

opinion



'Scoop' Jackson: the man

by Steve Gerstel

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — For almost four and a half hours, the Senate last week paid its final respects to Henry "Scoop" Jackson.

The memorial was a moving tribute, heartfelt and genuine, which continued on and on in the Senate chamber until 38 senators said their goodbyes.

They praised Scoop Jackson for his achievements, and they were many and great; they praised his political abilities, and they were many and great; they praised his attributes as a man, and they, too, were many and great.

But, as sometimes happens when colleagues try to capsule their thoughts for a departed friend, the small, personal recollections are forgotten. Yet often, they tell much about a man.

Although others touched on these things, Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., made it the focus of his remarks — and in the process told much about Jackson, the private man.

Biden conceded he was not a friend of Jackson's. To claim that distinction, he said, would be "presumptuous," citing the 30 years in age which separated them.

Nor were they compatible politically. They agreed on most domestic issues but disagreed on virtually every aspect of foreign policy.

Yet, Biden related two stories that perfectly portray the tremendous impact Jackson had on him. Certainly, there must be others in the Senate who could tell the same.

The first story begins the night before the 1972 Florida primary. Jackson, struggling for the Democratic presidential nomination, was having dinner at the home of Sterlin Monroe in suburban Miami.

Biden, then only 29, was in the area, trying for "some legitimacy" to prove to Delaware's voters that he should be their next senator. He and a more gutsy friend decided to crash the dinner.

Here was Jackson, beat from campaigning, looking for a little relaxation, vexed by his inability to catch on, and confronted by a neophyte he did not know.

"Come on in. Sit down. What's the problem?" Jackson asked and fed Biden some dessert.

Biden was elected to the Senate that fall but before he took the oath of office.

his wife was killed in a car accident.

"Who was in my office a week after I got here?" Biden asked. "Scoop Jackson, saying 'Is there anything I can do for you?'"

Jackson was not asking whether he could help get Biden his committees, which he had already done, but "he wanted to know whether or not he could help me."

Up for re-election in 1978, Biden was in trouble but, after fighting with Jackson over foreign policy issues for six years, could not bring himself to call for help.

Jackson, however, called. He said, "What do you want me to do? You have got those guys from the right coming after you. What do you want me to do?"

Then Jackson, unsolicited, came into Delaware and raised money among his friends for Biden.

The second story Biden related dealt with Israel, an issue on which he "felt not nearly as strongly" as he does now.

He changed after a "long, long discussion" with Jackson, who also urged him to visit Israel, Eastern Europe and the concentration camps.

It was after this that Biden was "able to understand with any of the sense and depth of emotion that he, like me, a non-Jew, felt about what had happened."

Biden said, "Scoop Jackson changed a major part of my political life and my attitude about a whole segment of society that I did not understand before."

The Battalion

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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 telephone number of the writer.

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Super-tech spy game not for fainthearted

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

When ill-fated Korean Air Lines Flight 007 flew into Soviet airspace, it stumbled into the middle of a high-tech game of chicken played daily by the superpowers.

The game is called electronic surveillance, and isn't for amateurs.

From Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks, Alaska, and Shemya Air Force Base at the Western tip of the Aleutian Islands, Air Force and Navy aircraft routinely set out on reconnaissance missions near or over the Soviet Union's Eastern edge.

Data collected on these flights (called ELINT for electronic intelligence) accumulate in supercomputers managed by the National Security Agency (NSA) at Fort Meade, Md., among other locations.

In his Sept. 5 address to the nation, President Reagan admitted that a reconnaissance plane had trailed KAL 007, but it had returned to Alaska prior to the Soviet attack.

Meanwhile, U.S. military aircraft also traverse Soviet airspace, just as the Russians do ours, to test the range and frequency of radar on the ground.

Although satellites and radar installations in Japan and other countries are undertaking an increased surveillance burden, the U.S. is soon expected to make additions to its electronic squadrons.

For example, E-systems, of Dallas, is developing a pilotless drone that will be able to accomplish any number of tasks before its likely destruction by anti-aircraft missiles. Israel demonstrated the drone's capabilities during its confrontation with Syria in Lebanon last year.

America's investment in electronic surveillance technology, for which the Reagan administration is seeking \$4.7 billion in 1984, may seem worth every penny after last week's air atrocity.

Yet it might be heading the U.S. and the Soviets toward more deadly, unnecessary incidents in the future.

As James Bamford, author of "The Puzzle Palace," a book about the NSA, said last week, "The truth is that at any moment this whole game of electronic surveillance can blow up. It gets more risky day by day."

Footnote: On Nov. 8, 1981, a Soviet Aeroflot jetliner traveled over the Trident submarine base at Groton, Conn., and Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, N.H. Last March 4, a Cubana passenger jet flew over Griffiss Air Force Base, the home of a squadron of cruise missile-carrying B-52s in Rome, N.Y. The State Department denounced both intrusions.

Remember the rough treatment Vice President Bush received in West Germany last June from punks marching under the West German peace movement's banner? As north Rhein-Westphalia state police have discovered, the rock-throwing youths in Krefeld weren't all that they seemed.

Among those rioters subsequently arrested was an undercover agent working for West German counterintelligence (Verfassungschutz), whom state authorities termed one of the "most active troublemakers" during the violent demonstrations against Bush's Krefeld visit.

America's leading gun owners' group won the championship last year in an obscure but important political spending category: election-related communications by an organization to its members.

According to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), the National Rifle Association spent more than \$800,000 of its treasury funds on literature, get-out-the-vote and other efforts made on behalf of or against federal candidates.

The NRA's total accounted for 36 percent of all spending last year, the FEC reported.

Letters

Peace won't be achieved through disbanding Israel

Editor:

As a concerned Jew and American I have been following the Middle East crisis all of my life. It is difficult for me to believe that there will never be peace in my country or in that region of the world.

It is even more difficult for me to believe that there are still people in this world who think that the only way peace can be achieved is by disbanding the country of Israel and expelling the Jews from that region.

Peace can only be achieved by having intelligent, well-educated men and women sit down to form a compromise that would benefit all people in that region. Camp David is a perfect example of such a peace move.

However, rattling rockets and shouting out media-fabricated cliches such as those displayed by the Palestinian students on this campus last year is no way for peace to be achieved.

Nor is reminding students of the so-called "Israeli massacre" in Lebanon last year appropriate either. Especially since Israelis did not massacre anyone in Lebanon, rather the Lebanese Christian Militia did.

But, of course, this is just a fine point that can easily be overlooked in lieu of the fact that Israel is always the aggressor and Israel is always at fault.

The PLO never once bombed civilian occupied towns in Israel nor have they attempted to unite the Arab world and the world in general to help "push the Jews into the sea." The PLO never killed school children, never disrupted an Olympic game killing innocent athletes, and the Arab world never once attempted an all out attack on Israel during its Holiest Holidays.

The Arab world did not denounce Egypt for signing a peace treaty with Israel, and Syria never backed out of peace talks which would have required the signing of a peace treaty.

The PLO and Syrians are not firing at peace keeping forces in Lebanon and not one United States marine or any other soldier has fallen in recent months at the hands of the PLO and Syrians.

Of course, the list of things that the PLO and Arabs have not done to Israel, innocent Jews, and United Nations peace forces is endless.

The thing that really bothers me is that the Arab world sends their children to school here for an education. Instead of using that education for the benefit of achieving peace those children return to their countries and continue the same old futile fight — a fight that no side will ever win and a fight whose only result are the multiple deaths of innocent civilians, Arabs and Jews alike.

Stephen Weiss '84

Prisoner learns love

Editor:

I wrote this letter mainly because I thought if someone out there who is free could see that someone that is in here, incarcerated, could still retain his love for mankind then anyone can.

I have a degree but I had much to learn still. I am currently serving a one year term on the infamous "Attica" prison. I will be released in April of next year and return home to Texas.

Since I have been here, I have witnessed abuse and cruelty beyond description. I have listened while grown men have cried themselves to sleep due to sheer loneliness. I even saw a young man attempt suicide because his girlfriend left him for another man.

I, too, have suffered great loneliness and depression but have learned something here that no college textbook or classroom could have possibly taught me.

I have learned that love is much stronger than hate. With love, one has purpose and meaning in life. With hate, one merely exists around the borders of life. Each day I look into hundreds of faces that are filled with hate and bitterness and this truth is undeniable.

Life lost its meaning to me when I returned home from the Viet Nam war. I served there for two years with the Airborne division.

I have wasted over 12 years of my life through drinking and escaping my responsibilities. I had family and friends there. Now, I'm all alone but have found peace and contentment within myself.

When I am released and come back home on April, I will come home much wiser, more important than that, I will come home with the attitude that I owe life a living, not vice-versal.

I have no way of knowing if this letter will be deemed worthy of printing, but I think that if just one other person could read my message then it was worth the effort of writing.

Alfred John Green
 Attica, New York

Decide for yourself

Editor:

I recently read an article in the Fall '83 edition of Nutshell Magazine entitled "Hard Sell Religion." I would advise people to read this article for the sake of fairness to the writer Rasa Gustaitis.

What Gustaitis says about the Lexington Church of Christ in Boston and other churches and organizations may be true. I cannot say otherwise, for I've never attended them. (I wonder if Gustaitis does, or ever did).

I can say that the article was strongly biased and quite manipulative in stating its opinion against religion in general and Christianity specifically.

Not all churches that claim Christian doctrine as their base know what true Christianity involves. If the churches and other organizations of which Gustaitis spoke operate as he claims, then I must say that I agree with him.

Even God allows man freedom of choice. Many times persuasive tactics are deceptive, and the Bible, on which true Christianity is based, speaks against such a manipulative use of words. (I Corinthians 2:1-5).

God is (and/or should be) important in everyone's life. For every man dies, and if one believes in life after death, heaven and hell, then it is only common sense to decide where one will spend eternity.

However, if one does not believe in life after death, I urge him to reconsider.

My plea to those who read Gustaitis' article: please do not completely "tune out" the Christians or other groups on campus; hear what they have to say and decide for yourself.

Christopher King '85

More ticket earnings

Editor:

The Texas A&M University Police Department has really missed the point concerning parking regulations. Ticketing for not having a parking sticker fully affixed to the vehicle window, is somewhat inadequate.

There are three new regulations which would greatly improve this situation:

1. Ticketing for crooked parking stickers.
2. Ticketing for air bubbles between the sticker and the vehicle window.
3. Ticketing for having a dirty vehicle window.

With these new regulations, it would be technically possible to ticket almost every vehicle parked on campus. Just think of the increased revenue that these regulations would contribute!

Let's see what this revenue would amount to for one year. Ten dollars a month multiplied times 10,000 vehicles multiplied times 215 days that the university is in session would contribute!

This total amounts to approximately \$215 million a year, but \$10 for each of the violations is somewhat inadequate for the crime that is being committed. This amount would be raised from \$10 to \$100, which would greatly increase the revenue to \$215 million a year.

Mike Phillips

Hospitality enjoyed

Editor:

The University of California Alumni Club of Texas, which coordinated the activities for the UC alumni and friends who attended the Aggie vs. Cal football game, wishes to thank the student body for the hospitality and courtesy.

The Board of Directors of the Club received a number of favorable comments from individuals who attended the game. Cal supporters commented on the courtesy extended to them by the Aggies during the game. To all Cal supporters, it was an enjoyable day.

Again, thank you for the Aggie hospitality.

Jesus Garcia
 Co-Chairman
 Cal vs Aggie Football Game

Slouch

by Jim Earls

"I've found that for some reason it makes studying easier."

City Anim

by Ronnie C...

The College S... Council accepted t... of the city's cor... Thursday night... his decision c... county Animal She... The city's compr... a guide to admini... growth and c... the city over the... Mayor Ga... announced to the co... parts of th pla... approved over th... that remained to l... the plan was supp... population studie... Mayo suggested t... adopted in its ent... On the meeting's... consideration to ad... the animal shelte... the shelter's boa... Halters, a mem... said that since

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