

Out of the cradle, into the schools

Here they go again, this time with a proposal to send four-year-olds to public school.

A subcommittee of the state education reform committee, H. Ross Perot's pet project, wants to make school districts in Texas provide education for all four-year-old children whose parents want them in school. While it's optional for the children, it's not optional for the school districts.

The subcommittee also proposed that all kindergarten classes last a full day.

The optional program was proposed after a motion for mandatory school attendance for four-year olds was narrowly defeated.

Some people have said providing such a program wouldn't cause any problems. Others point out the im-

mense expense involved. But many school administrators across the state are probably turning blue by now.

Providing an optional program for four-year-olds will cause problems. More money for teachers, facilities and supplies will be needed. Requiring full-day attendance for kindergartners will cause similar problems, as well as possibly souring their future views of school. College students have short attention spans; just think what a five-year-old's must be.

Education reform is needed. No one denies that. But somewhere practicality needs to step in and replace the well-intentioned but often flaky ideas floating around.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Liberals have closed minds on prayer issue

I'm glad the Battalion Editorial Board thinks "no one should be able to force you to pray if you don't want to."

Obviously then, the Board agrees with President Reagan's Prayer Amendment, which states, in no uncertain terms, that no one should be forced to pray. The amendment clearly prohibits anyone from composing prayers to be said in public schools and from forcing students to participate in prayer.

The Board also writes that all the Supreme Court did was to allow individuals the right not to pray. How could such a knowledgeable, open-minded group of journalists be so uninformed?

What the Supreme Court did was to allow school officials in Amarillo to prohibit students from coming together privately and voluntarily for prayer and Bible study before or after school hours. What the Court did was to allow a high school principal in Florida to cut all pictures and references of a student Bible study club out of the students' yearbooks before they were distributed.

Perhaps the Court hasn't completely banned God from the classroom, but you can't say they haven't tried.

We Americans have allowed the federal judiciary to become much too powerful. Our nation began as a constitutional republic. It now seems to be turning into a judiciary monarchy governed by unrelated judges.

One way to fight this legislation by litigation is to amend the Constitution. The President's Prayer Amendment would serve to limit the court's meddling in religious affairs.

It's amazing how liberals give such magnificent lip service to their support of the First Amendment, while completely ignoring the first clause: "Congress shall make no law respecting any establishment of religion, or prohibiting the exercise thereof."

No one would want our government to establish a national church, such as the Church of England, but our right to practice religion must be protected as well.

Let's face it, left-wing liberals don't care whether or not anyone has the right to practice his religion.

What they would really like to see is an atheistic, socialistic state established

reader's forum

in America. As Roger Baldwin, founder of the A.C.L.U., put it: "We will bring about a worker's state in America through the guise of civil liberties."

I will admit that liberals are "open-minded"; they're just as open-minded to their own point of view as conservatives are to theirs. It's readily apparent however, that liberals are as closed-minded to the conservative point of view, as conservatives are to the liberal point of view.

Woodrow W. Coppedge
Class of '85

Letters

Corps deserves funds

Editor:

If the Corps of Cadets were to die out, it would be the tragic death of the greatest tradition Texas A&M has to offer.

The Corps is where this school began and where the backbone of its spirit re-

mains today.

Doesn't the Editorial Board have any pride in our heritage? Apparently the Board of Regents does.

The money used to encourage membership and support the Corps goes toward a more than worthy cause. It will not only maintain a century-old tradition, but also help shape the Corps members into outstanding men and women.

Everyone knows that the Corps is

tough — so why shouldn't the seniors who make it through be rewarded for their determination and success?

Other institutions within our University have been using monetary rewards for years to attract membership.

Football scholarships (what percentage of the school's population is the football team?) and our million dollar coach are just two examples. Why should an institution as important and

deserving as the Corps of Cadets be any different?

Sherri Garrett
Class of '87

Safety: Rent-a-cadet

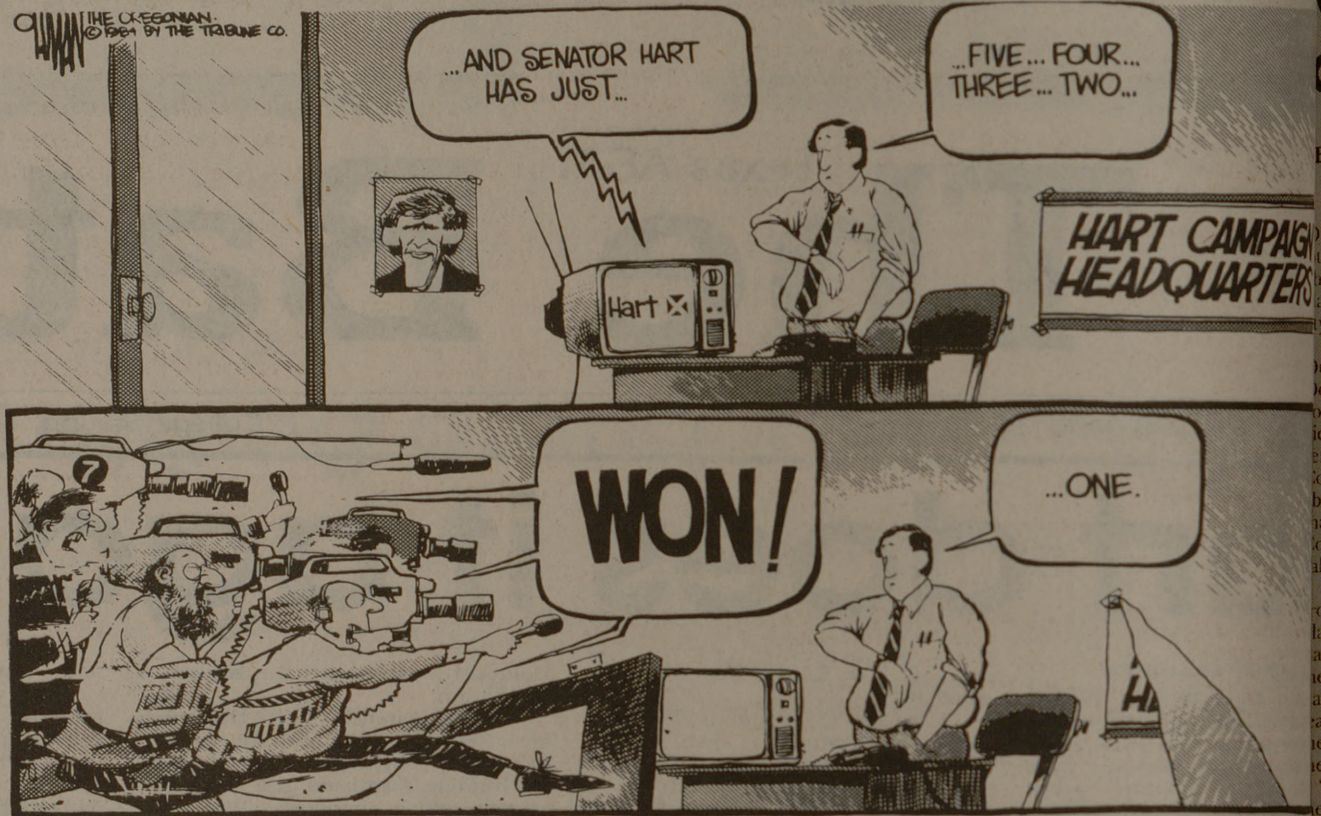
Editor:

I saw on ABC Nightly News on March 1 that ladies jogging in Eugene, Oregon,

can pick up a Doberman for protection for a monthly fee for animal care.

Having observed the energy and ferocity of certain animals on campus, I suggest the Corps of Cadets rent themselves to ladies wishing to jog. The price of a delicious meal at D.D. Let's start a new tradition!

Shanna O'Connell
Class of '87



Celebrating Super Tuesday

By ART BUCHWALD

My wife and I were watching the results of the New Hampshire primary.

"Is the race all over?" she wanted to know.

"Of course it isn't over," I told her. "It won't be over until Super Tuesday."

"You mean the Democrats are going to play a football game to decide who their candidate is going to be?"

"No, Super Tuesday, on March 13, is the day nine states choose 650 delegates for the Democratic convention. We'll know a lot more about who will oppose Reagan than we do now."

"If Super Tuesday is that important, why was everyone so excited about New Hampshire?"

"Because New Hampshire was the first state to hold a primary. New Hampshire could give us a hint on what will happen on Super Tuesday."

"I thought Iowa did that."

"Iowa was just political caucuses. New Hampshire was decided by the people going to the political polls. It's a whole of a difference."

"Then why did the media make such a big deal of Iowa?"

"Because it was the first test of how the candidates would do. The big deal in Iowa was not that Mondale won so big, but that Gary Hart did better than everyone expected, and John Glenn did worse than he had hoped for. This obviously affected what the media would do about the contest in New Hampshire. Many of them who had ignored Hart started concentrating on him and giving him momentum — at the expense of

Glenn and the others who bombed out in Iowa. This is why Hart did so well in New Hampshire and Mondale did so badly."

"Mondale didn't do that badly. He came in second."

"Yes, but he was supposed to come in big first. After Iowa we thought Mondale had the thing all wrapped up. But with Hart's showing in New Hampshire, we now have a new ball game and this will put all the political pundits back in business."

"Why should the public believe anything you say after you were so wrong in New Hampshire?"

"They have no choice if they want to have an exciting Democratic primary. The only sin we political pundits can commit is to bore the American people."

"I think the media is just hyping up all these races so they have something to write about and show on TV."

"That's not true. We're giving the Americans what they want. If Mondale had it all sewed up after New Hampshire, no one would buy newspapers or watch their TV sets on Super Tuesday. How would you have felt if you knew six months in advance that the Los Angeles Raiders were going to win the Super Bowl?"

"Why did everyone say in the fall that the race was going to be between Glenn and Mondale?"

"Because Glenn looked like a candidate in the tradition of Dewey. He was a hero who went into space."

"So what happened?"

"The other Democratic presidential candidates used his space achievement against him. They said Glenn knew anything except how to get into a capsule around the earth."

"Do the New Hampshire results mean that Glenn is out of it?"

"Glenn doesn't think so. He says the fact that Gary Hart won so big in New Hampshire is a good omen for Mondale because of his strength in the South."

"Then what did New Hampshire mean for Mondale?"

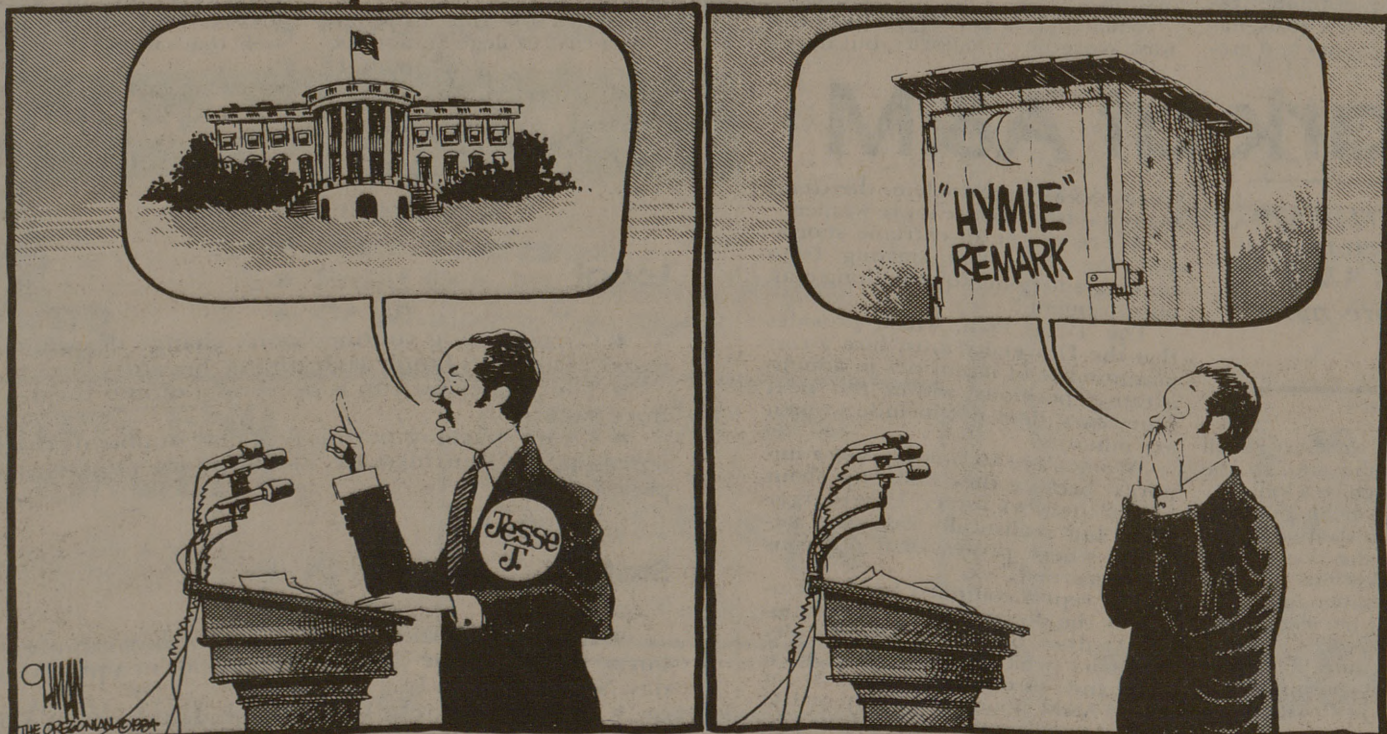
"It proved that Iowa didn't mean anything for Mondale — but it meant everything for Hart."

"What did New Hampshire mean for Jesse Jackson?"

"It gave him an opportunity to give for referring to New York as 'Hymietown,' in hopes of winning Jewish vote in Florida."

"What am I supposed to do for Super Tuesday?" she wanted to know.

"Go to the deli and buy lots of potato salad, popcorn and beer and invite over all the guys in the car because nobody in America will watch Super Tuesday alone."



From the White House..... to the Outhouse.

The Battalion

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