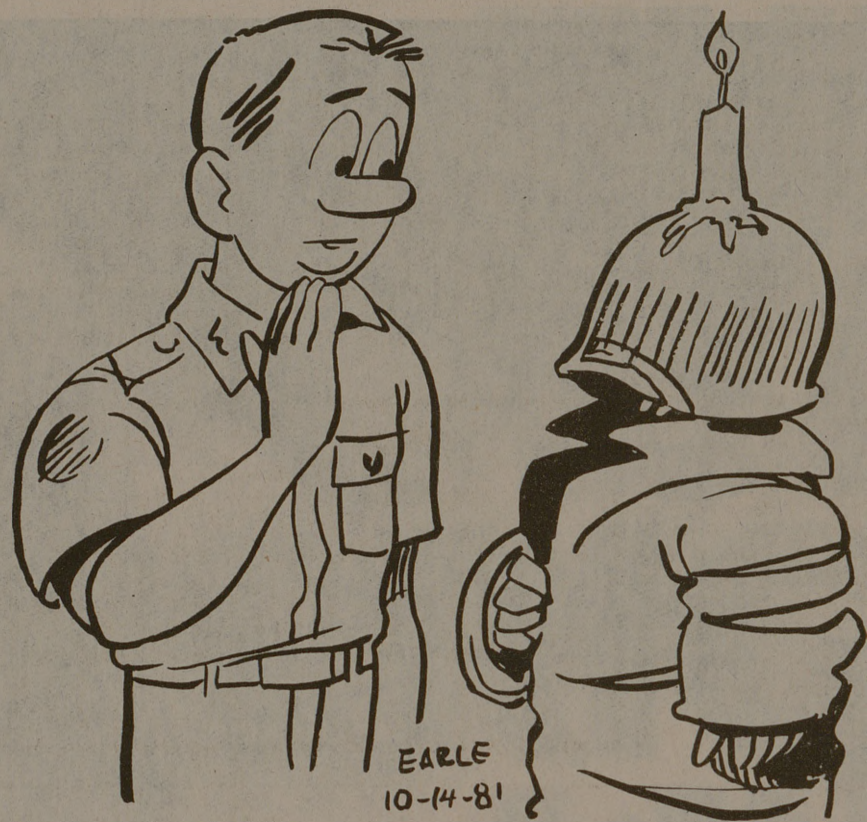


## Slouch By Jim Earle



"It's not a bad idea, but do you really think that we're going to always have power shortages?"

## A new breed of liberals emerges

By IRA R. ALLEN  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Starting with George McGovern's defeat in 1972, liberalism has been on the run.

Now that it's in full retreat, a re-polished brand of liberalism has begun to emerge in the Senate, where there is always a plentiful supply of deep-thinkers willing to have their ideas — and themselves — considered presidential material.

Two of the latest up-and-comers striving to make Democrats forget about Walter Mondale and Edward Kennedy in 1984 are Sens. Gary Hart of Colorado and Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts.

Hart, handsome and intense, gazes forth on the cover of this month's influential Washington Monthly magazine, which asks, "Should this man be president?" The magazine's answer seems to be a resounding "maybe."

Tsongas has made a splash with a book that outlines a program for modern liberals so that they will not continue to be "round pegs (who) no longer fit into the square realities of our world."

Thoughtful and informative, Tsongas is also truly depressing in his recital of the dangers facing the modern world. Of such negativism, leaders are not usually made.

The irony of each senator's claim to Democratic dominance is that while they profess to be men of fresh approaches, Tsongas and Hart each attained his present

prominence by stepping over the bodies of their failed patrons.

Hart went from managing McGovern's disastrous presidential campaign to running for Senate just two years later as someone trying to "redefine" liberalism and "question some of the premises upon which the Democratic Party has operated."

Tsongas, once a Republican, defeated Edward Brooke, 12 years after urging a Republican congressman for whom he worked not to challenge the Senate's only black. One reason for Tsongas' victory was campaign help from Kennedy, who had never before campaigned hard for a Brooke opponent.

Then, in the midst of Kennedy's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination last year, Tsongas taunted his senior colleague in a powerful speech to the Americans for Democratic Action: "This is a different generation. And if we do not speak to this generation in its terms, liberalism will decline. And if we do not meet these needs, liberalism should decline."

The Tsongas book came out of that ADA speech, made well before the Ronald Reagan juggernaut completed its devastation of liberals.

Their ambitions shouldn't of course denigrate what they are saying. Both are properly concerned about energy and the environment, with each breaking from liberal orthodoxy in important areas: Hart touting a strong, lean defense posture and in-

creased military spending, and urging a tougher foreign policy toward Russians, increased reliance on energy and more tax breaks for both. Both have also broken from orthodoxy on the Chrysler bailout and other issues.

Hart, proclaiming the end of Deal and something called an industrial economy" relying on telecommunications and computer power much fuzziest on the issues than he. He was once quoted in Business Week according to Washington Monthly saying the "agenda of the Democrats should be to devise non-program, non-bureaucratic solutions to ... vize the private sector."

Tsongas may not make it as far as simply because he labors in Kennedy's shadow and is not half so telegenic as the orator.

He does, however, present a challenge to those who look at it in strictly political terms. He asks, judged by readers with "an ideological slate."

"The question should not be whether it is consistent with liberal or Democratic traditions, but rather whether it is of reality is correct or not," he says, "the matter of philosophy can be derived."

Say in 1984?

## Assassinations mold U.S. history

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — So much of our life, so much of our history, has been shaped by the bullet and the gun that it almost makes a mockery of humanity's persistent efforts to deal sensibly with the problems of this world. The assassination of Anwar Sadat is another cruel reminder of the heedlessness with which violence discards the dreams and plans of governments, leaders and average citizens.

That hard lesson was first borne home to me on Dealy Plaza in Dallas almost 18 years ago. The assassination of John F. Kennedy was the most fateful crime of the decade, not because he was more important or irreplaceable than the other victims who followed, but because so much more than a man was killed that day.

That was the day that a whole generation of Americans lost its innocence. Many of those people have been impelled, by forces more powerful than reason, to search for a cause commensurate in scale to the loss they felt. All of the bizarre conspiracy theories, including the one that led to last week's grisly disturbance of the remains of Lee Harvey Oswald, reflect an unsatisfied hunger for some way to rationalize the dreadful act.

Even now, they find it hard to accept that a man like Oswald could have ended the hopes that were embodied in John Kennedy. He had brought a new spirit and a new generation to American public life, and his assassination altered the political cycles of America in a fundamental way.

I have always felt that had Kennedy lived and won a second term against Barry Goldwater in 1964, as I think he would have, then neither party would have come back in 1968 with candidates representing a pre-Kennedy generation in American politics. I do not know who the nominees would have been, but I doubt very much that the choice would have lain solely among Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey and George Wallace on the Democratic side, or among Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and Nelson Rockefeller on the Republican side.

With Kennedy leaving the White House at age 51, it is unlikely that either party would have willingly chosen a successor older chronologically and more antiquated politically than the retiring President.

America would have moved ahead with new leadership — and it might possibly have been spared the agonies of Vietnam and Watergate that cost us so much of our

substance and spirit.

What Kennedy's loss meant to the whole nation, Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder in 1968 compounded — with special cost to the black community. It is 13 years since he was murdered in Memphis, and no one has emerged to replace him. There is no black spokesman who can command such an audience. And, more important, there is no one of any race who can evoke the moral indignation of the American people against the continuing policies which shame this nation and the world. The gap between a King and a Jesse Jackson or a Jerry Falwell is a very large one.

The assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, later in 1968, had other kinds of costs. He was a marvelously engaging man, always changing and growing. No one can know what kind of President he would have been, or even if he would have been nominated or elected in 1968.

What we do know is that his absence changed the character of the 1968 convention, and the subsequent history of the Democratic Party. I have always thought that if Kennedy had come to Chicago, somehow he and Humphrey would have become ticket-mates on a platform separating them from the Johnson policies on Vietnam.

To bring this sad tale down to our own time, with the assaults on President Reagan, Pope John Paul II and President Sadat, the calamities — real and averted — are all too plain.

Reagan is the authentic voice of Reaganism. Had he not been spared, it seems very doubtful that the economic program he espoused would have made it through Congress — for good or ill. More important, the hope he had inspired in millions of Americans, who trust him more than they support his program, would have vanished.

Had Pope John been felled, not only would the Roman Catholic Church have lost its leader, the Solidarity movement in Poland — probably the most important new force on the face of the earth — would have lost its spiritual mentor and protector. And around the world, the symbol of strength in an ancient institution would have been mourned.

Of all these targets, Sadat was probably the largest historical figure, a man who was unique in personality, courage and vision. We sense already — and will, I fear, learn more — how irreplaceable he was, yet another lesson in the terrible tyranny of gun and bullet.

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It's your turn

## Library hours need to be extended

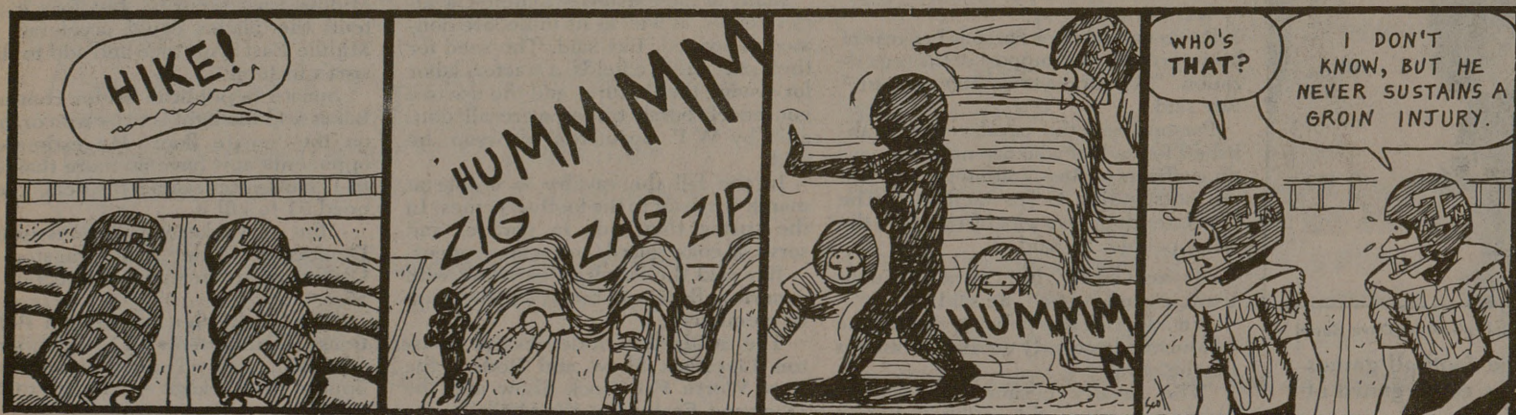
Editor:

It seems to me now that A.M.C. has changed to TAMU and has a student body of more than 35,000 that the library would stay open later during the week. Last semester, it wasn't such a big thing because of the availability of open classrooms around campus to study in. But this semester it's different. With the increase in size of the student body has also come vandalism and theft. The buildings that were open last semester are now locked at night. So where can we study?

One idea for saving cost of electricity would be to close down the top two or three floors.

Another idea is to keep the library open 24 hours during Dead Week as well as Finals Week. It's an act of desperation if one has to pull all-nighters during Finals Week.

By Scott McCullar



Being open through Dead Week would allow more useful time to study.

If you agree with me, write me a letter stating that you do. I'll compile and deliver them to the right person. We as Aggies can only get things done by showing our needs to the administration. Write: P.O. Box 3370, College Station 77841.

RRR

Correction

A caption under a photograph in today's edition of The Battalion mistakenly identified a couple wearing Aggie T-shirts as Elaine and George Johnson of Houston. In fact, the couple is Nelly and David Bryan.

## THE BATTALION

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. Editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style, length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the author's name and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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