

## No solution to DWI issue

One person killed by a drunk driver is one person too many. That point is not debatable. How to reduce drunk-driving fatalities is debatable, and there are no pat solutions.

Legislators are trying to help. Tougher DWI have been enacted in many states. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers is increasingly visible in its attempts to save lives.

The drinking age has been a favorite target of those groups in the last few years. In 1981, the Texas Legislature raised the drinking age from 18 to 19.

The latest move for a higher drinking age — nationwide — is from President Reagan and members of the House of Representatives.

The House voted Thursday to withhold a portion of federal highway funds from states that don't raise the drinking age to 21. States that don't have a drinking age of 21 by 1987 stand to lose 5 percent of their 1987 interstate highway funds and another 10 percent in 1988. This measure smacks of blackmail, but it's the same measure used to enforce the 55 mph speed limit.

If it's really a "national epidemic" — as Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa. says — then raising the drinking age isn't the answer. Much more is needed.

But there are no set answers. We had five different answers from the five members of the Editorial Board. We unanimously support stricter DWI laws and strict enforcement of them. Our unanimity, however, ends there.

Some members of the board believe the age should be 21, no questions asked. Others feel stricter DWI laws are enough.

It's an emotional issue and an issue of safety. It's also an issue that raises a number of questions.

Statistics have been quoted in the defense of a higher drinking age. But one of the questions that must be asked is whether DWI laws also were tightened at the same time as a higher drinking age was instituted. Figures can be misleading when more than one factor is involved.

A question of maturity also is raised when you study legal ages for other activities: 17 for R movies, 18 for voting and draft registration, and marriage ages differ from state to state.

Legislators have attempted to pass open-container laws. In Texas an open-container law was rejected, but the city of Corpus Christi recently passed its own open-container law.

Another aspect to consider — sentencing. A Brazos County District judge said earlier this year that tough laws don't guarantee tough sentencing.

Although there are no wrong or right solutions to the drunk driving problem, perhaps all the talk will achieve one thing: awareness. That is the key to eliminating the problem.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

## How Gary Hart Could Win The Nomination.....

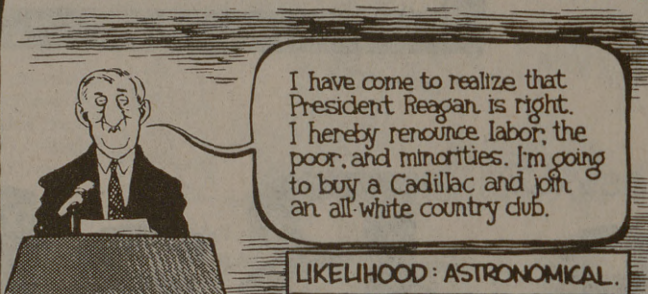
by ART BUCHWALD  
COLUMNIST FOR THE LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE

SCENARIO 2: MONDALE MISSES HIS FLIGHT TO SAN FRANCISCO...



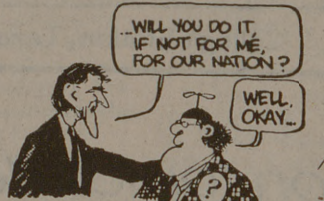
LIKELIHOOD: SLENDER.

SCENARIO 1: MONDALE SUDDENLY CHANGES PARTIES...



LIKELIHOOD: ASTRONOMICAL.

SCENARIO 3: HART PROMISES EVERY SINGLE UNCOMMITTED DELEGATE THE VICE PRESIDENCY...



LIKELIHOOD: VERY HIGH.

SCENARIO 4:



LIKELIHOOD: ABOUT AS HIGH AS HART GETTING THE NOMINATION...

## American pleasantries confuse foreign people

By ART BUCHWALD

Columist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

The trouble with foreign people in this country is that they take everything Americans say literally. I have a French friend named Michel Bernheim. I met him the other day on the street, and after the usual chitchat about Paris I said, "Give me a call some time."

The next day he was on the line. "Bonjour," he said, "It's Michel. You said to give you a call."

"I did?"

"Oui, don't you remember? I spoke to you yesterday on Pennsylvania Avenue."

"I didn't mean for you to give me a call right away. I was just finding a nice way to say goodbye to you."

"Then you don't want to talk on the telephone?"

"I can't think of anything to say, frankly."

"But you asked me to call you."

"You're right, Michel. Look, I'm terribly busy right now. Let's have lunch some time."

"I would like that. When?"

"I'm not sure. Why don't you give me a holler?"

Two days later I heard someone calling my name from the sidewalk. I opened the window in my office and Michel was down below.

"What in the devil are you shouting about?" I yelled down to him.

"You said to give you a holler when I wanted to have lunch. How about today?"

"I'm busy today."

"Well, when can you have lunch?"

"I'm not sure. I'm tied up for the next three weeks."

"Why did you tell me to give you a holler when I wanted to have lunch if you were so tied up?"

"Michel, you've been around long enough to know when an American says, 'Let's have lunch some time,' he doesn't necessarily mean it. It's a pleasantry. You French say, 'Au revoir,' the Germans say, 'Auf wiedersehen,' the Spanish say,

'Hasta manana,' and Americans say, 'Let's have lunch,' which in our country means, 'Don't call me, I'll call you.'"

Michel said, "I didn't mean to bother you."

"You didn't bother me. I'll tell you what. Let's check in with each other and have a drink one of these days."

"That would be great," Michel said. I was sweating out a column the next day when the door opened and Michel stuck his head in.

"Now what?"

"I'm just checking in to see if you wanted a drink."

"Can't you see I'm busy?"

"I can see that now, but I couldn't before I checked in with you."

"Michel, you're driving me nuts. You can't take everything we Americans say as gospel. The only reason I said 'Let's have a drink some time' is because I wanted you to stop hollering under my window about having lunch together."

"All you have to do is tell me you don't want to see me," Michel said in a hurt voice, "instead of asking me to meet with you all the time and then breaking the date."

I felt badly. "You're right. I feel terrible about the way I've treated you. Our problem is that we're so used to saying goodbye to each other with a promise we'll get together soon, that no one in this country expects the other person to keep it. We wouldn't be able to get anything done if we had lunch with everyone we accidentally met on the street."

"I understand," Michel said. "But if you change your mind, you have my card and you can call me."

"I can't have your card, Michel. That's another thing you don't understand. When Americans exchange business cards with each other, they usually throw them away when they get home."

## Mondale must upgrade character

By DAVID S. BRODER

Columist for The Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Candidates view the presidential primary season as a torture course, testing them against each other. For party politicians, the bottom-line question is simply the identity of the person who will head the ticket in the fall campaign.

Voters have a different perspective. For us, the primaries provide clues to the character of a prospective President and the condition of the party with which he proposes to govern.

What did we learn about Walter Mondale and the Democrats from these months of travel and travail? And what does that tell us about the coming campaign against President Reagan and the Republicans?

The past campaign did not reveal "a new Mondale," but it dramatically highlighted the central paradox of his political character that had been buried in biographical detail.

From first to last, Mondale has been pushed to the top of his profession by the hands of other politicians. At the critical stages in his career, Hubert Humphrey identified him as a protege, two Minnesota governors appointed him as attorney general and senator, and Jimmy Carter selected him as his running-mate.

This year, it was the same. The first votes Mondale got for the nomination came from his colleagues in the congressional caucuses last winter, and the last came from other politicians on Capitol Hill and the state capitols, responding to his phone calls for help last week. Without the support of 307 of the 568 "super-delegates," he would still be scrambling to nail down the prize.

The paradox is that Mondale is intensely com-

petitive and aggressive in his dealings with other politicians — as Gary Hart found out to his shock this spring. He is tough in the clinches. That comes as no surprise to politicians of both parties in his home state, who saw him maneuver his way past other aspiring young men, or to Republicans on Capitol Hill, who know him as an intense partisan. But the toughness of Mondale's attacks on Hart showed a side of his character the public had not previously seen.

Politicians accept and respect those paradoxical qualities, because most of them possess them to some degree themselves. In the inside world of politics, there is honor and success awaiting the person who builds alliances but pushes hard for his own causes.

Mondale is the purest product of that world to emerge as a presidential nominee since the public began dominating the selection process through the primaries. He is more truly a "politician's politician" than the introspective Richard Nixon, and far more of one than the incumbent or his predecessor.

That is both his strength and his weakness in the coming campaign. The mass of voters who will decide between Mondale and Reagan tend to look for other qualities in a President. Those qualities are eloquence, an appealing personality and, most important, a large-minded vision of the nation's future.

They are qualities the public sees in Reagan. For Mondale to have a chance against the incumbent, he must begin quickly to demonstrate that he possesses them, too. Otherwise, his own strategy for the general-election campaign will almost certainly rebound against him.

There is no secret about that strategy. Mon-

## Smoke wars brewing at 35,000 feet

By ART BUCHWALD

Columist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Just when the airlines have started to make money they are faced with a new crisis. How do you keep non-smokers from doing bodily harm to smokers on airplanes?

There was a time when non-smokers sat in front of the cabin and just gritted their teeth when smokers lit up in the back.

But this is no longer the case. Non-smokers, now becoming militant and the CAB is worried that a full-scale riot could break out between two groups while a plane is in flight.

Harvey Weiner, an airline consultant, has been working on the problem.

"Our research indicates that cigarette smokers are afraid to fly and that's why they puff so much on planes. The airlines can't afford to lose the business.

"At the same time we've discovered non-smokers have a fear of cigarette smoke, and become violent when locked in a cabin at 35,000 feet with cigarette smokers. The airlines need them, well. My job is to find out how to keep the two groups from killing each other."

"That's not an easy assignment," I said.

"Everything I've recommended so far has been with resistance. The first solution I came up with was to have two flights going to each destination. One plane would be reserved for smokers and one for non-smokers. The FAA objected because it would double the amount of air traffic in the skies, which could be even more hazardous to people's health.

"Then I suggested that non-smokers only be permitted to fly on even days, and smokers on odd days of the week."

"That sounds like a perfect solution. Who objected to that?"

"Frank Borman of Eastern Airlines. He said the reason people fly is they want to get to the destination as quickly as possible, and if they had to wait 24 hours for their day they would take the train."

"Another idea I came up with was for the airlines to divide the smoking and non-smoking sections of the plane with a locked fireproof door between them.

"That sounds reasonable."

"The major airlines turned this one down because it would mean adding an extra lavatory on board, which would displace two seats."

"Airlines hate to use up space for lavatories. So where are you now?"

"I think I've come up with a reasonable compromise which may not satisfy the hardline smokers and non-smokers, but would at least prevent the two sides from resorting to violence. I'm proposing that every flight be manned with federal marshals armed with tear gas grenades. In case of a riot between the two groups the marshals could quell it with tear gas before it got out of hand."

"That might do it," I said. "If the non-smokers have the choice between cigarette smoke and tear gas they're not going to start any trouble."

"I have one more idea if they won't buy the federal marshals. The main cabin would be reserved for non-smoking, but we would have a trap door in the middle of the aisle so if someone wanted a cigarette, he could slide down into the baggage compartment and puff away to his heart's content."

dale hopes to win by mobilizing the base of the Democratic Party — the farmer-labor constituencies he grew up with at home, the blacks and Hispanics, the elderly and the economically insecure, the peace groups and other progressive forces — directly through his campaigning, and indirectly through the alliances he has built with their leaders and other politicians throughout his career.

To mobilize their support, he plans an aggressive, close-quarters attack on Reagan's leadership and on Republican policies. It is an attack he will launch with far more personal pleasure, and far less compunction, than he showed in cutting down Gary Hart — and he was not at all inhibited about that.

But unless Mondale establishes the "presidential" qualities Reagan is already seen to possess that strategy is almost certain to fail. If he sees simply as "the politician" kicking the shins of "the President," then he will quickly be in trouble. Without building a sense of personal trust and projecting an inclusive vision of the national future, he risks being labeled divisive.

That threat is underscored by the picture the public has received of the Democratic Party in the primary campaign. It is of a party facing four ways. Most of its traditional constituencies supported Mondale. The blacks followed their own course with Jesse Jackson. The younger, more affluent voters looked to Hart. The Southern moderates and conservatives stayed on the sidelines, having lost their spokesmen and candidate early.

The weeks from now through the mid-July Democratic convention will test whether Mondale can unite his party.

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