

Board split over presidential race

Split. Not a split ticket, but instead offsetting votes.

The Battalion Editorial Board consists of seven members — only six are U.S. citizens and thus eligible to vote. Despite the fact that in recent weeks The Battalion has been labeled a "liberal rag" by letter writers, the staff of The Battalion and its Editorial Board are really quite mild — very middle of the road. Three for Reagan, three for Mondale.

But other college papers don't seem to be quite as split in their loyalty to candidates. (SEE story below). While papers in major cities across the nation seem to closely mirror the Editorial Board here.

From the Northeast, where the Boston Globe has endorsed Walter Mondale while the Boston Herald has endorsed Ronald Reagan, to the South where the Atlanta Constitution has endorsed Mondale while the Journal has endorsed Reagan, to the Southwest where the Dallas Times Herald hasn't endorsed a candidate while the Morning News has endorsed Reagan, to the eastern seaboard where the New York Times has endorsed Mondale, to the Pacific Northwest where the Seattle Times has endorsed Reagan, to the middle of the nation where the Chicago Tribune says it has "endorsed the fellow who's President now" — the nation seems split.

In fact, as much as the politicos to the left and to the right would like American voters to believe the country is about to be overrun by political fanatics from either extreme, the majority of America is in fact the middle of the road.

It's not the extremes that determine which political party will occupy the White House for the next four years — it hopefully is, as it has been through most American presidential elections, the majority in the middle of the road. It's only through the conflict of the two extremes — the offsetting of votes — that Americans can maintain a political system that pleases more people more of the time than any other in the history of the world. The party in power and the loyal opposition. That is democracy.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Many college papers endorsing Mondale

College newspapers, apparently bucking national polls showing wide support for President Reagan among young voters, have endorsed Walter Mondale in large numbers, a UPI survey shows.

UPI surveyed 40 college newspapers nationwide. Of the 26 that endorsed a presidential candidate, 23 supported Mondale and only three backed Reagan.

The college editorial writers offered heated denunciations of Reagan on the economy, foreign policy and the fairness issue. The Stanford Daily, for example, suggested that re-electing Reagan could result in a return to "the high standard of living for white males only."

"The United States has its weakest ... and most ideologically extreme leader in decades," said the Daily Texan at the University of Texas. "That is why it is not entirely accurate to define the presidential race as Reagan vs. Mondale. Rather, the issue at hand is Reagan vs. no Reagan."

"Where is Reagan's plan to reduce the deficit?" asked The Post at Ohio University. "In the (Oct. 7) debate, the president talked of two lines, one representing growth and the other representing reduced spending ... Where would the cuts come from? ... The cuts will come from social spending, which has already been slashed to the bone, putting the crunch on much of the American population."

The Daily Chronicle at the University of Utah said, "We are not at war, but we are dangerously close. The covert fighting in Nicaragua could erupt into an overt confrontation at any time and the president's use of U.S. troops in Grenada suggests he won't hesitate to employ armed forces in the future."

In a full-page editorial, the Harvard Crimson wrote, "Ronald Reagan has ... placed the twin values of greed and self-interest as a centerpiece of his administration and he now bids the American voters to ratify this vision."

The Lantern at Ohio State University, writing three weeks after Reagan visited the sprawling campus, said, "We, as students ... whose futures rest upon our education, must ask ourselves why the president, in a visit to one of the largest campuses in the country, failed to mention anything about the cuts in student aid and student loan programs."

Some editorial writers said Reagan's age was an issue. The Daily Targum at Rutgers University wrote, "There is a difference between disrespect for the elderly and being realistic. Reagan is 73 years old; there are implications concerning the strain of the job on his health and the diminishment of razor-sharp thought."

While papers endorsing Mondale agreed he "is not the most exciting of individuals," as the Daily Targum wrote, they said the Democrat has the virtues necessary for the White House.

The Washington Square News at New York University said Mondale "comes with political baggage, primarily his vice presidency under Jimmy Carter. Yet he is a sincere leader with a lifetime commitment to government responsibility and world peace."

At Eastern Illinois University, the Daily Eastern News said, "Mondale's plan to increase taxes may not be the answer to the nation's economic problems. (But) his willingness to propose an unpopular idea during his campaign indicates honesty."

The college papers that endorsed Reagan lauded his handling of the economy, his military buildup and said he has sparked a new patriotism.

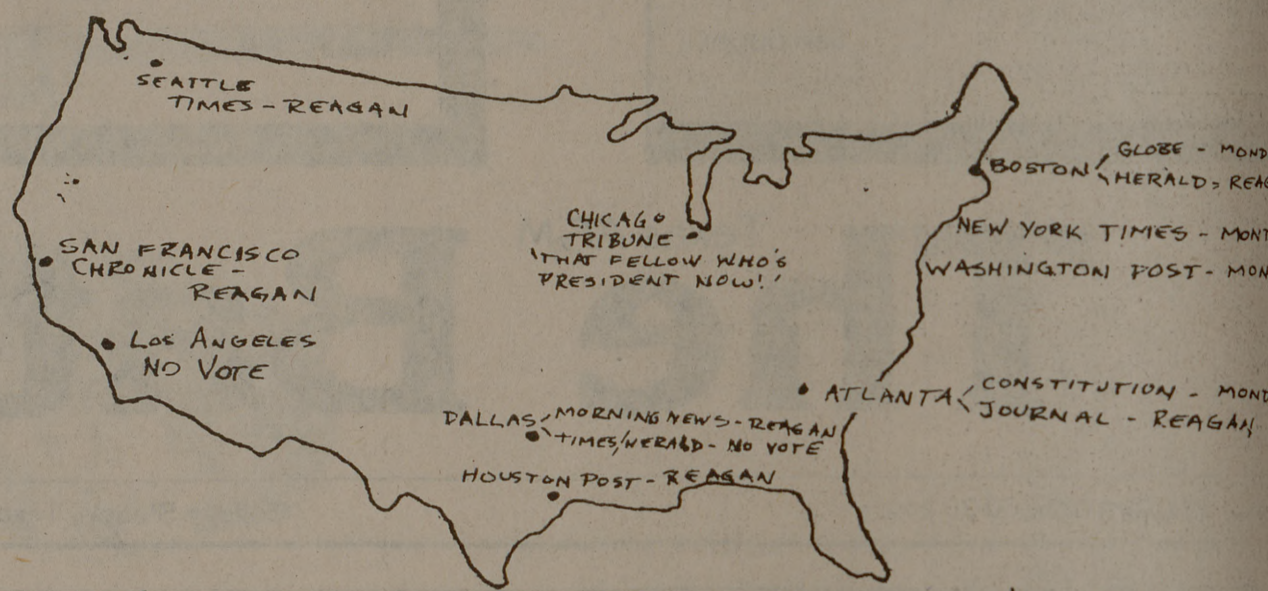
"Reagan has guided the most active administration since Franklin Roosevelt lived in the nation's capital," said The Aquinas at the University of Scranton. "He has strengthened the armed forces, stabilized the economy and re-established the United States as a world leader. ... Four years ago, Americans felt their government was embarrassing them, primarily in the Iranian hostage situation. Today, the nation considers itself strong and productive, largely due to Reagan's accomplishments."

The endorsements seem to buck polls showing Reagan enjoying some of his strongest support from voters under 30. The president also has drawn enthusiastic crowds to his rallies on college campuses.

The latest Gallup Poll, taken Oct. 15 to 17, showed Reagan leading Mondale 57 percent to 38 percent among those under 20 — compared to a 58-38 lead with the overall electorate.

ANNE SAKER
Columnist for United Press International

NEWS PAPERS



WHO'S ENDORSING WHO?

LANE 84

Reagan against women, blacks

Mondale choice for the future

President Reagan continues to dodge questions about the deficit and higher taxes by repeatedly asking Americans: Are you better off than you were four years ago?

Michelle Powe

Likelier than not you are — since most of this paper's readership is middle class and white.

But there are a couple of important questions that no one is asking and no one seems to care about.

Is everyone — not just you — better off? And will any of us be better off four years from now?

The Republicans accuse Walter Mondale of whining when he questions how the Republicans propose to reduce the record-breaking deficit. They talk about inflation being down and unemployment leveling off, but they won't talk about raising taxes to cut the deficit.

So how are we going to get the deficit under control? Who is going to pay back that debt? The present economic recovery is partially artificial since it is based on borrowed dollars.

Americans are not looking forward. If they are better off right now, that's all that matters.

But what about all those who are worse off now than four years ago?

For example, the average black family — at every income — has a lower standard of living now than it did in 1980. Under the Reagan administration, the median income of black families has dropped to 56 percent of that of white families. Not since the 1960s has the gap been that wide.

The proportion of the black population added to the ranks of poverty since 1980 is nearly double the proportion of whites.

The average black family lost three times as much from the 1981 budget cuts as the average white family.

Unemployment has averaged 7.6 percent among whites and 17.6 percent among blacks under Reagan.

In a recent Gallup Poll, Mondale led Reagan among blacks 82 percent to 4 percent. Reagan led Mondale among whites 53 percent to 33 percent.

In that same poll, Reagan was described as prejudiced by 72 percent of the blacks and 31 percent of the whites. Half of the whites said Reagan "cares about people like me." Only 8 percent of the blacks felt that way.

Why doesn't the fact that blacks are overwhelmingly opposed to Reagan

In a recent Gallup Poll, Reagan was described as prejudiced by 72 percent of the blacks and 31 percent of the whites. Half of the whites said Reagan "cares about people like me." Only 8 percent of the blacks felt that way.

seem to be worrying whites. I'd like to believe Mondale's wishful statement that Americans do care about people besides themselves, that they care about those less fortunate than themselves, but I don't. The widening gulf between blacks and whites, and rich and poor, is evidence enough to me that Americans don't care enough about people other than themselves — especially if the color of their skin is different.

Reagan's excuse for opposing civil rights legislation is that he wants to cut federal spending and get Government off people's backs.

Bozo gains few votes

By DICK WEST
Columnist for United Press International

WASHINGTON — Bozo the clown may have been a victim of miscasting.

With his orange wig, light bulb nose, floppy shoes and red, white and blue suit, he appeared ideally suited to be a politician.

He was a Tip O'Neill look-alike whose name was tailor-made for a movie marquee at a Ronald Reagan film festival. "Bedtime for Bozo" could have been a big hit.

Moreover, Bozo had that rare gift of making a 30-minute extemporaneous speech seem like it lasted four hours. Yet, in all the pre-election polls, he wasn't even mentioned. Maybe the country just wasn't ready to have a real clown in the race.

Or, with his penchant for verbosity and circumlocution, he probably should have been running for the Senate rather than as a write-in candidate for president.

Near the end of the campaign, Bozo, a.k.a. Larry Harmon, returned to the scene of the crime, so to speak, for a news conference at the National Press Club, where he first announced his candidacy last March.

It took him about 30 minutes to respond to three or four questions. That was truly a virtuoso performance. His act was fully as impressive as any I have seen or heard in the Senate chamber, a.k.a. the Cave of the Winds.

Because he campaigned in a "Bozo bus" and wore a clown's makeup and costume, many voters apparently didn't take his White House aspirations seriously. But not Bozo himself.

He patterned himself verbally, if not physically, after Harry Truman and claimed to have logged more campaign miles than HST did whistle-stopping in 1948.

"The bus stops here," Bozo would assert in a Truman-like manner at cities he visited during the campaign.

(Truman, by the way, served as a U.S. senator before becoming chief executive. You can draw your own parallels from that.)

Bozo's abilities, vis-a-vis Reagan and Walter Mondale, obviously were suspect in polling places where he was registered as a write-in candidate. But I found myself in total agreement with a couple of his campaign promises.

Among other things, he vowed to eliminate the office of U.S. vice president and to support tax reform legislation that would depreciate human beings rather than property.

Both are promises I would make myself, given the opportunity.

The fact that it was legal to write in his name in only 36 states and the District of Columbia became Bozo's biggest campaign issue. He felt that voters in all 50 states and assorted territories where votes are counted should have had the option of casting ballots in his favor.

"Anyone with the ability should have the opportunity" to be president, reasoned Bozo, who apparently had no doubts about his own ability.

But several of the states in which he tried to register his candidacy told him "No way, Jose" when he inquired about write-ins, he lamented.

Perhaps he would have been less offended if they had told him "No go, Bozo."

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