

Strange rituals rule in Senate chambers

by Steve Gerstel
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The strange, archaic rituals of the U.S. Senate, emulated by no known tribe, came to full flower in the ushered exit of the departed Sen. Harrison A. "Pete" Williams Jr.

No man has ever been executed while bathed in so much friendship and lavished with so many words of admiration.

A stranger walking into the Senate could not have been faulted for believing that Williams was being honored for some noble deed, rather than drummed out in disgrace.

Yet, such are the tribal ways of the Senate, no other outcome was even faintly conceivable.

Even if Williams, through some short circuit in his mental process, had chosen expulsion to resignation, the Senate would have booted him out with affection.

Williams, no matter his admirable record in the field of social legislation over almost a quarter of a century, was a convicted felon, albeit appealing, who faces three years in the Big House.

The question of entrapment, which the Senate intends to ponder at a later date, aside, Williams had been convicted by a federal district court jury, a verdict upheld on appeal by the presiding judge.

Yet, the workings of the court seemed barely to intrude on the Senate as it ponderously moved about the odious task of sitting in judgment on a fellow.

To be sure, Williams was hauled before the Senate Ethics committee which, after listening to testimony and watching tapes, recommended unanimously that the New Jersey Democrat take his place in history as the first senator expelled since the Civil War.

Still, as is the way in the Senate, Williams was accorded all the honors and perks of office, even though he spent

much of his time last year as a defendant in federal court.

Three times Senate leaders bowed to his wishes and postponed the Senate trial. The third and last delay was granted to let Williams' recover from surgery. No one questions that Williams underwent an operation although it was one that he had resisted for over a year.

Once the proceedings began, the Senate extended every courtesy to Williams — even to the extent of listening to the case for six days.

On one of those days — as if all were normal — Williams was allowed to offer a resolution recessing the Senate in memory of former Sen. Clifford Case, R-N.J., who had just died.

Just as promptly, he was named, along with Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., as a member of the official delegation to the Case funeral, an assignment he carried out the following day.

But it was on the final day, after Williams finally resigned during a long and rambling speech, that the Senate's tribal instincts were fully on display.

Senate leaders Howard Baker and Robert Byrd, their voices somber, expressed their grief at his downfall. Senate after senator marched up to him, shook his hand.

Vice President George Bush and Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, rushed to the family gallery to embrace Williams' wife.

And not much later, a defrocked Williams, was greeted by hundreds of his admirers in the marbled, four-story rotunda of a Senate office building.

Williams was driven out of the Senate with cause but the visible evidence was hard to find on that final day.

And should the final court appeal fail, some fellow convicts might wonder why one of their own gets a pension in the neighborhood of \$45,000, has all the Senate floor privileges and is welcome, any time after he gets sprung, in the Senate gym.



YEA! Who Needs a Dorm Anyway?

Senator speaks out against busing

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — If you ask most people, they will tell you that the changes of the past generation have erased many of the regional differences in the United States and have blunted the sharp moral edges of controversy over public issues. The conventional wisdom is that we are a homogenized society, governed by men and women of adaptable conscience.

Both those beliefs were sharply challenged this month in the Senate debate over legislation to restrict the federal courts and the Justice Department from using busing as a remedy for proven cases of school segregation.

The final Senate vote on the bill containing the restrictive language was 57-37. Among senators from outside the Old Confederacy, the vote was 34-36 against the measure. Among the senators from the Confederate states, the vote was 23-1 in favor.

The one southern senator who voted against the bill was Dale Bumpers of Arkansas. Outside his own state, not much was made of the fact. But his action is more than a rebuke to the majority in the Senate, which pushed through this radical and dangerous abridgement of the independence of the judiciary and the Justice Department. It was equally a reprimand to those who tend to see politics as a "go-along-get-along" scramble for the safest perch from which to prepare for the next campaign.

The point of this piece is not to elevate Bumpers to political sainthood. He is as fallible in his judgment as anyone else. But he comes from a state which in 1980 voted out of office two other Democrats, President Jimmy Carter and Gov. Bill Clinton, who were moderates on race issues and opposed to the court-stripping efforts. He knew what the risks were in the stand he took in isolating himself from every other southern senator of both parties, including his own colleague, David H. Pryor.

This is what he said in explaining his stand: "My words here this morning will not change a single vote. I rise to speak on this issue because I do not want either my children or my constituents to think I acquiesced in or only mildly objected to what we are about to do here. I want them and any person within earshot or whoever may read my words to know that the beginning of the end of constitutional guarantees in this nation occurred over my strenuous and vehement protest."

The essence of his argument was the same one made by the American Bar Assn., the chief justices of the state supreme courts, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and other conservative individuals and institutions, who were prepared to risk offending popular prejudices in order to protect the Constitution.

The argument was that in barring the Justice Department from seeking busing

orders or the courts from issuing (beyond five miles or 15 minutes' time), no matter what the findings, the segregation in the school system. Senate was short-circuiting the Constitution and undercutting the independence of collateral branches of government.

The argument did not prevail in the Senate and it may not prevail in the House, where pressures are building for the Democratic leadership to permit a vote on a similar measure.

Even writing about Bumpers' stand two weeks after the fact, might be considered irrelevant, were it not for other points the senator made.

"Completely aside from my own opinion, dismay and repugnance over the situation today," Bumpers said, "I am appalled by the virtual silence of the press, which either does not understand the implications of this action or has not been paying attention."

The precedent of this law, he pointed out, can easily be used to restrict the federal courts from reviewing libel decisions against the standard of the First Amendment or examining police searches of newspaper premises for possible violation of the Fourth Amendment.

In time, I think the South will be that one of its senators said what Bumpers said about this assault on the Constitution. And the press will be ashamed that more of us did not.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"And rarest of all is my quart of original, unopened gasoline, 29.9 cents per gallon vintage!"

Stop the real world, I want to get on

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — I am indebted to the National Geographic Society for sending me maps showing the locations of South American Indian tribes, the sites of Aztec ruins in Mexico and other interesting points.

What I would like to see next is a map of the "real world" that President Reagan claims to have discovered out there beyond the blue horizon.

The capital of the "real world" apparently is a placed named South Succotash. But I can't find it on any of the maps in my collection.

Reagan has been quoted as saying the "real world" begins 50 miles in any direction from Washington. By my calculation, that means the nearest boundary lines pass a few miles north of Baltimore, east of the Chesapeake Bay, south of Fredericksburg, Va., and west of the Appalachian Trail.

What is not clear to me is how far the "real world" stretches beyond those peri-

eters and what lies on the other side.

For what Reagan has said, for instance, it would appear that all of California is in the "real world." Yet I keep hearing reports of "other worldly" behavior in certain segments of that state.

Could it be the "real world" is not actually as homogeneous as some of us who reside inside the 0-mile quarantine zone might have imagined?

A good map would settle such questions as surely as those of us on the Geographic's mailing list are now aware that the Botocudo Indians occupied part of the Amazon Basin.

For years, I heard rumors that a "real world" awaited pilgrims who ventured far enough across the wide Potomac. But, frankly, I never put much credence in such tales.

They seemed to me either to fall into the category of folklore, or to smack of over-the-rainbow figmentary regions like Oz and Shangri La.

I was convinced that if I went out seeking the "real world," I would end up at a jumping-off place near Culpepper, Va., without a parachute.

Then Reagan came along and made a true believer of me. The verisimilitude of his accounts have stripped away all doubts that the "real world" really does exist.

Thus far, my attempts to make contact with the "real world" have been pretty much limited to perfunctory gestures like releasing homing pigeons on the chance they might bring back some sign of it in their beaks or talons.

I am told that if I am serious about getting in touch with reality I should send up a balloon with my name attached. They say someone in the "real world" will find it and mail it back to me.

I'm not sure I want to form any permanent attachments, however. The "real world" might be a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there.

Letters: Bikes belong on the streets

Editor:

I would like to make a comment on Roy Gunn's letter and all those graced with his opinion. I ride a bike on the street, have never hit a pedestrian or been hit by a car. The sidewalks are there for the 30-odd-thousand students, faculty and staff to walk on, not for you to take short-cuts on the way to class.

You may be one of those more intelligent bikers who pedals slowly, has both hands on the handle bars and watches

out for that student who will pop out from a doorway or abruptly change directions. But you must be an exception. Most of the people riding on the sidewalks have no common sense. Riding a bike without using your hands is asinine, not cool as you might think. For those of you that do, may a stone deflect your front tire while you are riding near a lamppost. You will learn. Others think riding on a crowded sidewalk is a game where a near-miss at high speed is extra bonus points. If you were going to ride

on the sidewalk, you should set your speed at a fast walk when it is crowded. Would you try to speed your way through rush-hour traffic?

Remember, you will be the one injured in injury, not the pedestrian. U.T. forbid, has the right idea — No Bikes Sidewalk!! Until we get a similar rule, heaven help you if you run into me. Enough of your lazy crap!

Rick Berkow

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor: Angelique Copeland
- Managing Editor: Jane G. Brust
- City Editor: Denise Richter
- Assistant City Editor: Diana Sultenfuss
- Sports Editor: Frank L. Christlieb
- Focus Editor: Cathy Saathoff
- Assistant Focus Editor: Nancy Flock
- News Editors: Gary Barker, Phyllis Henderson, Mary Jo Rummel, Nancy Weatherley
- Staff Writers: Jennifer Carr, Cyndy Davis, Gaye Denley, Sandra Gary, Colette Hutchings, Johna Jo Maurer, Hope E. Paasch, Daniel Puckett, Bill Robinson, Denise Sechelski, John Wagner, Laura Williams, Rebecca Zimmermann
- Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist: Richard DeLeon Jr.
- Photographers: Sumanesh Agrawal, David Fisher, Eileen Manton, Eric Mitchell, Peter Roche, John Ryan, Colin Valencia

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.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes 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 long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, with the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are 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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and vacation periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school 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.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches created by it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

P
a
by C
An
ing agai
idental c
for cam
upheld B
Judicial B
The J
in favor
sioner G
cision p
from car
p.m. Th
ruled Pe
election
ing electi
til Sunda
p.m.
Last
S
by
Bills co
student re
tion-comm
trol will b
dent Sen
204 Harri
This is
Ar
to
by L
Dr. Geo
ished Pr
and Anth
Archaeol
ary Field
Committee
sitation i
dent Cen
sponsors
semester
the variou
Comm
senting e
speaker w
search or
university
sponsored
Tra
of m
to b
Memory o
sixth sense
informatio
senses and
Dr. Eliz
sent a sen
MSC Grea
p.m. in Ru
discuss th
trained me
Reporting
Training,
Loftus r
in psychol
University
on the gra
New Scho
1973.
Loftus
grants and
such topics
ory, jury
munication
She als
editorial b
of Exper
Human L
ory," "Lav
havior" and
Learning.