

# opinion

## Thanksgiving: Time to pig out



kari fluegel

Juicy, golden, roasted turkey; steaming chestnut dressing made from fresh croutons; smooth mashed potatoes made from real Idaho spuds; cauliflower covered with creamy cheese sauce; cranberry sauce that doesn't come from a can; and pumpkin pie that melts in your mouth.

I love Thanksgiving. What other holiday was invented for the sole purpose of eating? It's great.

Nothing is better than gorging oneself then collapsing on a soft bed to digest for two or three days.

Thanksgiving is my kind of holiday. I love any excuse to eat. In fact, you could probably say that I live for my next meal.

Eating is an important part of the American lifestyle. To break away from studying, you eat. When you're bored, you eat. When you're nervous you eat. When you're on a date, you eat.

Eating while on a date can be really embarrassing. I think restaurant owners try to make it that way. Why else would they cut the lettuce into such huge pieces?

At least once in his life, everyone has tried to stuff a piece of lettuce half the size of Rhode Island into his mouth while trying to conduct a normal conversation. Trying to accomplish such a task usually

results in a dab of dressing strategically placed on the nose.

The human race is programmed to eat. I will always remember Mom saying, "You have to eat three meals a day. Otherwise you'll end up looking like Gumby."

Mom also kept telling me, along with the Cheerios commercials, that the most important meal was breakfast. I believed Mom, plus I'll take any excuse to eat a couple of donuts.

I guess different types of people like different types of breakfasts. Some enjoy a breakfast that looks like it came off a box of Wheaties while some prefer a piece of toast and a cup of coffee or hash browns and yogurt. Still there are those who who like 15 more minutes of sleep for breakfast.

My least favorite meal is lunch. I think the horrors of my public school meals in junior high are still with me. One bright day, the cafeteria at Crockett Junior High served chili dogs. The next bright day, half the students were sick.

My favorite meal is the in-between meal snack: Oreos, ice cream, candy bars.

I suppose we could probably blame this obsession with eating on television. Burger King and McDonald's may be fighting for the almighty dollar, but the innocent eaters of America are caught in between.

It is kind of tough to resist the hot and juicy hamburgers that are so readily displayed during the commercials. It is even tougher on the consumer when the commercials are shown late at night after all of the hamburger places are closed.

Whatever the cause is, I am big enough person to admit that I'm an eataholic. Every year at Thanksgiving I end up making Miss Piggy look svelte. The only thing that is better than Thanksgiving is Christmas. At Christmas, besides getting to pig out, you also get presents.

### RONALD REAGAN MUST REALLY LOVE THE POOR...



### ... HE MADE SO MANY OF THEM.



## Airlines should cut frills

by Dick West  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — With the 80th anniversary of the Wright Brothers flight coming up next month, it is difficult not to agree with the conclusion reached by Robert Orben, the former White House speechwriter.

"If God had intended for us to fly," commented Orben, "He would never have given us deregulation."

Despite economic setbacks caused by increased competition, however, there still are ways the airlines can cut costs.

One way is to schedule more "no frills" flights. The other is to ask the pilots union for wage concessions.

Eventually, I suspect, some airline will combine the two. Certainly the ultimate in "no frills" commercial aviation would be a passenger plane that had no pilot at all.

If some way can be found to fly without pilots, that palpably would make air travel cheaper and go a long way toward rescuing the carriers from red ink.

At this point, I doubt the state of the

aviation art is advanced enough for unmanned flying. But, as we know, technology no longer is growing by leaps and bounds; its progress increments now are the equivalent of cross-country hops.

While pilotless airplanes are being developed, automation also could make it possible to eliminate flight attendants and most ground crew members as well.

I'm just thinking off the top of the terminal here, but as I see it each seat in the deregulated airliner of the future will have a pay-as-you-fly device somewhat resembling a parking meter.

Upon leaving the boarding gate, passengers estimate the flying time to their destinations and deposit the appropriate amounts in the meters.

Should a passenger fail to feed the meter correctly, a red flag appears on the dial when time has expired, and the passenger is unceremoniously ejected — without a parachute.

Just behind the first class cabin, in the compartment now used for food and beverage storage, there would be an automat.

Hungry or thirsty passengers through the little windows to pick up viands and potables of their choice. When the right coins are poked into slots, out comes microwaved cartons on a tray, just like the stewardesses to bring.

Meanwhile, up front at the control panel, is an new and improved autopilot.

How much contact do we passengers normally have with a human pilot? None, save the friendly voice of the autopilot pointing out landmarks that are seen from the other side of the plane.

On no-frills flights of the future, information can be imparted over a computer by recorded announcements. There can even be a tape information that due to heavy congestion in the airport it will be necessary to arrive at the airport a couple of hours before the flight.

In sum, I can't think of anything an automat pilot does that an automat pilot couldn't do as well or better. Except to endorse his paycheck. Which is the only frill passengers can learn to do without.

## Jackson's speech has good and bad points

by Eric Marnell

Rev. Jackson's speech was both encouraging and discouraging. It was encouraging for several reasons. First, he pointed out that a war between the United States and the Soviet Union would probably be the shortest, but most costly in terms of human lives, of all wars. From past experience, the horrors of nuclear warfare are brought into our memory. His idea about traveling to Geneva and challenging Yuri Andropov to meet with him to save mankind from itself is an excellent idea whose time has come. Why doesn't our current administration consider this option?

Second, Rev. Jackson pointed out that racism is a major problem in America and

that the work of Dr. Martin Luther King represents only the initial work required to eliminate racism.

Third, I agree completely with him in that the mission of our Marines in Lebanon is rather ill-defined. Their mission should be not as a "show of force" or a target for Iranian suicide squads bent on violent solutions to diplomatically negotiable problems.

On the discouraging side, Rev. Jackson left me wondering what he really said. On nuclear disarmament, there are individuals in this country who believe that complete disarmament could be achieved between America and the Soviet Union, allowing the world to reach a state of nirvana. This extremely naive-pacifist viewpoint could be dangerous!

Consider what could happen if the Russians simply ignore any treaty or if another party outside of the accord (such as Libya) acquires a nuclear weapon to blackmail America. Even if Rev. Jackson

### reader's forum

went to Geneva to meet with Andropov, who is to say he would show up? Have the Russians ever been overly concerned with what the Western world thinks of them? Past Soviet actions demonstrate

their concern with what the West thinks (i.e. KAL 007 being shot down, Afghanistan invasion, etc.). Certainly Mr. Andropov isn't concerned with impressing the average Russian back in Russia!

Racism is by no means a one-way street and he should have made this clear. Instead, he worked himself and the audience into a racism frenzy. His approach was counterproductive as he alienated a good portion of the audience. Why must it take a black presidential candidate to address the problem of racism? Reverse discrimination does exist.

On a last note, I was discouraged about Rev. Jackson's lack of attention paid to other issues. For example, economic issues will probably be a major topic and he spent about five minutes or less discussing them.

To make matters worse, he made several economic blunders that someone unable to think in an economic framework would make. How many people in the audience picked their heads? Probably a handful of individuals. Most. One common mistake he made that trade deficits are bad. On the contrary, they are not bad.

What the average American must realize is that we cannot count on the government to solve all our problems. The typical democrat's solution — to print more money at a problem as we move toward the total welfare state — must help themselves, and when they can't, then there is a limited role for government.

## Freshmen uppity in Washington

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

WASHINGTON — It's the bane of every freshman to be treated like a child.

Freshmen are to be seen, not heard. When called upon to do chores, they must deliver. Hazing by upperclassmen must be suffered magnanimously.

In the House of Representatives, the expectations for freshmen are little different. In the House, however, when the kids become uppity, the reaction of older members rates national attention.

So it was last week as Congress fussed and grumbled its way to adjournment for the Thanksgiving recess. Among the most depressing issues on its last-minute agenda was the federal deficit in general and a vote to increase taxes by as much as \$73 billion in particular. Had it not been for first-term House Democrats, Speaker Tip O'Neill might never have let that vote come to the floor.

One week earlier, about two dozen Democratic representatives, many of them liberal freshmen, voted against a bill that would have kept the federal government running under continuing resolution. Their complaint was simple: continuing appropriations would allow election-conscious congressmen to avoid the revenue-raising (i.e., tax increase) requirement inherent in the 1984 budget. In protest, they were saying that even liberals can be committed to chopping the deficit.

House veterans responded with hostile condescension. Speaking for many of his fellow old-timers, Majority Leader Jim Wright subsequently proclaimed that he felt like a football player who, on his way

toward a certain touchdown, is blindsided by a member of his own team.

Nonetheless, the new members' action may have done more than any other to revive their colleagues' commitment to a vote on, if not passage of, a needed tax increase last Friday.

Last week's vote was only the latest in a series of actions for which the freshman Democrats can take partial responsibility. For example, had it not been for their cohesive efforts to make last spring's jobs bill more equitable, many chronically poor districts might have gone without relief. It was soon thereafter that they threw themselves as a unit into the pits of federal budgetary, successfully lobbying for a tax increase pledge in the eventual budget resolution.

Out of 1982's freshman class have emerged several stalwarts who deserve all-star mention for level-headedness in their first year. Rising stars can fade as quickly as Guy Vander Jagt (remember the much-heard rhetoric who was chosen to keynote the 1980 GOP convention and subsequently vanished?), but among the unconventional Democrats to watch are:

Bruce Morrison of Connecticut, 39, a former chief of New Haven Legal Services. After serving as the first chairman of his freshman caucus, Morrison has continued to be one of its leading strategists.

Richard Durbin of Illinois, 39, a former lieutenant governor and practicing attorney. The freshman caucus' current chairman, he played a significant role in delivering votes on the first budget resolution.

Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, 37, and planning expert and Carter White House aide. Like Morrison and others long-struggling Northern cities, she contended that a jobs bill targeted to unemployed rates misses those workers who had stopped looking for



"Forget the bowl invitation. What more could we want than six minutes with the sips Kyle Field?"

### The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination 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.

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Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

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