

Opinion

Some Lone Star heroes forgotten

Texas turned 150 Sunday. The state is celebrating 150 years of independence. It is celebrating a proud history of strong-willed people toughing it out through tough times. It is celebrating its own particular brand of everything-is-bigger-and-better-in-Texas pride.

Texans are proud of their heritage, but they overlook parts of it. They are proud of rugged heroes such as Davy Crockett and Sam Houston, but they often overlook others who played a role in the founding of Texas.

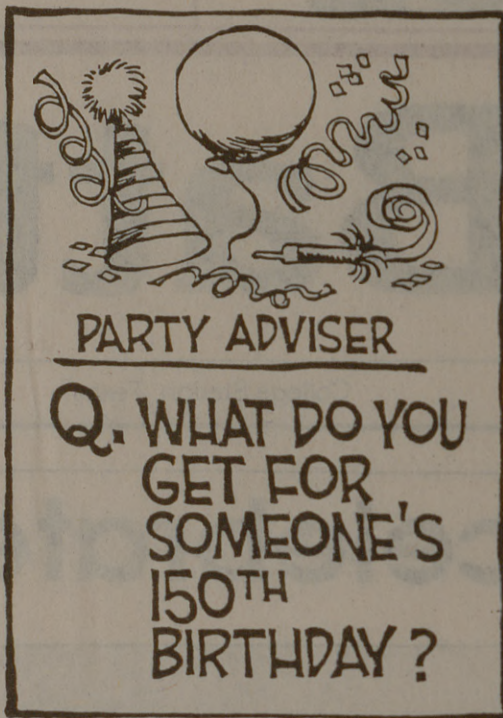
Myths sometimes get in the way of reality. Texas children are being taught romanticized versions of Texas history in schools. They aren't taught about Texas' rich ethnic — particularly Mexican — heritage. The role of minorities in the development of Texas is often overlooked.

The Lone Star state does indeed have a history to be proud of. But Texans aren't doing themselves or their children a service by portraying all the state's founders as John Wayne-on-the-range types.

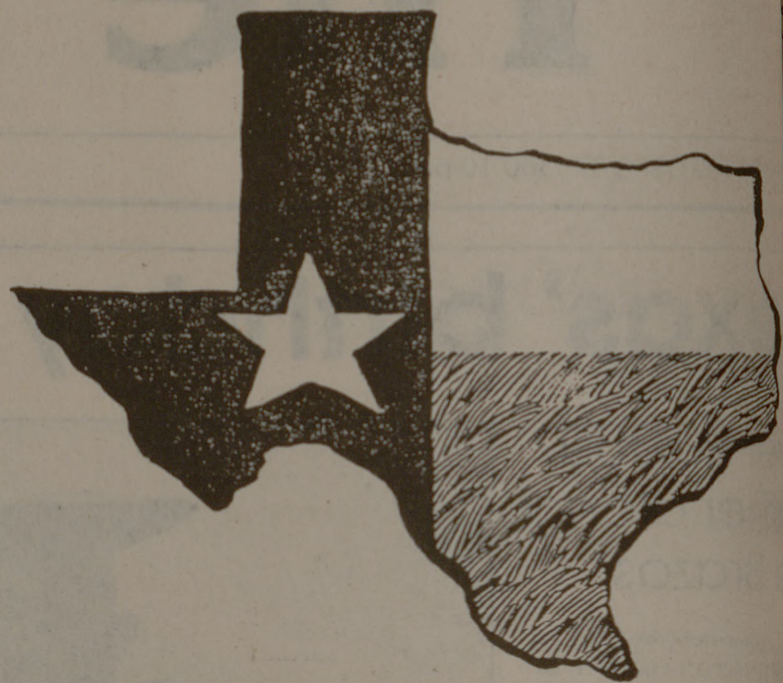
Television and books aren't telling children the real Lone Star story. Texas was built by not only Anglo-Americans but also Mexican-Americans. People of all races fought for the same goal — the independence of their land.

Children today should be learning about the diverse group of people that fought to free Texas from tyranny. It's about time Texans acknowledged their debt to all ethnic groups.

The Battalion Editorial Board



MARGULIES
©1986 HOUSTON POST
United Feature Syndicate



A. A LUMP IN YOUR THROAT

Public-relations firms getting into Angola fight

The war in Angola is getting meaner and meaner. On one side is our ally, Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA guerrillas. The immediate target of their fighting (freedom will assuredly come later) is the Marxist government which is supported by Cuban troops and Soviet advisers. Now both sides have escalated the fight. They have hired Washington public-relations firms.



Richard Cohen

his pocket — that his movement controlled 80 percent of Angola's diamond production. The check is all but in the mail.

The Angola government has responded in kind. The Marxist regime has secured the services of Gray & Company, whose chairman, Robert Keith Gray, headed President Reagan's inaugural committee and once worked in the Eisenhower White House. The Angolans are, for the moment, going month-to-month with Gray, at an initial rate of \$20,000 per. Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but it's likely Gray insisted on cash.

We may assume that this fight between Washington's premier Republican PR firms will be a bloody and protracted one. Roger Stone, a partner in Black, Manafort, Stone & Kelly, is not known for taking prisoners. It may come down to some desperate restaurant-to-restaurant eating along K Street, N.W. We may also assume that, di-

amonds or no diamonds, should the United States resume aid to Savimbi, some of the money will come right to Black, Manafort, Stone & Kelly. And, finally, we may assume that when Washington's most illustrious Republican public-relations firm takes a Marxist government as a client, something has gone seriously off the tracks.

That something is U.S. policy in southern Africa. It is so chaotic, so confusing and so illogical that not only can our national interest not be discerned, it's possible to break bread on either side of it. President Reagan mentioned Angola in his state of the Union speech — "You are not alone, freedom fighters." But he did not mention that his freedom fighters were allied with South Africa and had, on occasion, served as Pretoria's bounty hunters in nearby Namibia. The flowery rhetoric failed to mention that Savimbi is viewed elsewhere in Africa as South Africa's stooge. Like details concerning the budget, such information was probably deemed not quite ready for prime time.

Indeed, the administration's reflexive anti-communism has all but obliterated familiar political labels. Liberalism argues that U.S. policy should be independent of corporate interests. In Angola, though, it is the conservative administration that makes the case. It has suggested to Gulf Oil that it get out of Angola. Poor Gulf. Once the corporate personification of the conservative Mellon and Pew families, now it must turn to liberals for solace: Can't it stay in Angola and make a buck?

No, says the administration with nary the suggestion that it appreciated the irony of its answer. In its anti-united zeal, it has asked American corporations to do in Angola (get out), precisely the opposite of what it has asked them to do in South Africa (stay in). Constructive Engagement in South Africa becomes Destructive Engagement in Angola — all the more destructive since South Africa, with the alleged help of UNITA, has attempted to destroy Gulf's Angola installations.

Much of the world must look at performance with consternation. It seems that what really gets the U.S. States angry is not raw, repressive dictators, but Marxists — even those with Gulf credit cards. Especially in black Africa, we are proving that given a choice between racism and Marxism, we choose racism anyway. At the very least, we know more about it.

The fight between two of Washington's better-known public-relations firms is an apt metaphor for a war that's degenerated into confusion. Where the administration proclaims universal rights and wrongs and moral obligation to underwrite an agency, PR men will take you to lunch and argue just the opposite. Like most of Washington issues, the war in Angola has become tax deductible. A freedom fighter's got to eat, doesn't he?

Richard Cohen is a columnist for Washington Post Writer's Group.

New chapter in U.S.-Philippines relations begins

Looking ahead with Aquino government

The fall of Ferdinand Marcos opens a new chapter in U.S. relations with the Philippines even while the circumstances remain unclear.

Barry Schweid
AP News Analysis

The new chapter begins with relief — that Marcos relinquished power instead of trying to fight it out on the streets of Manila and the provinces.

It also begins with hope that Corazon Aquino, the new president, will form a cabinet with moderate views, know how to revive the Philippine economy and keep the Clark and Subic military bases open to the U.S. Navy and Air Force.

While looking ahead, State Department officials are not being all that clear about the circumstances of Marcos' resignation and the U.S. offer of safe haven and medical care.

"We observed the realities on the ground," a senior U.S. official said Tuesday night. He referred apparently to the fact that the Filipino people had decided they wanted to be led by Aquino and not by the man who ruled them for 20 years.

But no one in the U.S. government is willing to say what constitutional procedure, if any, was followed in the transition. Legal questions remain about Aquino's mandate.

Nor has it been explained how Marcos was eligible for sanctuary in the United States if his government carried out the human rights abuses that were catalogued by the department in its annual worldwide report Feb. 13.

"I don't intend to get into a debate about the issue that you raised," the senior official told a reporter who pressed him. "I'm saying that President Marcos

is the leader of a country with whom we've had a long friendship, and we're providing him safe haven."

The agreement negotiated with Marcos to use the Clark and Subic bases is good until 1991 and would be extended automatically unless the U.S. or Philippine government raised objections.

The Reagan administration has not sought assurances from Aquino that the Navy's Pacific fleet and the Air Force's tactical and reconnaissance planes — the biggest U.S. military complex outside the United States — would be allowed to remain.

Secretary of State George Shultz told the Senate Budget Committee a week ago that democracy has priority over the bases. Still their strategic importance is obvious.

Historically, the turnover in the Philippines is nearly unique in U.S. relations

with friendly governments.

When dictators fell they often were succeeded by authoritarian military regimes or radicals whose anti-Americanism was fueled by resentment over the support the United States gave the old regime.

Critics of Marcos, seeking U.S. support in recent years, had to cope with a phantom: Iran. Comparisons were constantly being drawn to the downfall of the Shah and the disorder and hostage-taking that followed.

Would Marcos be succeeded by a version of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini?

Or would a dangerous vacuum develop in the Philippines — to be filled by communist insurgents who would turn the country away from its traditional friendship with the United States?

The critics of Marcos argued the succession in the Philippines would be peaceful and democratic if he could be persuaded by the United States to yield power.

Taking office, Aquino declared in Manila that "a new life" had begun in her country.

In Washington, officials were already praising her skill in uniting a fragmented opposition to Marcos during the election and her use of the Roman Catholic church and various volunteer groups to get her message across to the electorate.

The United States is willing to help with financial assistance. But, officials say, it will be up to the Aquino government and the Filipino people to determine if the country is caught up in the new prosperity in Asia.

Its political future is in their hands, as well.

Barry Schweid is a diplomatic writer for The Associated Press.

WHEN YOU ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY, HAVE TO GET OUT OVERNIGHT...



MARGULIES
©1986 HOUSTON POST
United Feature Syndicate



The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board
Michelle Powe, Editor
Kay Mallett, Managing Editor
Loren Steffy, Opinion Page Editor
Jerry Oslin, City Editor
Cathie Anderson, News Editor
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff
Assistant City Editors Kirsten Dietz, Scott Sutherland
Assistant News Editors Sue Krenke, Brad Whittier
Assistant Sports Editors Ken Surr, Charean Williams
Entertainment Editors Bill Hughes, Tricia Parker
Staff Writers Tamara Bell, Jay Blinderman, Doug Hall, Mary Ann Harvey, Jeanne Isenberg, Mary McWhorter, Mona Palmer, Brian Pearson, Molly Pepper, Sondra Pickard, Craig Renfro, Stacey Roberts, Frank Smith, Tom Tagliabue
Copy Editors Pam Coleman, Charisse Crunk, Rebecca DeLong, Wade Wilson
Morning Editor Cheryl Burke
Make-up Editors Michael Miesch, Richard Williams
Columnists Cynthia Gay, Glenn Murtha, Karl Palmeyer
Staff Artist Mindy Casper
Photo Editor John Makley
Photographers Greg Bailey, Anthony Casper, Dean Saito, Michael Sanchez

Editorial Policy
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.
Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-3316. Advertising: (409) 845-2611.
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.