# opinion

### MX issue splitting party, causing revolt

## Frustrated Democrats attack leadership

#### by Patricia Koza United Press International

WASHINGTON — A revolt is brewing among Capitol Hill Democrats over the MX, and the issue may erupt into open rebellion during the next crucial vote on the giant nuclear weapon.

Two recent events indicate the depth of frustration among opponents with the refusal by the party leadership to take a position on the MX. Democrats expressed their concern at a 21/2-hour party caucus June 14, called on a petition signed by 112 members and circulated by a freshman from California.

The issue: why the House leadership broke with the majority of Democrats and supported President Reagan in a critical MX vote last month. The second event occurred barely an hour later at an anti-MX rally on the Capitol steps, when both Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Gary Hart, D-Colo., chastised those who endorsed MX.

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'Any Democrat who thinks we can purchase peace by voting for MX ought to be ashamed of himself," Kennedy declared

Democrats, who consider themselves the party of arms control, last month forced Reagan to adopt a more flexible

"Any Democrat who thinks we can purchase peace by voting for MX ought to be ashamed of himself." - Sen. Edward Kennedy

arms control policy as part of the deal for deploying 100 of the 10-warhead weapons in existing Minuteman missile silos

Les Aspin, D-Wis., Norman Dicks, D-Wash., and Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn., led a group of moderate Democrats who obtained a written agreement from Reagan to seriously seek arms control.

The president wrote a similar letter to several similarly concerned senators. In return, the House and Senate voted to release \$625 million in engineering and flight-testing funds that had been "fenced" in the 1983 budget.

But now some Democrats are beginning to feel as if they've been flimflammed — both by the leadership and by the moderates who led the turnaround from December, when both houses had put the skids on MX. Both Aspin and Dicks have indicated

they will reevaluate their positions if Reagan does not moderate his position on arms control beyond the sketchy outlines provided for the new round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Geneva

It fell to a freshman, Jim Bates of California, to circulate the petition that convened the caucus.

"If we weren't going to take a position on defense as a party, I wanted to know

why," he said. "As a freshman, I'm not accustomed to questioning the leadership. But in this case, we were frustrated and disappointed, and felt we had to question them. It seemed as though they were out of step with the party on this issue," Bates said

Several sources said seven or eight Democrats who voted to release MX research funds last month will switch their

"If we weren't going to take a position on defense as a party, I wanted to know why." - Sen. Jim **Bates** 

### positions on a vote scheduled in mid-July to authorize production funds for 27 missiles.

At least 25 or 30 of the 91 Democrats who joined 148 Republicans in the May

by Dick West

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**United Press Internatio** WASHINGTON — Alas, kind sir, or

ad the au vote would be needed to turn! yet again. Aspin, formerly an echnolo nent, warned rejection of the program by Democrats would ovembe party of an opportunity to use in ill to the campaign issue next year. "If we give him this, then it visibility.

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president to get an arms com ment and we can hold him accor INVE Aspin said.

e jobs in roduct p Among the prominent party who supported the MX last m Democratic leader James Win Texas, and whip Thomas Fole "I thought it might have been the Democratic leadership h partisan stance and had beene LWC structing the defense of the c Wright said.

But other Democrats whether the party has not alm up that spot by failing to taken particularly when its leading pres contenders oppose MX.

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sion." Rock technology, we are "millions of transisitors shrunk they no longer actually exist." About time. A word of

however. I can foresee trouble ahead corner-cutter who tries to low investment by wiring up "Pet R double duty

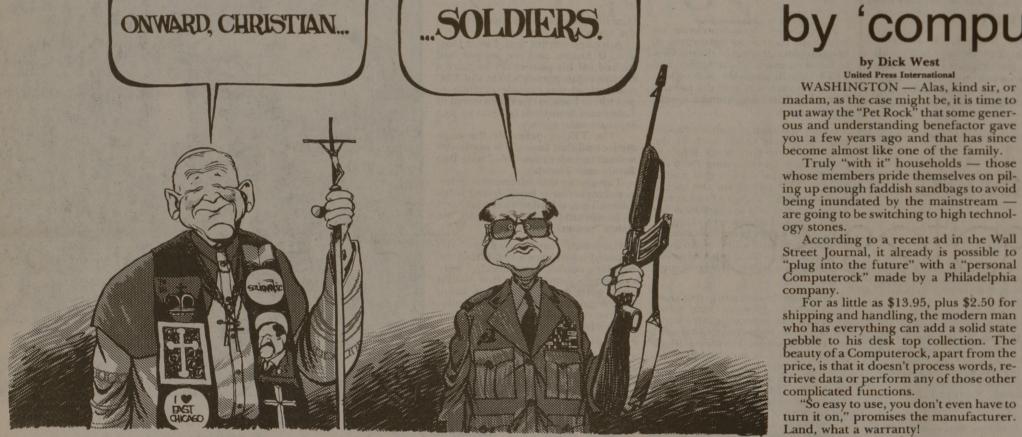
Insist on the real thing. For the conservation-n many new uses that today's eng turning up for rocks must be heartening. Like the silicon video games and other hite ment, rocks are among the mo ance of Earth's natural resol have only to plow up a small gar in your back yard to uncover rocks to last a lifetime.

Despite their availability, rocks have never loomed lan daily life patterns. Until some vered a few years ago that ro good pets, very few of us for emotional attachments to them

To the contrary, the wor

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## Letters: dual education system an insult to black community

### **Editor:**

The State of Texas is being deprived of the services and contributions of black faculty, staff, and students in the Texas A&M University System because of an inadequate, uncoordinated recruitment and retention process.

This process lacks essential safe-guards, including involvement of blacks throughout, and outreach into the black community. As a result, qualified respected blacks like the Warners, Perrys, Johnsons, Dunsons, etc., are lost and many others never gained.

It is incredulous that a system of higher education headed by a FLAGSHIP

The Battalion

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Cartoonist ..... Scott McCullar Photographers .... Brenda Davidson, Eric Lee, Barry Papke, Peter Rocha

**Editorial Policy** 

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting news-paper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions ex-pressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the

UNIVERSITY should begin so poorly, and continue to languish in enhancing the black presence in the Texas A&M University System as part of its mission to serve the great state of Texas.

Consider the fact that as of Nov. 30, 1981, blacks represented less than 1.5 percent of all workers in each of the seven EEO-6 job categories except service and maintenance personnel, where they were almost 40 percent of the work-

In point of fact, black faculty, administrator and professional non-faculty, and students constituted less than 2 percent of the workforce or student body respectively. Further, black faculty were only 15 of 2,358 faculty members, of whom only six were tenure track, again of whom four are leaving or have left.

This vestige of a dual education system must be redressed. It is an insult of the first magnitude to us in the black com-munity, the Texas A&M University System, the Bryan/College Station area, and the state at large.

Surely this is a tarnishment in the striving toward excellence or preeminence that is both unacceptable and at the same time removable, especially in view of the abundant resources at hand locally and at state and national levels.

We in the black community stand ready as always to facilitate this effort.

> Erma Faye Jefferson **College Station**

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Although I have only a nodding ac-

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peared in terms of de the expression "You must haven your head.'

Clearly, the advent of Comp is a giant step forward. A few mo ressive developments of this rocks will have equal status w places.



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Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M Uni-versity, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (409) 845-2611

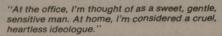
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