

Cougars aren't losers in NCAA

The Houston Cougars' loss to Georgetown University Monday night was heartbreaking for UH fans and disappointing to those who simply wanted the Cougs to win.

Not that three consecutive trips to the Final Four is anything to be ashamed of, but losing is never fun — especially in a contest as "important" and well-publicized as the Final Four has become.

The Cougars had a successful season. By most standards, it was a season to be

proud of. Unfortunately, college athletics has become so competitive it is no longer OK to have just a successful season. We want champions.

The NCAA post-season basketball tournament is an incredible event. Television has turned it into a gigantic money-maker. The push for more teams, more television and more money has put unbelievable pressure on the young men who play the game.

Win — and you're a hero. Lose — and you're a failure.

Unfortunately, there can only be one winner. And it is a shame that teams such as the Cougars are remembered as losers.

College is not the place to win or lose. It is a place to experience, to grow and to learn. In our quest for athletic excellence at Texas A&M, let's make sure we keep that thought in mind.

Remember, it's not whether you win or lose. It's how you play the game.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

U.S. campaigning baffles French

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

When French President Francois Mitterrand returned from his visit to the United States, his cabinet was anxious to find out what he learned about the American elections.

"Alors," Mitterrand said. "There is a lot of bitterness in the campaign. I was told that Mondale is a big spender, and a puppet of the large interest groups, and just another Jimmy Carter. He would make a disastrous president."

"Did President Reagan tell you that?" "No, Gary Hart did. I was also informed that Hart was a liar, soft on defense, and although he keeps saying he has new ideas, he hasn't come up with one since his name change from Hart-pence."

"Who told you that?" "Mondale. Then I was told that neither Hart nor Mondale would be worth a sou as a serious presidential candidate because although they made a lot of promises, they wouldn't keep any of them."

"That's strong medicine from the right wing." "The right wing didn't say it. Jesse Jackson did."

"But don't the three men belong to the same opposition party?" a cabinet minister asked.

"Mais oui. That is what confused me. Mondale said Hart is a dirty fighter who doesn't have the truth in him. Hart told me Mondale sold out to the unions. Jackson told me it doesn't make any difference which of them was ahead because they both would have to come to him if they wanted the nomination."

"What is the main difference between Mondale and Hart?"

"You're not going to believe this but it is a question of steak," Mitterrand said.

"Le boeuf?"

"Oui. Mondale keeps asking Hart where is the boeuf, and Hart keeps holding up a book he wrote and saying the boeuf is there. Mondale says Hart has no boeuf, and Hart says Mondale wouldn't recognize boeuf if he saw it."

"C'est formidable," a minister said.

"What about relations with the Soviets?"

"I heard some joking about getting the Soviets back to the arms talks."

"By both Hart and Mondale?"

"No, by President Reagan. He showed me his briefing book for the 1984 campaign."

"Monsieur le President," a cabinet officer said, "are we to understand Hart and Mondale, the members of the oppo-

sition party, spend all their time attacking each other, instead of attacking Reagan?"

"Pour le moment. Perhaps after the nomination they will then attack the Republicans."

"But aren't they giving President Reagan ammunition against themselves?"

"Naturellement. President Reagan has pasted everything they said about each other in his briefing book."

"C'est cannibalisme," a minister said.

"Non. It is American politics. Once they decide who will be the candidate, Mondale and Hart will deny they ever said such terrible things about one another. But at this stage they need each other. If it wasn't for Hart, the press would pay no attention to Mondale, and without Mondale, they would ignore Hart. The Democratic Party has to produce un spectacle or the American people will go to sleep."

A cabinet minister said, "C'est incroyable, how they elect a president in Amerique. You can never choose the best man that way."

"One of the candidates told me in confidence the same thing," Mitterrand said.

"Was it Reagan, Mondale, Hart or Jackson?"

"No, it was John Glenn."

The candidates' stories revealed

THE LIFE OF GARY HART

Sometime in the 1930s, no one is sure when, Gary Hartpence is born in Kansas.

He is a bright, but unconventional, child.

Later, bored with an awkward last name, he changes it.

He studies hard, becomes a lawyer, manages George McGovern's campaign, and runs for the Senate.

But the real problem nagging him is this: "GARY EISENHOWER? NO. GARY STEVENSON? NOPE. GARY TRUMAN? NINE."

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THE LIFE OF FRITZ MONDALE

Fritz Mondale is born. It is said his mother was in labor for days, thus contributing to his passion for the AFL-CIO.

Fritz is an active child and enjoys games with his little friends.

But a pattern of behavior emerges.

Like Gary Hart, Fritz also does impersonations.

I KNOW, I ALSO PROMISED TO DO THE WASH MILK THE COWS, CLEAN MY ROOM, WALK THE DOG, FEED THE CAT, SLEEP THE HOGS, TRIM THE HEDGE, FIX THE SHOE.

FRITZ! YOU PROMISED TO MOW THE LAWN TODAY!!!

LET'S PLAY 'UNION' (I'LL BE THE SHOP STEWARD, TOMMY YOU'RE THE NLRB NEGOTIATOR, AND YOU OTHER KIDS CAN BE THE RANK AND FILE.)

While Fritz HHH has in 1960.

THE LIFE OF JESSE JACKSON

Jesse Jackson, born in South Carolina, was, shall we say, a rather demanding child.

He develops an ego problem.

Jesse, like Gary and Fritz, is also a talented mimic of 1960s figures.

In 1979, he unwittingly kisses off the New York primary.

And, just in case there were any Jewish ones who missed it.

I DON'T WANNA EAT THIS LIVER. I WANNA HAVE A PIZZA DELIVERED!

I HAVE A SCHEME. ER... AHH... DREAM!

THAT 'YIMME BUSINESS. HEH HEH JUST KIDDING.

Letters

Cable company cuts its customers' choices

Editor: One of the local cable companies, Midwest Video, has apparently decided it has the right to decide which channels a viewer can watch.

If you tune in to Houston's CBS affiliate KHOU-TV on weekday afternoons in time for the CBS Evening news, you won't be able to watch it. Midwest has replaced the news with a computer graphics bulletin board displaying weather information and local community news. If you wish to watch CBS network news, you must change to KBTX Channel 3.

This is not the first time Midwest Video has tried to manipulate its subscribers' viewing choices. Before KBTX dropped its ABC affiliations, Midwest replaced afternoon network programming on KTRK Channel 13. However,

one could still see the ABC network news on Channel 13 because KBTX carried CBS programming during that time slot.

Midwest Video has no right to dictate which stations I may watch and when I may watch them. The bulletin board could easily be placed on channel 14 or 15.

I urge all Midwest Video subscribers to voice their complaints of this practice to the company. As much as we pay for their services, we should at least be able to choose which television station or channel we wish to watch.

Jeff Sartain
Class of '84

Death punishment fair

Editor: In response to the letter submitted by Alice Russell: We have not failed to elect officials against the death penalty. We

have succeeded in electing officials in favor of punishment by death.

The key word is punishment. What else is sufficient punishment for a man who killed his son? Our courts are responsible for punishing criminal acts. My only regret for O'Bryan is that his sentence was not carried out quickly and without such media coverage. Surely he had this right.

Bert McJimsey
Class of '82

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"It's a run-off election. It doesn't mean that we actually run them off! You understand that, don't you?"

Talkaholics now turning to crime

By DICK WEST
Columnist for United Press International

Several well-publicized reports recently have documented stolen telephone credit card numbers being used to run up astronomical long distance charges.

A local disc jockey, also known as a "radio personality," was billed for \$194,656.79 in tolls on 15,000 calls. A New York woman received a monthly phone bill listing \$109,506.86 in long distance charges. And so on.

Because the calls were made to divers points in the United States and foreign countries, it was assumed their credit numbers were fraudulently passed to a lot of different people.

What we are dealing with apparently is an international ring of talkaholics.

People with abnormal cravings for strong drink are called alcoholics. Those who feel compelled to stay on the job for long hours are called workaholics. And people with a compulsion to reach out and touch someone are called talkaholics.

It is easy to see how the victims get hooked. At first, probably while still in elementary school, they start making local calls after class. That's a form of peer pressure — playing "chicken" over who hangs up first — and of itself is harmless enough.

By the time they get to high school, however, many of the callers feel a need for longer stuff. Typically, talkaholics drop out of school, acquire their own phones and get jobs to support their habits. All the money they can earn is spent on long distance calls. But their craving for ear-bending still isn't satisfied.

That is when they start stealing other people's telephone credit cards.

It would be a simple matter to arrest known telephone addicts, but it would be wrong. I am convinced that more is involved in telephone crimes than character defects.

Perhaps incipient talkaholics keep getting put on "hold," which prevents them from slaking their lust for conversation. Perhaps the only outside lines are being monopolized by loquacious si-

blings. Perhaps they consistently wrong numbers.

Most likely, though, the biggest contributor to talkaholic downfall — thing that causes them to seek out corner pay booths and credit carders — is the answering machine.

Most such devices balk on auto collect calls. No wonder there are many cases of credit card theft and colossal bills.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory paper for students in reporting, editing, photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. We make every effort to maintain the anonymity of our contributors. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Reader's Forum columns and guest editorials are welcome. Address all inquiries to the Editorial Page Editor.

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