

# Opinion

## Clean it up

For seven years toxic wastes have been an increasing problem at the Brayton Fire Training School. The time has come for everyone involved to accept their share of the blame and start doing something about it.

Rather than quibble over whether the fire school qualifies as a Superfund site, fire school and Texas Water Commission officials should cooperate and determine the safest and surest way to dispose of the waste.

Getting the school's name off the Superfund list won't help cleanup efforts. Toxic wastes can't be swept under the bureaucratic rug. If the school had not been named to the list, the severity of the situation might have been underestimated.

The fire school risks making a bad situation catastrophic by trying to remedy the waste problems with words rather than actions. A vital water source, the Yegua aquifer, lies below the school and, should it be contaminated, the damage may be irreparable.

Texas A&M officials have been battered with both ends of the stick from the water commission which can't seem to decide what it wants done with the toxic wastes at the school. First it says bury them, now it says move them. One begins to wonder *what* it wants done.

A&M deserves part of the blame for accepting what appears to be a Trojan horse in the contaminated oil it received from various Gulf Coast refineries. Further proof that there's no such thing as a free lunch.

The water commission is not blameless either. It has repeatedly changed its instructions for proper disposal. But the time for indecision is past.

It's unfortunate that A&M was left holding the toxic oil drum, but now the concern should be solving the problem, not assessing blame. Water commission officials need to work with the fire school in determining the most viable solution for waste disposal — one that meets *all* environmental standards.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Two-term limit repeal effort means nothing

The television news in particular has taken to inviting people seriously to weigh the possibility that, in deference to the popularity of Ronald Reagan, a constitutional amendment will be passed repealing the limit that amends the president to two terms. Concerning all of which, a few observations:



William F. Buckley Jr.

1. The 22nd Amendment was a reaction to Franklin Delano Roosevelt in three parts. There was to begin with the sentiment to continue the tradition of a president's retiring after two terms. Then there was the reaction that followed the news that gradually leaked out about the semi-invalid we elected for a fourth term.

The show put on by FDR and his doctors during the 1944 was one of the great deceptions in American history. It transpired that well before he accepted renomination, FDR had been told by his doctors that he should limit his workload to two or three hours a day. There are those who zero he had limited his workload to two hours per day going back to 1933, and that is the third element that contributed to the passage of the 22nd Amendment: the anti-Roosevelt sentiment.

The amendment passed a Democratic Congress in March 1947 and was ratified by the 32nd state in February 1951, the speed a little grudging, but suggesting a reflective resolution, by the people, that the unwritten code of two terms should be explicitly reinstated.

2. The irony lies in the partisan shift in sentiment. Although the call to repeal the 22nd Amendment is anything but a national issue, it is obvious that were it to become one, the sentiment in favor would be predominantly Republican, the sentiment opposed predominantly Democratic. This is in sharp contrast to sentiment at the time of the amendment's passage.

Elmer Davis, the populist intellectual who ran several of FDR's wartime programs, denounced it as "an act of retroactive vindictiveness." They couldn't beat him while he was alive, he said (or words to the same effect), so kick him around when he's dead. So, although the issue is not national, in fact Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, R-Mich., who was the keynoter at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City in 1976 that turned Reagan down in favor of Gerald Ford, has introduced legislation calling

for repeal.

3. Reagan, speaking in Texas two weeks ago, clearly was being kittenish with the crowd when he said, "One more try?" The crowd roared for Roosevelt at the convention in July 1944 that nominated him for a fourth term.

Now, if the repeal of the 22nd Amendment were to become a serious proposal, almost certainly the wording of it would be as direct as that proposed by Vander Jagt. It doesn't take a lot of language to repeal an amendment. When the 22nd was passed, Congress needed a sentence the effect of which would be not to affront Harry Truman. The 22nd says that any president who has served for more than two years in a term to which another person was elected, and has served a full term besides, can't serve again. Truman became president a few months after the reelection of Roosevelt and would have been prevented from the running again in 1952 save for the phrase, "But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress..."

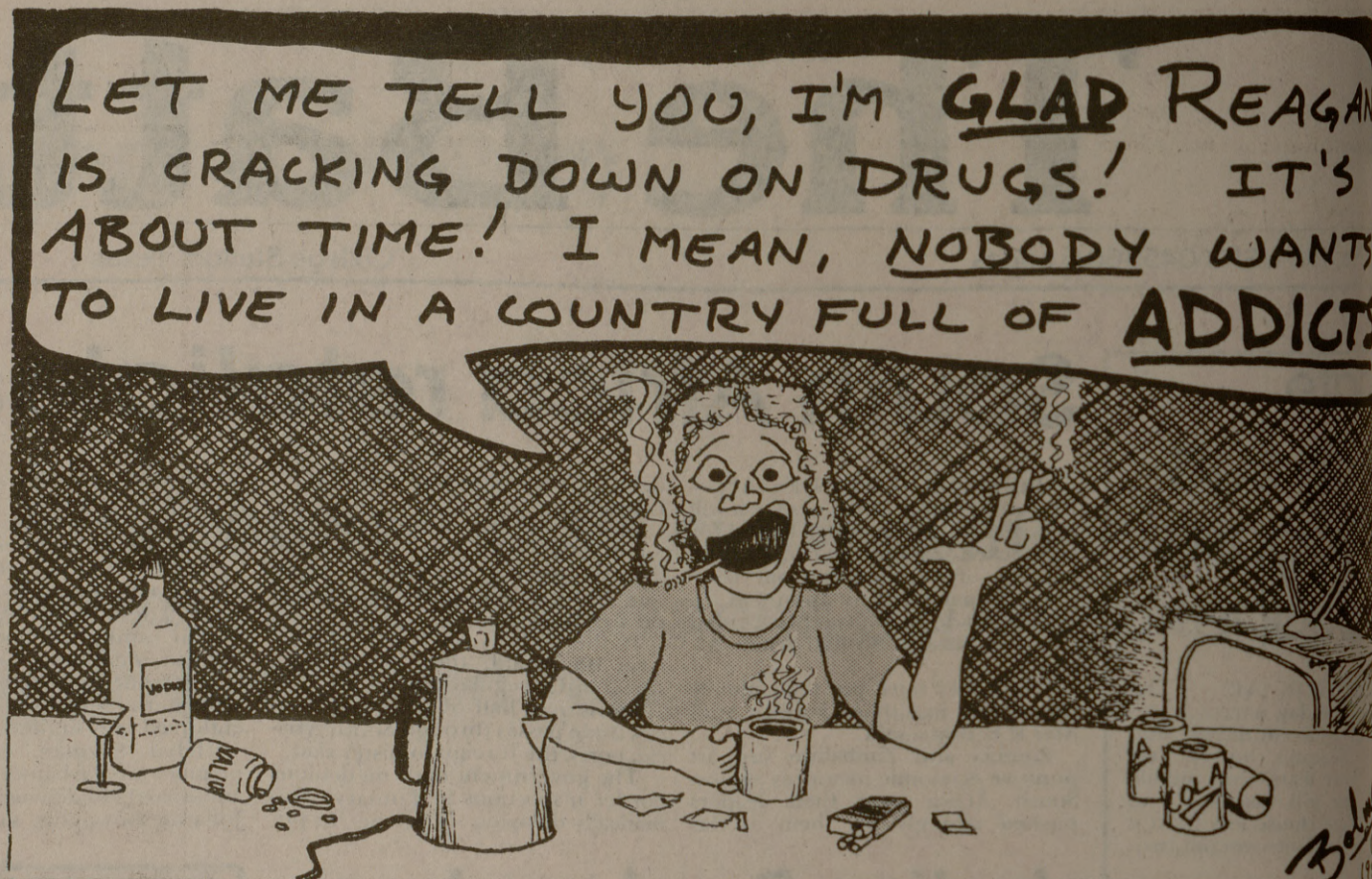
4. Reagan has indeed come out several times in favor of the proposition that if the people want to elect a president for three or more terms, that ought to be their business. But he always has been careful to say that this excludes him.

Almost certainly he is sincere in saying so, but one step might be taken to remove the proposed debate from partisan contention, namely to write into the legislation the reverse clause used for Truman; i.e., a clause that would exclude any president in office at the time the amendment was passed from running for a third term. There will not be a clean debate on the issue at all if it is viewed as animated by a desire to draft Reagan for a third term.

5. What would be best of all, in the judgment of some, is a defeat of the proposed repeal, whatever its language. Against the proposition that a democratic people should have the right to continue whomever is in power for whatever period they want is the republican tradition of the citizen leader, the Cincinnatus who lays down his plow to serve and picks up his plow again, having served. If we do get into the business of amending terms, we should go in the direction of a single term (six years), a reform of a single list of political thinkers, left and right, have endorsed, but which has never taken flight.

What then is likeliest to happen? Nothing.

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## Wanted: U.S. ambassador, no sentiment necessary

Help wanted: Preferably male) to serve as U.S. ambassador to South Africa. Applicant should be U.S. citizen, above the age of 35. Republican preferred. He (if need be, she) must support administration policy towards South Africa which always is evolving yet, cleverly, always remaining the same. Applicant must oppose any punitive actions against the Pretoria regime on the stated, but never proven, grounds that conditions for blacks in South Africa are improving. We are seeking someone special!



Richard Cohen

(1981) that South Africa had been a World War II ally and asked if we could "abandon a country that has stood beside us in every war we've ever fought, a country that is essential to the Free World in its production of minerals we all must have and so forth."

Applicant should disregard the end of that statement — the "and so forth" — and the beginning, because much of the pro-apartheid leadership was pro-Nazi — and concentrate on the middle. Applicant should note that the president thinks that abandoning the country and abandoning the white regime amounts to the same thing — even though South Africa is overwhelmingly black. Person applying also should be aware that there is not the slightest reason to believe that a black-majority government would refuse to sell precious minerals to the West since that is precisely what Angola does — and it is a communist government.

Applicant should understand that he or she would be enunciating a policy that is vociferously opposed by most of black Africa, not to mention the blacks in the United States. Although he or she should be free of charges that he (or she) ever fronted for whites in a loan application, that is precisely the background the government is looking for. Applicant also should disregard administration statements about affirmative action. In other words, we are seeking a professional.

Applicant should further understand that the question of sanctions is no longer one of pure economics. He should appreciate that the blacks of South Africa seek a moral statement from the United States — one the applicant as ambassador should be unwilling to provide. Applicant should, instead, articulate fears that South Africa will turn communist, that blacks may be incapable of self-government and — most important for the moment — that blacks share responsibility with the government for the unrest and violence.

The person applying always should

reject a one-sided assessment of that issue: "I think to put it that way — they were simply killed and that the violence was coming simply from the and-order side — ignores the fact there was rioting going on in behalf of others there." (The president, Mar 25, 1985.) Applicant should understand that this is the definitive statement on the issue.

Finally, applicant should be careful of Bishop Tutu in the eye of the out blinking. In the interest of national security, applicant's heart should be closed to sentiment.

Please address application to Donald Regan, the White House. Salary non-negotiable, but benefits include health care, a residence, (bulletproof car, huge staff and a lawn statue of a coated houseboy holding a lantern). U.S. government is an equal opportunity employer.

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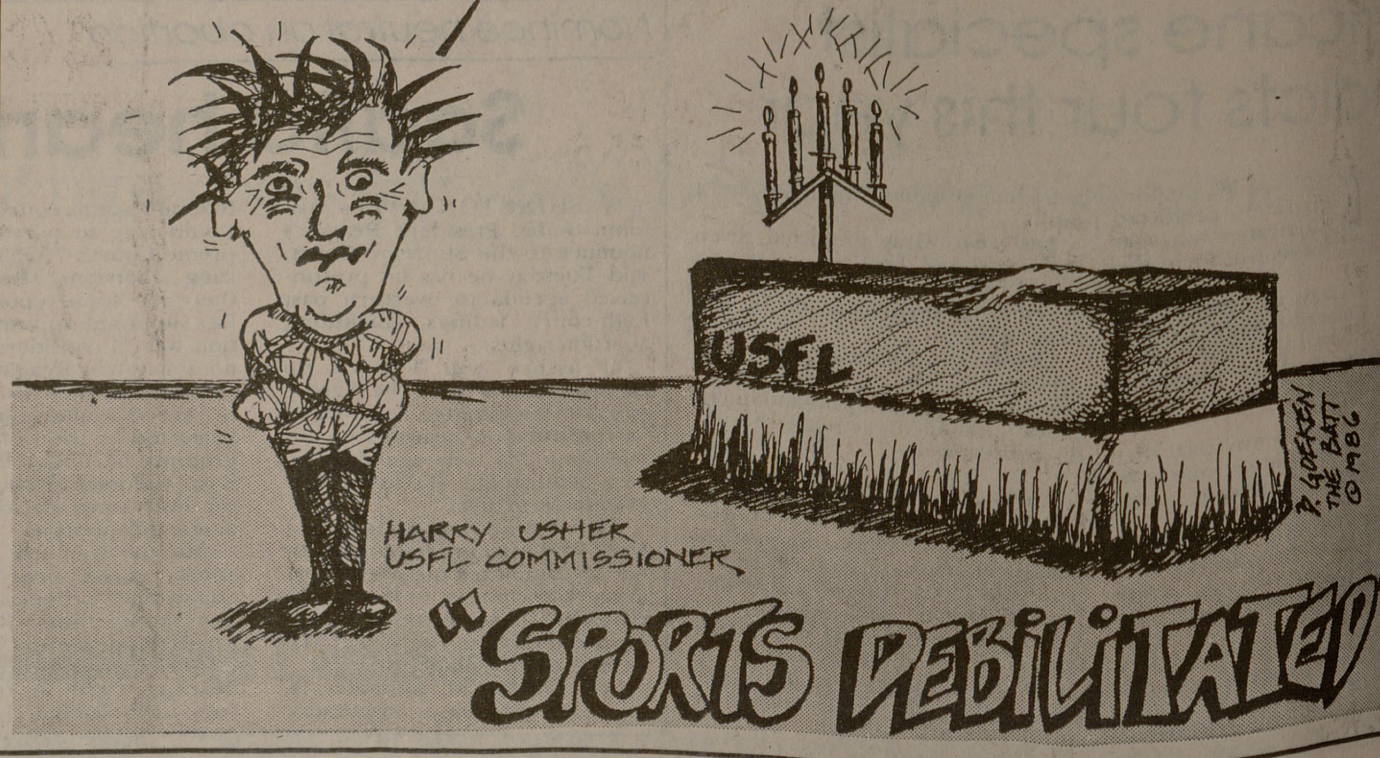
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"YEAH, ... HE'S JUST RESTING ... YEAH, THAT'S IT, HE'S RESTING ... YEAH ... FOR NEXT YEAR ... YEAH, THAT'S THE..."



HARRY USHER  
USFL COMMISSIONER

"SPORTS REHABILITATED"