

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"At last! An honest politician!"

But, will Rhode Island recognize Taiwan?

by DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Several town meetings in New England have gone on record as favoring a freeze on nuclear weapon deployment. And a town in Georgia has adopted an ordinance requiring citizens to own guns.

Somehow I don't think this is exactly what President Reagan had in mind in advocating New Federalism.

But on the other hand, why not? If states and communities are going to administer federal social programs, why not saddle them with foreign policy and let them take over other national issues as well?

Following are some of the local actions we might be seeing:

Buttermilk Falls, Wis. — The city council voted today to open negotiations with Cuba looking toward a settlement of the Central American crisis.

"We hope to convince Fidel Castro that it would be in Cuba's interest to break off relations with the Soviet Union and to stop supplying arms and military advisers to rebel forces in El Salvador," Mayor Nathan Windfinger said.

South Succotash, Ala. — The Bagatelle County Commission has approved a plan backing the sale of arms to Syria.

"If the federal government won't let the Syrians buy the latest military aircraft, we will sell them some shotguns from the Sheriff Department's arsenal," said County Manager Endicott Torporbolt.

Tinker's Dam, Nev. — The town council tonight confirmed the appointment of

Mayor Deadwright as this city's ambassador to China.

Fort Snowtread, Colo. — The town council here has passed an ordinance requiring all pregnant women to have abortions.

"The old theory that population growth provides a larger tax base has been thoroughly discredited," said Mayor Amos Spadecaller. "All the baby boom has gotten us is a bigger deficit."

Broken Treaty, Okla. — The local school board announced tonight it has completed arrangements for busing students from one all-white school to another.

"Despite the fact that no minorities are involved, the board feels it is a form of discrimination to require students to attend schools in their own neighborhoods," Superintendent Primbley Bunglewoof explained.

"Besides that, riding across town in a school bus is an education in itself."

Sump City, N.J. — At a town meeting tonight, residents of this community approved plans to convert a vacant lot across the street from the courthouse into a nuclear dumping ground.

"The word we get is that nuclear power plants across the country are having trouble finding places to dump radioactive waste material," said municipal spokesman Banebridge Flickelnurd.

"If the price is right, they can dump on us."

Upper Wrought, Pa. — The council of aldermen voted today to prohibit the sale of cigarettes that carry health warnings on the packages.

Democrats change rules again

by Arnold Sawislak  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Once again changing their national convention delegate selection rules, the Democrats have moved toward adopting the philosophy of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture — namely, "form follows function."

The outside shape of Wright buildings was dictated by what they was to be done inside. The Democrats, after more than a decade of emphasizing democratic procedures in choosing presidential candidates, now have turned to the more pragmatic goal of trying to assure that their candidates can both win elections and govern successfully.

Between 1968 and 1980, the Democrats cleaned their nominating process of bossism and back room wheeling and dealing. There can be little argument that George McGovern in 1972 and Jimmy Carter in 1976 and 1980 were the first choices of the people who actually took part in the long nominating processes.

The problem was that neither McGovern nor Carter were widely accepted by the Democrats whose liveli-

hoods or avocations were tied most closely to the party. The reason: the new rules had cut many of them out of the easy access to the nominating process they had enjoyed before the reforms were installed.

In 1972, many Democratic elected officials, party leaders and organizations traditionally allied to the party walked away from the McGovern candidacy. The party reformers had a lot of explanations for this, but none of them blamed the rules they had written.

The problem became clearer when Carter was able to win the presidency but found it almost impossible to govern successfully without the active cooperation of the officials and leaders of his own party. He came to Washington as an outsider; he served his term in the White House as a virtual outcast. He owed little to the other Democrats nor they to him.

Some blamed Carter for his troubles, but more thoughtful observers saw a structural problem: the Democrats had built a temple to democracy that had no place for politicians.

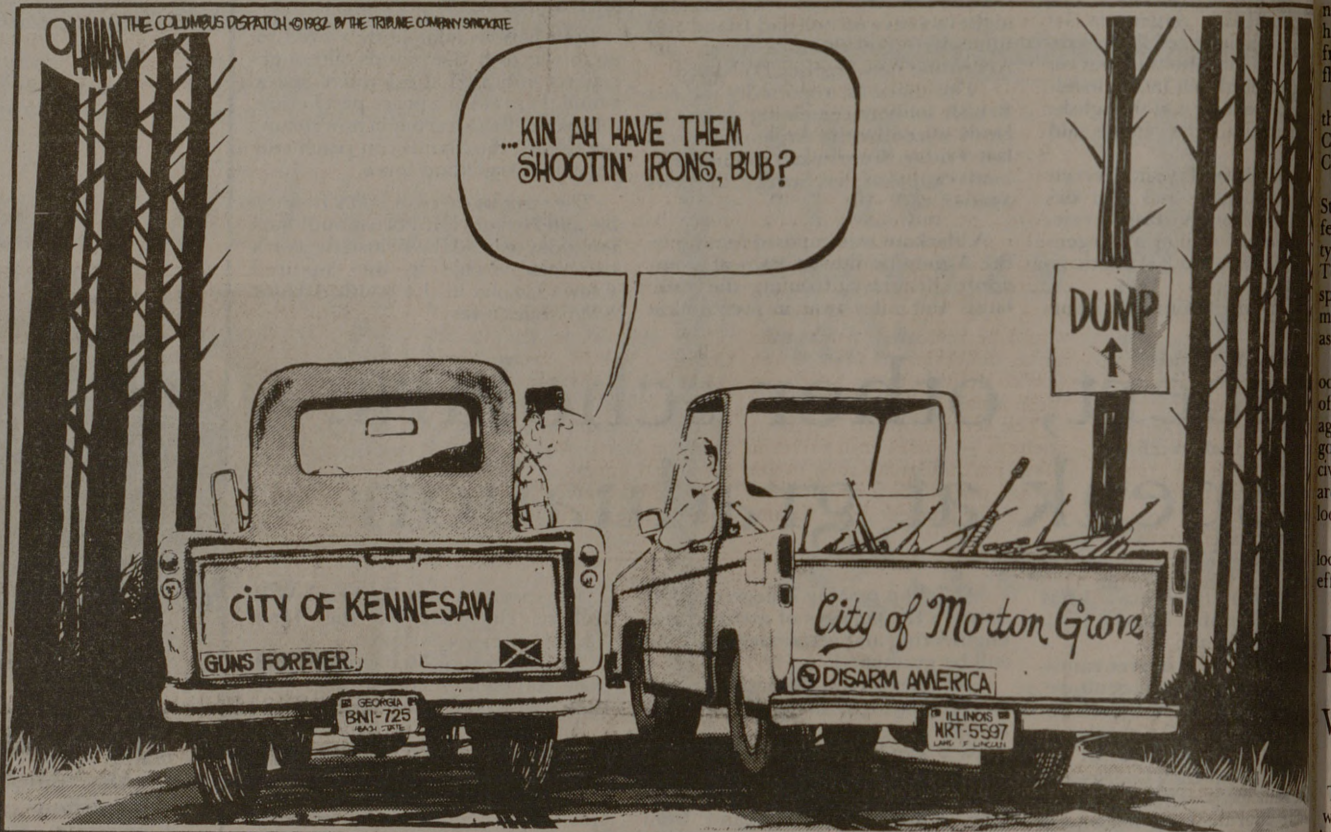
The Democratic National Committee

took several major steps last month to change these vital allies back into the fold.

The most important of these was to create 570 new delegate slots for Democratic elected officials and party leaders. These delegates will not have to attend their convention seats nor pledge themselves to any presidential candidate. An important point for many political professionals who do not want to burn in January on a horse that isn't going to run until July or August.

The new seats are in addition to the convention slots already in place. Elected officials and party leaders are willing to pledge themselves to dates early in the game.

The effect of all this and other changes should be to give the people have the most direct stake in the party of the Democratic Party a much stronger voice in the selection of its presidential candidate. It is assumed — but may be a more realistic term — that it also will be more likely to work as a convention choice in the campaign if successful, in office.



Letters: Petition for Easter holiday

Editor:

This letter is in regards to a petition which I sent to President Vandiver before Spring Break requesting that April 9th, the Friday before Easter be considered a school holiday. Before anyone claims that it has been tried before, I would like to stress that the petition was written with the realization that the school calendar could not be changed this year, but that it could be altered in future years. Since I have only been able to reach a very small segment of the student population here at A&M, I would appreciate other's opinions. The petition reads as follows:

"It has come to our attention that April 9th has not been considered a holiday by our school calendar. We feel that this day should be a school holiday because it is Good Friday and the beginning of Passover Season. We feel that this is a very

special time which should be spent with our families. We do not feel that it is too much to ask for you to give us this day as a holiday, because earlier in the year you were willing to give us a holiday merely on the basis of whether or not we won a football game. Certainly, Easter and Passover are more important than a football game."

This petition was signed by 400 people.

Lynne Pusanik '85  
490 Mosher

Be critical, not rude

Editor:

This is a letter in regard to Cathy Saathoff's review on Ronnie Milsap's concert that was printed in the April 1 issue of the Battalion. I truly hope her review was in the spirit of April Fools and that she was not really serious. I know a critic should be critical, but rude, I would think not. I'm sure her review was an assessment of her opinions and not that of the crowd's. A singer does not receive three standing ovations and two encores

if the crowd is not extremely pleased. True, the crowd was not very lively during the singing. They were quiet, very attentive, and held their breath and applauding until after each song. Unlike the concert which led Larry Lin a few years ago to ask for a little respect during his songs. The crowd Ronnie Milsap's concert was just the Aggie crowd that I'm proud to be a part of. Also, many performers do not sing, especially when they have as many hits as Ronnie Milsap. With a voice like Ronnie Milsap's it doesn't really matter what he sings, it will always be entertaining. I have seen him perform here three years in a row and would gladly see him again, that is if he comes back. But by far not least was Miss Saathoff's psychological assessment of the crowd wanting Mr. Milsap to fall off the stage. I'm proud to say sorry Cathy, but not Ag.

P.S. I wonder if Miss Saathoff sang the other Ags when they stood as Ronnie sang "America the Beautiful."

Andrew Wagner

Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by 24 other signatures.



The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor ..... Angelique Copeland
- City Editor ..... Denise Richter
- Assistant City Editor ..... Diana Sultenfuss
- Sports Editor ..... Frank L. Christlieb
- Focus Editor ..... Cathy Saathoff
- Assistant Focus Editor ..... Nancy Floeck
- 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, Rebeca Zimmermann
- Cartoonist ..... Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist ..... Richard DeLeon Jr.
- Photographers ..... Sumanesh Agrawal, David Fisher, Eileen Manton, Eric Mitchell, Peter Rocha, John Ryan, Colin Valentine

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 courses 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. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letter style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-2611.

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 credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Te  
Office  
disast

by Kathy R

Battalion R  
John Doe is driv  
road listening to t  
a familiar buzz br  
programming. B  
the buzz isn't a t  
actual civil defe  
What happens no  
Surviving a nuc  
pends on knowing  
a crisis situation.

The Brazos Cou  
Civil Defense and  
Planning — funde  
— plans, prepar  
coordinates all cou  
that could be used  
disaster. The state  
governments also c  
sources if needed.

Besides nuclea  
civil defense offic  
radioes, radiatio  
hazardous materi  
from train dera  
floods.

"We have a plan  
these areas," Br  
Civil Defense D  
Anglose said.

The Civil Defen  
Staff — made up o  
fense directors of I  
y, Bryan, College  
Texas A&M Unive  
responsible for setti  
mittee to deal with  
aster.

A nuclear em  
occur from an acci  
of a U.S enemy r  
aggressor situation.  
government then v  
civil defense offic  
area so the group  
local citizens.

Next, a plan call  
location would b  
effect. This plan is

Battalic  
wins p

Three Battalion s  
won five awards  
annual Southwest  
ism Congress on A  
3. The Battalion pl  
of the 17 universit  
competing.

The competi  
Woman's Universi  
was judged by st  
from the Sacramen  
the Miami Herald.

Greg Gammon  
tation photo edit  
place in the spot n  
phy competition ar  
in the sports pho  
gory; Frank Chri  
editor, won second  
game sports story  
Denise Richter, ci  
third place in the  
story category. Ric  
\$50 in the scholar  
tion.

The Battalio  
awards for its adve  
Roy Leschper Jr.  
place in the com  
newspaper ad for a  
tiser; Steve Cooke  
and third place in  
for series of ads  
advertiser; Reggie  
won second place in  
category; and Tex  
versity won third pl  
op ad competition.