

# opinion

## Halftime speeches change with the times

by Art Buchwald

Football coaches of major college teams are a different breed from those of a few years ago. And so are locker room speeches they give at halftime.

"Men, we're getting creamed out there by Steroid Tech. I'm not going to give you the usual pep talk. Instead I'm going to level with you.

"Half the revenue of the University of BLT comes from football. We are now negotiating a TV contract which will be worth \$5 million a year. Our new stadium will hold 85,000 fans. With parking and concessions it will bring in \$10,000. If we go to one of the major bowl games we'll rake in another million dollars, and licensing fees for BLT sweatshirts, foot-

balls, pom-poms and bumperstickers will bring in a million.

"But we're not going to do it if you guys stink out the place as you have done in the first half. A school can only demand that kind of money when it produces winners.

"As for myself, I have a lot more at stake than just a coaching job. You people know that I do TV commercials for the Guggenheim Ford dealership, Sucker's Root Beer, Tony's Pizza Parlors, Carson's Savings & Loan, and Buffet Carry-On Luggage. I represent them because I have winning football teams.

"What I haven't told you is that I am being considered for a Miller's Lite Beer Commercial, the highest honor anyone in football coaching can aspire to. The

beer commercial scouts are in the stands today. But they're not going to sign me if you guys let the Steroid backfield stomp all over you as you did in the first half.

"Now let's talk about my restaurant. I have \$500,000 invested in that joint. How many people do you think are going to show up after the game if we can't even score a touchdown from the 10-yard line? Miselski, do you realize the field goal you missed in the second quarter could cost me \$3,000 in bar business tonight?

"I know Steroid is tough. Their coach does the commercials for United Airlines, and he has a no-cut contract with Preparation H. But that doesn't mean Steroid is ten feet tall. What killed us in the first half was penalties. I want you to hit hard and I want you to hit often, but if you're going to play dirty it reflects not

only on your school, but on all the fine sponsors that I endorse.

"I'm going to all you a story which I've never told anyone before. It's about the greatest running back I ever coached, George Snorter. Snorter went on the National Football League where he broke every record. One day tragedy struck. Snorter was arrested for selling 300 kilos of painkillers. He got 20 years in the Atlanta federal pen.

"I went to visit George last year. He weighed 130 pounds, his face was pallid, and his hands were shaking. We talked about BLT football and what it meant to him. Then, as our hour was almost up, he looked at me through the wire that separated us and said, 'Coach, someday the going will get tough for a BLT football team. They're going to be pushed all over the field by the opposition. They're going to be dragging their tails and they're

going to be hurting and bruised. You run out of things to say to them and their spirits up when the time comes. Coach, I want you to tell them that and I want you to tell them to go out and win one for the 'The Snorter

"I gave George my word. And I'm asking you to do him the only favor I've ever asked of me. Wherever he is, please know if you can pull this game out for BLT, don't even do it for Miller Lite Beer. Do it for a great guy whose career was tragically cut short by DEA.

"I don't have any more to say, but I have to do the halftime radio spot for Hechinger's Hardware Store. Show out on that field and start playing the way a top ten team is expected to or turn in your BMW's after the

## Mondale scores big in October

by Clay F. Richards  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Walter Mondale hoped to score a knockout in October in his drive for the Democratic presidential nomination. He has had to settle for a knockdown and comes out a little bloodied himself.

Mondale has scored big this month. He won the endorsements of the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO. He won the Maine straw poll and appears headed for a strong second in Florida behind favorite son Reubin Askew.

*In October Mondale and then Glenn broke what Ronald Reagan calls the 11th commandment — never speak ill of a politician in your own party.*

He picked up a number of key endorsements, including Gov. Mario Cuomo and Sen. Daniel Moynihan of New York. Those two control much of the delegate selection procedure in a state that had to be key to Sen. John Glenn's presidential strategy.

Mondale's October victories will add money, volunteers and organization to a campaign that already outpaced Glenn and the other Democrats in all those categories.

But the gains did not seal up the nomination for Mondale. And despite their new momentum, the Mondale camp is getting increasingly nervous that the premiere of the movie "The Right Stuff" — which glorifies Glenn's space hero image — will translate into votes and delegates in the caucuses and primaries.

So in October Mondale and then Glenn broke what Ronald Reagan calls the 11th commandment — never speak ill of a politician in your own party.

Mondale said he is a "real" Democrat, implying Glenn is less of a party man. He criticized Glenn for his opposition to the Salt II treaty; voting for Reagan's tax and spending cuts program and in favor of nerve gas. He tried to paint Glenn as some kind of a conservative — even though the senator has a voting record rating of about 80 percent by most liberal organizations.

Glenn responded by saying Reaganomics may not be the best thing, but was better than the "failed policies" of the Carter administration when Mondale was vice president. And he said it was time for new ideas, not just a polishing off of the New Deal Democratic politics he implied Mondale was identified with.

And worst of all from Mondale's point of view, Glenn labeled the former vice president the candidate of special interests, especially labor.

Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, whose campaign is going nowhere, tried to spark some press attention by criticizing Glenn for refusing to take part in the non-binding straw polls. That prompted some critics to suggest that Hollings was hammering at Glenn to earn points toward what some say is his real goal — the second spot on the Mondale ticket.

Watching the Democrats do what they too often do best — chew up each other — must warm the hearts of the Reagan folks as they gear up for what apparently will be a re-election effort.

The irony of it is that either Mondale or Glenn or any of the Democratic contenders would be a dramatically different president from Reagan. But the Democratic candidates have for the moment forgotten what their main goal is.

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## Woes of an early riser

Students unite. Our rights are being violated. Administrators and professors are violating the constitution by enforcing a cruel and inhuman punishment: 8 a.m. classes.

I am convinced that 8 a.m. classes are included in course schedules simply as a way to test the tolerance of students. If students don't attend 8 a.m. classes the administration will have to cancel them.

Like I said, students unite — sleep in. No normal person can be at his intellectual best after getting up at 6:30 a.m. and walking across campus just to listen to a lecture about the structure of the digestive system of an ant.

Anyway, half the time the instructors act as if they aren't awake yet.

To get ready for an 8 a.m. class (take a shower, wash and dry my hair, get dressed and eat breakfast) I have to set my alarm for 6:20.

At 6:20, without fail, I jump from bed to turn off my alarm, which could have been used as the sound effects of the explosion of the Death Star in Star Wars.

## Letters: phony notice was in poor taste

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opinion. A few weeks ago, I noticed bulletins posted in Zachry announcing the organizational meeting of the Fellowship of Enlightened Christian Engineering Students. I saw that there was no way to fit another meeting into my schedule, so I did not pay much heed to it.

Recently, I learned what that bulletin was all about. Apparently, it was a form of joke, a rather sick joke at that. People actually showed up at this organizational meeting, only to find no one there. No staff, no sponsor, nothing. It was a trick. It doesn't take a genius to figure it out. Spell out the acronym of the first letters of the five words — Fellowship of En-



kari fluegel

After smashing the clock against the wall I usually fall back into bed to delay the coming of the day.

When I finally drag myself out of bed, it seems that nothing goes right. My jeans have a hole in them. My shirt I washed out the night before is still wet. My hair won't dry.

More often than not, I leave the dorm in such a rotten mood that it would have been better for the entire world I would have stayed in bed.

To tell the truth, I have made it to 8

a.m. classes on time probably seven times in my entire life.

The only thing I hate more than classes is tests in 8 a.m. classes. It seems unrealistic for any professor to believe that his students are fully rested and wide awake to do well on morning exams.

Tests are a ludicrous idea anyone who is finding out how insignificant SAT scores are, just wait until they find out that tests are just as unnecessary.

If students did not have to worry about tests, they would probably weigh more, have clearer complexions and live a much happier life.

Face it. A student is paying money to take a course, so he obviously knows he is doing. No one in his right mind would pay good money to get an "F" could save tremendous amounts of money if tests were eliminated.

If the administration would delete the 8 a.m. classes, only one more thing would be needed to make everything perfect: delete all classes between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. too.

## Slouch By Jim Eaton



"Last week, it was total defeat and now after one win, we're bragging about the Cotton Bowl."

Ricky Davis

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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.

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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.

Columns and guest editorials also are 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 (409) 845-2611.

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