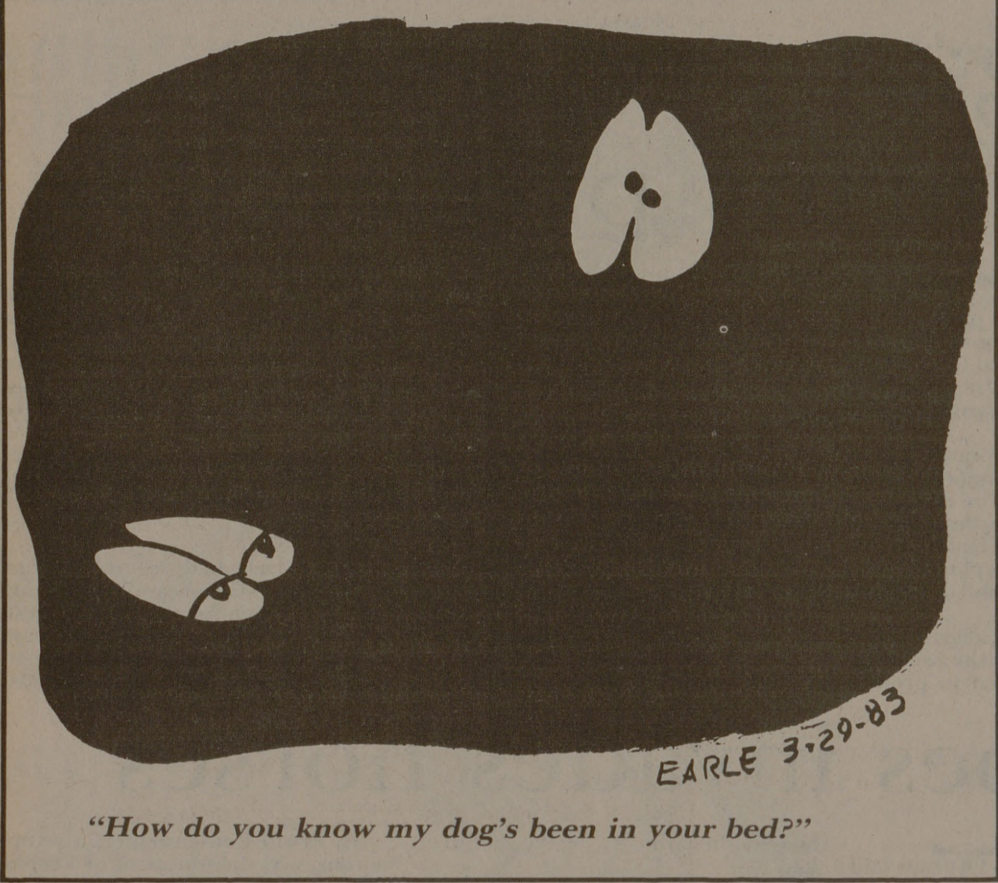


opinion

Slouch By Jim Earle



"How do you know my dog's been in your bed?"

PACs impact less than anticipated

by Clay F. Richards
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Independent political groups that spend millions waging negative advertising campaigns against incumbents may be troublesome in the American electoral process, but they apparently aren't doing much damage.

In the 1980 Senate race, five prominent liberal senators, including George McGovern of South Dakota, were defeated for re-election. In the same year the National Conservative Political Action Committee spent millions advocating their defeat.

That led to some stories that the notorious NCPAC had defeated five liberals. Surely the negative ads played some role. So did the fact that the senators involved were among the most liberal in the Senate while they came from generally conservative states like South Dakota, Indiana, Iowa and Idaho.

Last week the Federal Election Commission completed its review of independent expenditures in the 1982 congressional election and found that they had jumped 143 percent in two years — from \$2.3 million to \$5.7 million.

NCPAC alone accounted for nearly \$3.2 million of the total.

But in 1982, neither NCPAC nor any of the other independent groups were getting any credit for defeating incumbents they disliked, or for that matter electing their favorites.

A look at the FEC report shows the independent groups spent a lot of money and accomplished very little.

For instance, nearly \$1.1 million — nearly 20 percent of the nationwide total — was spent to defeat Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. He won in a landslide.

The second largest amount, nearly \$700,000, was spent to defeat Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., another landslide winner.

In the House, \$300,000 was spent to defeat Speaker Thomas O'Neill, who also had no problems.

Sen. John Melcher, D-Mont., was thought to be vulnerable because he was a Democrat with a fairly liberal record from a fairly conservative state. But when NCPAC started pouring in nearly \$230,000, he started his own television campaign about how out-of-state money was trying to corrupt the Montana campaign. The NCPAC campaign backfired.

To be sure, two of the top 10 targets in the Senate were defeated — Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., and Sen. Harrison Schmitt, R-N.M. But every analysis of the 1982 Senate races put Cannon and Schmitt on the list of most vulnerable incumbents.

Cannon was nearly defeated in his own primary, showing that Democrats were almost as ready to get rid of him as were Republicans.

Schmitt was one of the few conservative targets singled out for defeat by liberals. But liberals spent even more money trying to defeat Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and that effort failed.

Neither Schmitt nor Cannon claimed after the election they had been done in by liberal or conservative independent expenditures against them.

Several incumbents — Sarbanes most notably — said that the added effort by the groups working against them sparked them to campaign more vigorously, saving them from the complacency that often defeated incumbents.

It is likely that the independent groups will heavily reassess their campaign strategy in the future. It is doubtful that they will again spend \$1 million against someone as popular as Kennedy. And they are likely to do a lot more polling before taking on a Sarbanes.

But for now the independent expenditure groups have been rendered relatively harmless.

Memo on EPA shredder hit list

by Art Buchwald

Memo: To New Head of EPA
From: Glitz, Chief of Shredder and Hit List Division
Dear Sir,

Assume, in spite of some changes you will make in agency, you will want up-to-date information on EPA employees who are clean air fanatics, pro-environmentalists, and have relatives who belong to National Audubon Society. Your predecessor, as well as the Secretary of Interior, found these lists most helpful in serving EPA political interests of the country as mandated by Congress.

This is updated report for week of March 7, 1983.

Duncan Plowright — Denver office. Was photographed in 1970 at Earth Day Demonstration while student at University of Utah. Wife was once engaged to leader of "Save the American Bald Eagle Club" in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Plowright's brother Zeth was attorney for class action suit to remove poison gas from U.S. Army chemical depot on runway at Denver Airport. Plowright spends all his time citing our friends for EPA violations, despite warnings from his superiors in Washington that Justice Department does not have lawyers to prosecute cases. He is extremely dangerous and could cause trouble in 1984 elections.

Mathilda Meriweather — Detroit. Was observed by one of our political informants having lunch with a Canadian environmental official, code name Pierre,

and was overheard discussing acid rain and its effect on lakes and wildlife along Canadian border. Two days later same informant observed her going into movie theater to see documentary on nuclear war made by Canadian Film Board. She failed to report seeing this picture to her superiors. Meriweather has mother who lives in Toronto, and could easily be subjected to blackmail by Canadian Royal Mounted Police.

Suggested we eliminate Meriweather's job in budget cutback, and turn over her duties to Sig Dolby, a consultant firm that now represents the Heavy Sulphur Coal Producers Association.

Frank Mulch — San Francisco office. Is considered in Northern California as a career environmental elitist. Goes backpacking with his family every summer in High Sierras. Has opposed strip mining by private sector in Redwood forests. In tapped telephone conversation he was quoted as saying James Watt "was off the wall, and his elevator didn't go to the top floor," an obvious allusion to the Secretary's sanity. Mulch roomed in college with Thomas Wilkie, a notorious member of the Sierra Club, and our information is they still keep in contact. He is the type of person who won't be satisfied until the White House is turned into a bird's nest.

Hubert Deplatz — Newark office. We have received five complaints on Deplatz from the "How-Now Dioxin Chemical Company," located in New Jersey. The Chairman of the Board claims Deplatz is

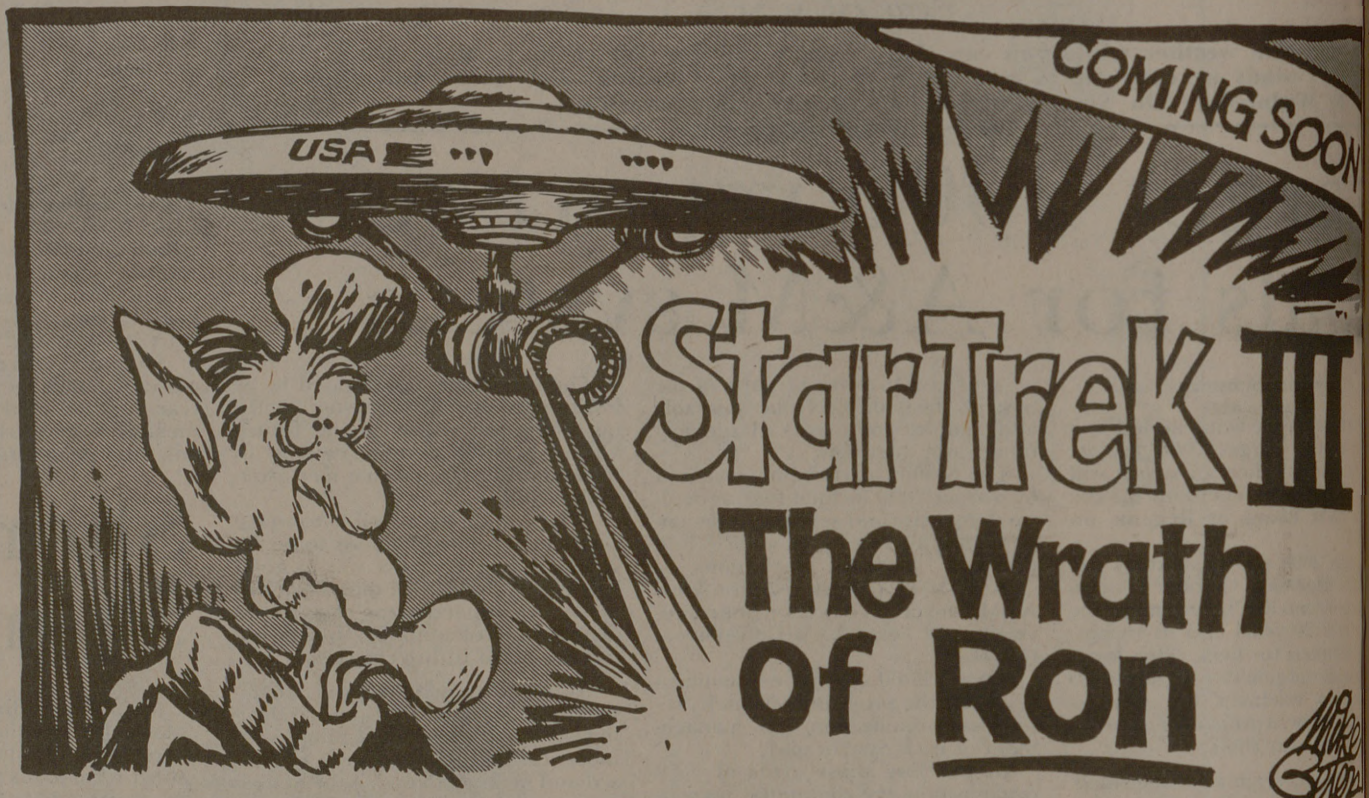
waging a vendetta against "How-Now" and cited a report Deplatz submitted to EPA without first letting company lawyers edit it. This violates the understanding our agency has with chemical companies, that they will get first crack at changing EPA reports before they are sent to Washington. Deplatz, a civil service employee, cannot be fired, but there is nothing in the regulations that says he can't be transferred to Nome, Alaska.

Digby Pester — St. Louis office. He has requested \$500,000 from EPA Superfund to clean up toxic dumps in St. Joseph, Missouri. EPA political experts turned down request, because it would help Democrat mayor, Pester went over heads and contacted "60" Minutes.

Mike Wallace was seen sniffing around St. Joseph's last week with a camera. Pester is a smoking gun, and if he viewed the fallout could be hazardous to President Reagan's political health. We suggest we give St. Joseph \$500,000 immediately even if it means depleting the Superfund.

This is just a high-priority list of troublemakers. I am appending a list of one of 2,000 names which you should have in files.

Your predecessor tried to get rid of many pro-environmentalists in the agency as she possibly could. But unfortunately she was unable to finish the job. Your greatest tribute you could pay her is to pick up the torch and take up where she left off.



Letters: Serenade stopped unfairly

Editor:

Something happened last night which really bothered me. I live in McFadden Hall. About 10:15 p.m. three Aggies stood on the path between my dorm and Haas Hall and began to sing. The three were talented singers, who, with their guitar, presented quite a show that was all the more enjoyable because they were singing for the mere pleasure it brought them. People in the doorways of both dorms stopped to listen as did several girls at dorm windows.

The concert was soft and if one was not at her window or outside, it was difficult to hear the music. Unfortunately, after 10 to 15 minutes two University policemen came over and advised the men to leave the area which they willingly did.

I suppose the singers were bothering some people (the ones standing at the windows who could hear them). The policemen were only doing their job. My complaint comes when I think about all the times that large numbers of male students stand outside our dorm for longer times at later hours. It doesn't take very many male college students yelling to make enough noise to wake a person up. Where are the campus police at these times?

What were the policemen doing when, before spring break, a mob of boys from Dunn Hall paid us a visit at 11:30 p.m. and yelled for our panties for the next 30 minutes? But I forgot, that was "good bull" as is chaining a birthday boy to a lightpost between the dorms by his underwear heralded by a bugle.

I wish the officers had left the singers alone but if they must stop them from making "noise", the least the policemen on this campus can do is give the midnight quadders and panty raiders the same consideration.

Leslie S. Hyman '86

Easter quotes

Editor:

As we approach the celebration of Easter Sunday, irrespective of the rubbish in the Battalion, comments by the early 20th Century Biblical historian,

Philip Schaff, continue to provide relevant insight into the person of Christ: "This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed and Napoleon; without science and learning. He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools. He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line. He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times ... Systems of human wisdom will come and go, kingdoms and empires will rise and fall, but for all time to come Christ will remain 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life.'"

Shane Sanders '80
Graduate Student

distributed around our campus and community I feel some constructive criticism is in order. I will make no pretense of being the best of Christians but at the same time confine my remarks to the articles in the paper regarding Christ.

While I believe we at A&M can find things to laugh at together in the humor in the irreverence of some articles in the Battalion. There are aspects of Aggie land we can make of and do so in a manner that for the part will harm no one. As for any religious beliefs of any kind there is no place for them in any position. Individual preferences toward religious beliefs should be treated with utmost seriousness, respect and tolerance.

It is true that a publication of the nature can be quite humorous when written in a proper fashion. In future publications I would hope that the writers of the paper will ask themselves some questions before publication: Is the benefit of the University and community? Will this paper take light beliefs and convictions of the public?

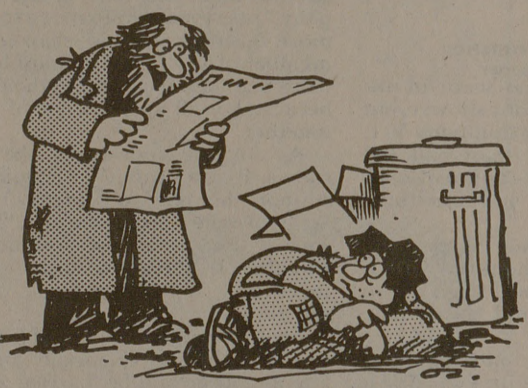
Frank A. Harris

Parody complaints

Editor:

Upon reading the recent publication

Berry's World



"Say, here's some more good news — prices for home-video cassettes are expected to drop."

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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 longer. 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 and show 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.

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