

## Stopping alien flow

What to do about illegal aliens is a question that has plagued U.S. lawmakers for years.

U.S. Border Patrol officials say they never have enough manpower to stop the flow of illegals. The deputy director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Antonio says the Patrol is "grossly understaffed and has been for years."

But Congress is taking steps that will further damage the Border Patrol's ability to do its job.

A House proposal — which passed overwhelmingly this week — will require U.S. employers to verify each employee's legal right to be in the United States. Employers could be fined or jailed if they don't comply.

But who's going to have to check up on the employers? The Border Patrol will.

One official calls the plan an "administrative nightmare" that will necessitate a major personnel increase.

The Congressional approach to the problem indicates a desire to treat the symptoms rather than rather than attacking the disease — an over-burdened, under-staffed Border Patrol.

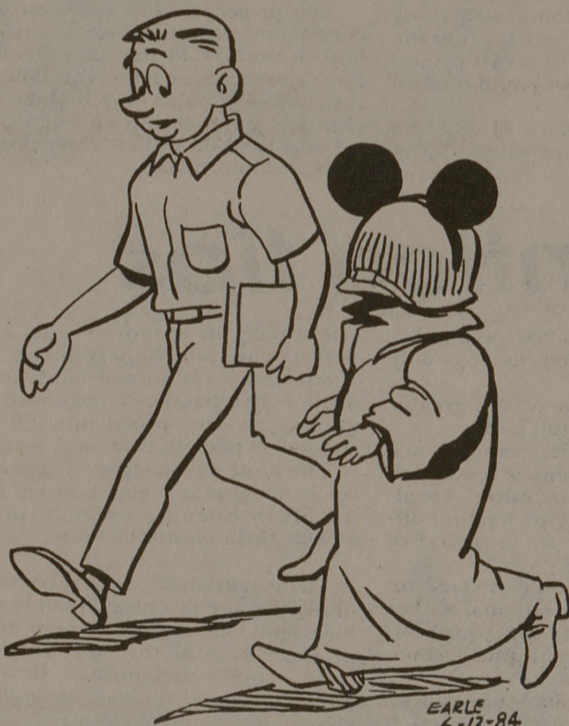
If the Congress is really concerned about the illegal alien problem, it should give the Border Patrol enough money to do its job right.

Whether you believe in penalizing employers or pardoning illegal aliens — two widely differing perspectives — doesn't matter. Neither proposal will stem the flood of illegal aliens entering the United States each year.

And those proposals won't fund the Border Patrol.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

## Slouch by Jim Earle



"I think I can give you a suggestion as to how you could improve your image in class."

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## U.S. hospital patients need 'golden arches'

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

I have a friend who is a hospital administrator. When I saw him the other day he was very depressed.

"I've just been to my hospital's board meeting," he said. "They okayed a \$5 million nuclear scanner, but refused to let me pay \$45,000 for a new chef."

"Why is that?"

"They said food has nothing to do with medicine, and the hospital was losing too much money on the kitchen as it was."

"You would think that decent meals would have as much effect on people getting well as anything in a hospital."

"I tried to make that case, and they all looked at me as if I was crazy. They said sick people don't really care what they're served. Since there was so much pressure on the board to hold costs down, the only place they could cut them was in the food."

"Can't you get the medical staff of your hospital to help you get some decent meals for your patients?"

"The doctors are afraid to speak up when it comes to the food because they believe that if we spend more money feeding our patients it will stop the hospital from buying new equipment. They've told me, off the record, that they try never to make their rounds while the patients are eating off their plastic trays, because it makes them sick to their stomachs."

"Why do you believe hospital food has traditionally been so bad?"

"Very little research has been done on the subject. If a patient doesn't eat, the doctor usually prescribes more tests to find out what is wrong. Instead of sending more blood down to the lab, they would probably find the answer if they sent the meal down and had it analyzed. I'm sure they would be shocked when the results came back."

"But there must be some learned men in the medical profession who are aware that the food going into their patients could be retarding their recovery."

"They're reluctant to speak up because all their colleagues would laugh at them. I know one physician who did a study with sick white rats. He fed half of them a typical hospital meal consisting of a piece of gray boiled fish, a half-cooked portion of noodles, and jello in a paper cup. The other half were fed broiled shrimp, chicken and matzo balls, and a French creme caramel on china plates. The rats who had the boiled fish refused to eat their meals and got sicker, and the ones who ate the chicken and matzo balls became well in no time. With scientific evidence to prove his case, the doctor delivered a paper before the American Medical Association, proposing medical institutions pour as much money in their food as they do in their equipment."

"What happened?"

"Blue Cross brought him up on charges of malpractice for trying to bankrupt the American hospital system."

"I can see where that would discourage all future research in nutrition."

"One of the biggest problems in trying to improve the quality of hospital food is that students, when going to medical school, have no choice but to eat hospital food when they are in training and they lose their taste buds before they complete their residency. There for, many of them are oblivious to how bad it really is. I've seen patients in my hospital who have taken their plastic trays and thrown them on the floor in rage. Instead of a doctor trying to find out why he did it, he prescribes tranquilizers to calm the person down."

"Do you think if hospitals served better food, the patients would get well faster and be out of the hospital much quicker?"

"It's hard to say because no hospital has ever been rich enough to afford it."

## Listening to presidential runners-up

By DAVID S. BRODER

Columnist for the Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Gary Hart is getting a great deal of advice these days on what he should do, now that it's clear Walter Mondale will be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

My own advice would be simple: He can relax and wait for history to justify his good judgement.

Hart has been telling the Democrats they must update their message and their image if they are to regain power. Odds are, he will be proven right.

Among the more overlooked principles of our politics is the Harold Stassen theorem, named for the man who unsuccessfully sought the presidency so many times. In its majestic brevity, Stassen's Law states: Runners-up are always right.

The law got its name in 1948, when Stassen was a serious challenger to Thomas Dewey. Stassen tried to tell the unheeding Republicans that Dewey had the voter appeal of a turnip. But would they listen? Hah!

From that day to this, the American voters have stubbornly refused to heed the wisdom of those who finished second. Hart is just the latest in a long tradition.

In 1980, George Bush said it was "voodoo economics" for Ronald Reagan to suggest that he could cut taxes, boost defense spending and still somehow balance the budget. No way, said Bush. Four years and several hundred billion deficit dollars later, he has been proven right.

Also, in 1980, Edward Kennedy warned that if the Democrats nominated Jimmy Carter for another term, they would forfeit the election. Carter, as it turned out, was able to carry only six states.

Go back to 1976. Reagan tried to tell the Republicans that they could not win with the unelected President, Gerald Ford, who had risen to his post through the good graces of the disgraced former President, Richard Nixon. But, of course, they wouldn't listen. Ford had the delegate votes.

On the Democratic side, the permanent No. 2 to Carter, Rep. Morris Udall, advanced what should have been an obvious proposition: Don't nominate a man who lacks a sense of humor. Even if he is elected, Udall said, you will live to regret it.

He was. And they did.

Do you wish more examples? Skip over Hubert Humphrey's comments on what awaited the Democrats if they ran George McGovern in 1972. Go to the classic case of Richard Nixon, of whom the Republicans were thrice warned and by whom the Republicans were thrice burned.

In 1972, it was Rep. Pete McCloskey (R-Calif.), who ran against Nixon in the New Hampshire primary, saying that Nixon was congenitally incapable of telling the truth. Four years before, it was Gov. George Romney of Michigan who questioned whether Nixon had any intention — let alone any "secret plan" — to end the war in Vietnam. And way back in 1960, the first time Nixon ran, there was New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller telling fellow-Republicans that Nixon would not lead them to victory but to shame.

Three times the challengers were right on the subject of Richard Nixon, and all three times they were ignored by the recidivists of the Republican Party conventions.

Rockefeller practically made a career of being the Republicans' runner-up and, therefore, their

## Sweeping up network TV programming

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

The TV network program schedulers are coming more ingenious with each passing season.

The other day I walked into a TV production center and I saw a man sweeping up all kinds of videotape from the floor. I thought he was a janitor, but he turned out to be a vice president in charge of "Creative Programming."

"Why are you sweeping the floor?" I asked him.

"There are a lot of good shows here," he said. "I'm looking for TV bloopers and gaffes that can be put together for next week's special."

"You mean mistakes people made that were left on the cutting room floor?"

"You got it. The outtakes of the goofos have now become more popular than the shows themselves. The audience loves them and it doesn't cost us a dime. The trouble is that we've used so many real goofos that we may soon have to produce fresh ones just for our show."

"You mean you want people to purposely make mistakes when they're doing a straight program so you can use them on your program?"

"That's correct. We sent out a memo to all news departments and production companies to mess up as much as possible so we can use the foulups on our special. And we're now writing into our contracts that a TV performer has to produce three bloopers for every straight show that can be aired."

"You've really come up with a cheap form of entertainment."

"All the networks have gotten into the act. One believed there was gold in all the screwups on TV."

He finished sweeping the floor and handed the videotape to an editor. Then he said, "I have to check on whose birthday is coming up so we can do a special honoring the person."

"I notice there have been a lot of shows featuring old-time TV personalities lately."

"It's a big business. You find some star from the Fifties and Sixties and you give a dinner to him and then you invite all his friends to appear for nothing to say funny things about the past and you can fill up an hour and a half of program time. The only one we have to pay is the caterer."

"You have to be a creative genius to think of an idea like that."

"That's what we're paid for."

"Holding down cost seems to be the name of the game in TV."

"You use what you've got. I'm not organizing all our soap operas to compete in the TV Summer Olympics. But our biggest special this year will be a mud wrestling match between the principals of 'Dynasty' and 'Dallas.' If I can arrange it we're talking about a 45 share in the ratings."

"Are you working on any new shows?"

"What do you mean new? The material must be old, but the concepts are original. Anyone can create a brand new show, but it takes imagination to recycle what you've shown already."

We went outside and the vice president started going through the trash can.

"What are you looking for?" I asked him.

"You never can tell what shows are in here. It's all you hit the bottom of the barrel."

least favorite source for unwanted truths. When he finally won something — the vice presidency by appointment of Ford — the habit of scorning him was so ingrained he was forced to yield to Bob Dole at the next convention.

No one in modern times has outdone Rockefeller in dramatizing paralytic indifference to the wisdom of the challenger. Who will ever forget the spectacle of the Republican delegates howling down Rockefeller's message at the Cow Palace in 1964, when he tried to say that the odor of "extremism" surrounding Barry Goldwater's candidacy would doom him to defeat?

The examples can be extended indefinitely. Clear is the rule that the runner-up is right. Equally true is the corollary proposition that the weaker the challenger, the greater the peril to the unwarned country. McCloskey was just a gnat-bite to the Nixon campaign in 1972 — but look where Nixon and the nation were two years later when Watergate confirmed his warning. Similarly in 1964, Democrats gave little heed to George Wallace's suggestions that Lyndon Johnson's Great Society plans just might overstrain the management capacity of those "pointy-headed bureaucrats who can't even park their bikes straight."

Given our history, the worst portent of Reagan's possible second term is that no one in the party is willing to be the runner-up who warns us about it.

But Democrats have no excuse. Gary Hart has sacrificed himself to fulfill his historic mission prophecy. Pay close attention to what the man is saying. The runner-up is always right.