

Students active at other schools

Amherst College fraternity members will lose their organizations soon, a decision made by that school's trustees. School officials say the fraternities and their houses have made on-campus living "inadequate."

Members of Amherst's eight coed fraternities are out of luck, but they're not taking it sitting down. Several fraternity members went on a hunger strike to protest the move, saying school officials didn't have enough student input when they made their decision. Students at the University of Texas voiced similar concerns when UT administrators moved commencement exercises to the Frank C. Erwin Special Events Center.

In contrast, students at Texas A&M, faced with the possibility of being required to take finals as graduating se-

niors, reacted with little more than yawns.

The Student Senate filed a formal protest. Other students signed a petition. But by and large, students sat back and let the Faculty Senate take the initiative in making a decision that directly affected them.

Considering the apathy that's so prevalent here, it's refreshing to see students at other universities taking stands on issues that affect them.

Although The Battalion Editorial Board doesn't wish for a return to the turbulent '60s — when student unrest resulted in violence and bloodshed — it is our hope that students at Texas A&M will take part in the resurgence of student activity, and work on making our campus a more open-minded place to study.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Iowa out of spotlight when caucuses end

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Andy Warhol once said everyone has a right to be famous for at least 15 minutes. It's never been truer than it was for Iowa the past month. The entire nation was sitting on the edge of its seat waiting to see who would take the Democratic Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals in the Iowa caucuses. The networks sent in their heavy artillery — Rather, Brokaw and Jennings — and thousands of reporters flooded the state to talk to every farmer, shopkeeper and coffee house waitress in the state.

Then came Tuesday, the day after the results were in. Three reporters straggled into a coffee shop in Dubuque. Four farmers sitting on stools perked up, prepared to be interviewed.

The reporters, bleary-eyed from writing their stories, ordered black coffee, eggs and hash browns.

When the reporters didn't say anything, one of the farmers said, "I suppose you fellows would like to know how I feel about the nuclear freeze."

"Hey, Dad," one of the reporters said. "Would you keep it down? I'm trying to eat my breakfast."

The second farmer said, "Now I've always voted for Republicans, but if you ask me what I think — I was never for big deficits before and I'm not for big deficits now. I say they make us farmers live within our means, so why should the Reagan government go into debt by 190 billion dollars....Am I going too fast for you? You fellows don't seem to be taking any notes."

The reporters stared into their coffee cups.

The fourth farmer said, "You want to know why I'm going to vote for Mondale?"

One of the reporters said, "Sorry, fellow, we don't care what Iowans think anymore."

A farmer got indignant, "What do you mean you don't care what we think anymore? We're still American citizens. Whose opinions are you interested in?"

"The great people of New Hampshire. They could easily decide who the next Democratic presidential candidate could be."

"That isn't what you fellows told us last week! You said the whole thing was going to be decided by Iowa."

"How can it be decided by Iowa? You people only held caucuses. New Hampshire is going to hold a primary. We have to catch a plane."

"You bled us dry, and now you don't care what we have to say any more?" a farmer asked.

"That's politics, Dad."

A television crew came in carrying their equipment.

The farmers sat up. "You fellows want to set up your lights around that potbellied stove? We'll sit around it and then talk about how we feel about corn for Russia."

One of the TV crew said, "We're not going to do any shooting. We were just wondering if any of you wanted to rent us a truck to get our equipment to the airport."

"But you're going to need some colorful footage of Iowa citizens for the evening news."

"New York told us to forget Iowa for the evening news."

"Does that mean Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw, and Peter Jennings ain't going to hang around Iowa until the November elections?"

"The three of them flew out on private planes last night."

"There goes Lou Harris, the pollster," one of the farmers said rushing to the door. "Hey, Mr. Harris, you remember me? I was one of the undecided. Well, I finally made up my mind."

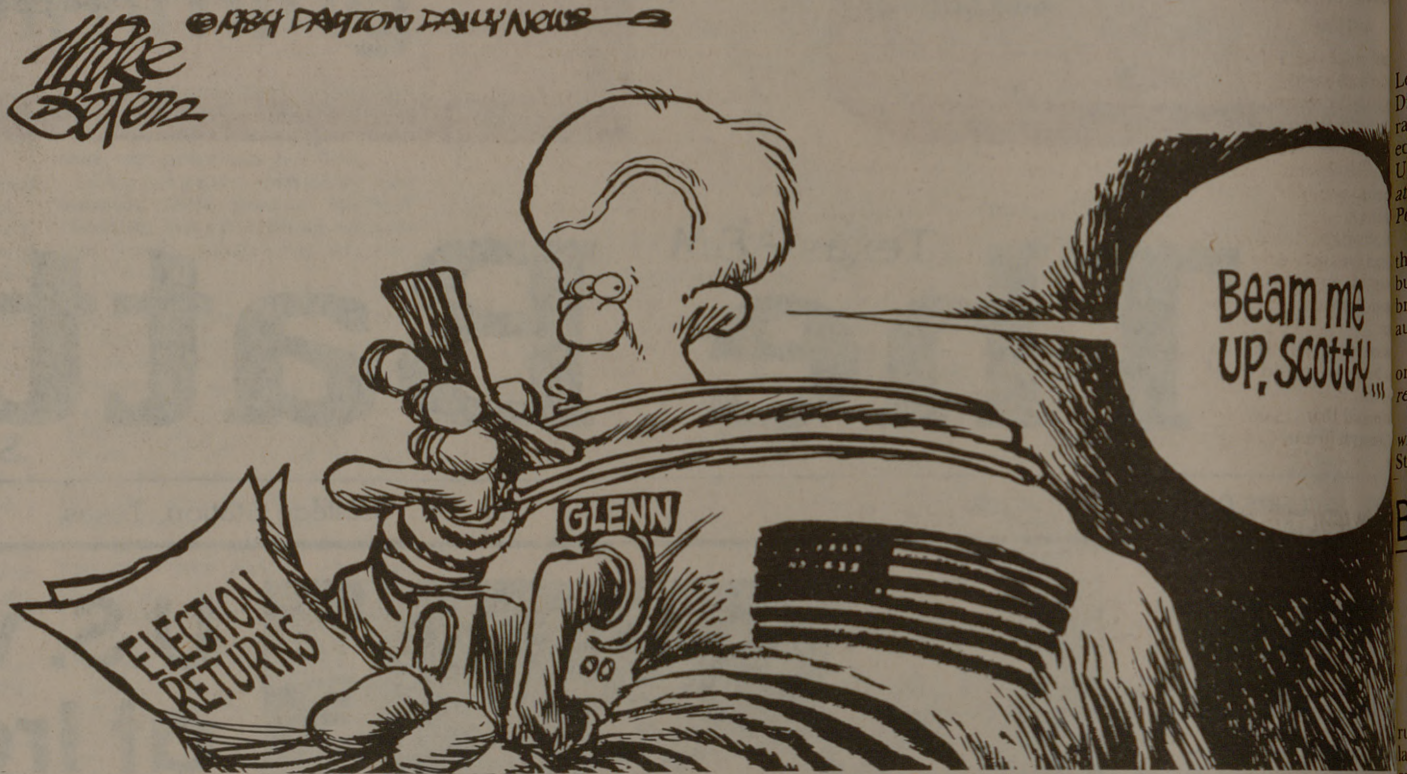
Harris got into his van. "I'll get back to you in four years."

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"Remember that game we used to play where we'd casually step into the pedestrian crosswalk in front of cars to see how far they'd slide their tires trying to stop?"



Ban on EDB unnecessary

I take exception to the editorial of Feb. 17 which states, in bold letters, "products with EDB should be banned."

The procedures currently being used, which form the basis for decisions about the condemnation of particular chemical additives, are highly suspect.

"We've had 30 years of exposure to EDB, so why alarm the public with one more cancer risk?" John Weisburger, who performed the experiments on laboratory rats upon which the cancer link to EDB is based, said.

Bruce Ames of the University of California is the inventor of the Ames test, which is widely used to establish the mutagenicity of chemical compounds. Mutagenicity and carcinogenicity are considered to be highly correlated.

Ames has pointed out that we are constantly ingesting natural carcinogens. Among these are the aflatoxins in peanut butter which, based on the same testing procedure as the one used with EDB, are 1,000 times more carcinogenic than EDB.

Do the editors of The Battalion ever eat peanut butter sandwiches or consume sugar-free drinks? I consider the saccharin in sugar-free soft drinks to present a vastly greater carcinogenic threat than EDB.

Do the editors of The Battalion intend to give up the consumption of charcoal broiled steaks accompanied by mushrooms and seasoned with pepper? There is no doubt that charcoal broiling converts a portion of meat fats to truly carcinogenic aromatic hydrocarbons, that the natural hydrazine derivatives in mushrooms belong to a car-

cinogenic class of compounds and that chemicals which occur naturally in black pepper are also carcinogenic. I, personally, do not plan to give up these foods which add a great deal of pleasure to my life.

Insects and plants have been endowed by nature with the instinct for survival. Their survival is abetted by their natural abilities to produce chemicals which destroy their own natural enemies. In our daily intake of food, even if all of that food is purchased at a

painful, agonizing and I would expect rapid death to that poor animal. I continue to use vinegar at a concentration of 50,000,000 parts per billion.

I object to the "weekly terror" submitted to the public by the media, especially when there is no rational basis for fear.

Protocols for the establishment of toxicity and carcinogenicity of chemicals should be reexamined and placed on a more rational basis. Decisions made on the basis of the administration of massive doses of substances that are bound to cause irritation, tissue damage in laboratory animals should not be extrapolated to parts per billion in humans.

There is no question that the workers exposed to large concentrations of ambient chemicals could be significant. These workers and the public must be protected from unnecessarily dangerous exposures. On the other hand, the banning of certain chemicals could cause greater health hazards than those which are thought to be eliminated. EDB is a highly effective and inexpensive fumigant and mole contamination would only greatly increase the cost of control but could result in the introduction of greater concentrations of natural carcinogens produced by these organisms.

Our life spans are steadily increasing. For 50 years death rates from cancer have remained steady, or declining. Since the incidence of cancer is known to increase with the age group this would indicate that the public is not being exposed to greater cancer risks.

Ralph A. Zingales
Professor, Dept. of Chemistry

reader's forum

health food store, we ingest large amounts of natural chemicals that are known to be toxic and carcinogenic.

Also consider the procedure used in animal experiments. A liquid chemical such as EDB is literally poured, through a funnel, into the stomach of a rat. Of course bad things are going to happen! Virtually anything will cause adverse effects when administered in that manner.

An analogy is vinegar, which we use in our salad dressings and as a condiment on an almost daily basis. Vinegars contain about five percent acetic acid.

Pure acetic acid, however, is very nasty stuff. If you spill a few droplets on your skin, you will get oozing, painful blisters.

Pure acetic acid, poured into the stomach of a rat in the manner EDB was administered, would bring about a

New Hampshire's claim to fame

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
Columnist for United Press International

New Hampshire may seem an odd place to begin the presidential primaries, but since 1952 the state has had an uncanny knack for spotlighting the candidate who will win the November election.

New Hampshire has held the first presidential primary since 1920, when it was set in mid-March to coincide with the much older traditional town meeting day. It was 32 years before anybody paid much attention to the primary.

In 1952, New Hampshire was the first election anywhere for Dwight D. Eisenhower. He beat Sen. Robert A. Taft, R-Ohio, and Sen. Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., defeated President Truman — a real shocker — putting the primary on the political map to stay.

New Hampshire shrugs off criticism that it is not a fair test of candidates for national office. It is eighth from the bottom in population, has no real major cities, has a much smaller percentage of minority population than the country at large and has the lowest unemployment in the nation.

With only 462,000 registered voters and less than a quarter of that likely to vote in the primary, it is easy to argue that New Hampshire can prove little in the national political scheme.

But the record indicates it has done just that. Since 1952, no one has won the presidency without first winning the New Hampshire primary, although a number of candidates have won their party nominations without a victory in New Hampshire.

In 1960, both John Kennedy and Richard Nixon began their march toward nomination by winning the New Hampshire primary.

In 1964, President Johnson had no trouble in New Hampshire, but Yankee Republicans put up Henry Cabot Lodge to beat Sen. Barry Goldwater.

In 1968, it was the Nixon comeback kickoff, and it was Johnson over Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., by such a narrow margin that LBJ quit the race shortly thereafter.

In 1972, Nixon won the GOP primary again, and Sen. Edmund Muskie, D-Maine, beat Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D. in the Democratic test, but still saw his presidential hopes fade.

By 1976, the primary had a life of its own, and Jimmy Carter used its mystique to start his drive to the Democratic nomination. President Ford beat Ronald Reagan on the GOP side.

In 1980, New Hampshire provided

the handwriting on the wall for Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., when he lost to President Carter. It also was the state of Reagan's triumphal procession to GOP nomination and the White House.

As a result, presidential candidates don't dare ignore New Hampshire. And New Hampshire, cheerfully admits that the primary's attendant hoopla does wound business, isn't about to give up its place in the midwinter sun.

Some states are proud of their eminence in one field or another and work to sustain it; New Hampshire has been the first to pass a law on the subject. The law says New Hampshire must hold its primary one week earlier than any other state.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communication. Questions or comments concerning any editorial should be directed to the editor.