

# Opinion

## William Shatner can be our Super Tuesday hero

March is the cruellest month, breeding candidates out of the dead electorate, mixing promises and handshakes, stirring dull campaigns with southern delegates.



Mark Nair

That's right, gang. Tuesday is our first say in the 1988 presidential race. Tuesday is Super Tuesday — the Southern Response.

This is what happens. Tomorrow 20 states (not all of them southern, but that really doesn't matter) will hold a huge shindig, an election if you will, to see who each state wants as its presidential nominee. Actually, it's a bit more complicated than that — it also has to do with the Party Delegates. You see, when you vote on Tuesday, you actually are helping decide which candidates get

how many delegates (Texas, The State in the Super Tuesday ruckus, has 183 Democratic delegates and 111 Republican delegates to give away. In all, Super Tuesday offers more than 1,300 Democratic delegates and 700 Republican delegates).

The number of delegates a candidate receives is deee-rectly proportional to the number of votes he received in the state's primary or caucus. So, say Paul Simon steals away from the Super Tuesday offensive with all the Texas Democratic delegates. When the Democratic National Convention rolls around, these delegates convene at the convention, jump up and down, hoot and holler and say they like Paul.

(Convention delegates are strange animals. They are the few, the insane, the foolish. Watch the convention; you'll believe me.)

But to get back to the point. Here at *The Battalion*, we have received roughly 86,591 letters to the editor ex-

plaining which presidential candidate is the best and which one is the worst for The Job. Usually a letter follows these lines:

"EDITOR: Doofus Dooley, son of an All-American lumberjack and auto-worker was raised in an All-American log cabin by an All-American family. When Doofus was not painting his All-American house the wonderful colors of Red, White and Blue, he was engaged in doing All-American homework for those less fortunate than him. In his spare time, Doofus plays All-American rules football and drinks the All-American drink, Coke-a-Cola. Doofus knows what he is doing and will nuke the Godless Commies if they even sneeze the wrong way. Vote for Doofus Dooley if you are a true, red-blooded All-American."

Way to go, Doofus. Personally, I think it's fine if someone wants to give all of our All-American Texas delegates to such a candidate. That is what America is all about, get-

ting a Doofus in the Great White House. So far, we've been very successful.

As for me, though, I think I'll reserve my vote for a man who can really, really, do the job. A tough man, a stern man, a man with the answers. For such a person, we have to look no further than syndicated TV. There! There, on the bridge, sitting next to the tall guy with the pointed ears, it's our man, our pal.

Yes! William "the funky dude" Shatner.

Think about it. Who could direct, star, star, star and star in the fifth Star Trek sequel and still look like a 20-year old kid?

William, that's who.

Who else could stand the strain of actually portraying a streetwise, rough-and-tumble copper named Hooker? (A strain, by the way, that is comparable to the strain of the presidency.)

Nobody except William "the Shat" Shatner.

Who can better portray the goofy, ar-

rogant, pompous, Grecian formula-den, inept American President? Who can fill the shoes of Ronald Wilson Reagan?

Bill "Beam Me Up" Shatner.

Born in Canada but, gosh darn, a 100 percent pure All-American, William Shatner can keep America strong, keep America great. William Shatner — to go where no politician has gone before.

But (heavy sigh) even with my incessant ramblings, even with my logical and intelligent arguments, even with my sparkling oratory, we'll probably end up with some Doofus in the White House anyway. I guess this is now the New Tradition in the grand U.S. of A. It's the style. How do you think Harding got into office?

After eight years of that, though, and four years of this, I wonder, without the wise guidance of William Shatner, we'll ever learn.

Mark Nair is a senior political science major and opinion page editor for *The Battalion*.

## Look before voting

In reading Jeff Farmer's column "Keep Those Ministers Out of Office" (Feb. 19, 1988), I am led to ask what qualifies a person to do a

Ricardo Davis  
Guest Columnist

job. Mr. Farmer's rationale for his prerequisites for the presidency obviously have not been logically thought out. For instance, "no legal firm is run by a physicist," yet I know chemists specialize in patent law and some scientists start consultation firms. Why? Because they educated themselves on areas outside the traditional scope of chemistry. Why does a math (or any other non-journalism) major write columns in a college paper? Hopefully because he has trained himself as a writer and knows the responsibilities of a journalist. In writing on any subject he investigates and obtains first-hand, reliable information; then, he objectively familiarizes himself with the subject. He works to provide a clear knowledge base for his comments to avoid misrepresentation, distortion, or libel. He tempers his work with honesty and integrity. Unfortunately, Mr. Farmer's article does not qualify as responsible journalism.

When one applies for a job, the personnel representative basically considers the applicants training, experience, past achievements and personality. The same holds true for the presidency. Each voter acts as an "interviewer," obtaining position papers and "resumes." The voter questions the candidate or hears the candidates questioned to get their views. Mr. Farmer gives the reader three small sentences as qualifications for Pat Robertson and Jesse Jackson; one mentioning both candidates' "theological training," and one pitifully small sentence for each candidate to elaborate on his qualifications. Whereas the meat of the article elaborates on the supporters of the candidates and the failure of recent presidents (due to their ignorance of and inexperience in federal legislative government). A careful look at the history and operation of the federal government shows that you don't need to be a tenured bureaucrat to run the country. However, in certain areas the entrenched federal bureaucracy tends to run itself with little executive interference. Even Mr. Farmer's comparison of Pat Robertson and Jesse Jackson with the other candidates is weak. He presumptuously touts all candidates as at least "adequately qualified, except for the two ministers."

Concerning the Christian voters who "are not amused" by the condition or our present government, the main reason for their involvement in politics results from an increased awareness that the Scriptures address all areas of civil government. They look over the past 30 years of American civil government and realize there is no difference (in prin-

ciple) between "liberal" and "conservative" humanists. They also see that Christians who are ignorant of what the Scripture teaches concerning civil government are ineffective in office. History testifies over and over that when "the righteous rule the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule the people groan." Joseph the patriarch, Deborah (one of Israel's first Judges), King Josiah, King David, and Daniel (governor during the Babylonian and Medo-Persian rule over Israel) are a few examples of how righteous rulers, who don't "bow the knee" to their ideologies, bring the glory of God to any nation (2 Kings 22-23; Daniel 3,6). Instead of cowering under the world's cry "you can't legislate morality — the Church is separate from the State" and allowing the legislation of immorality, Christians are realizing that "morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless." Christians are reading the First Amendment and finding that the restrictions are on Congress, not the Church; people's eyes are being opened to the magnitude of the intellectual scandal and "newspeak" concerning the First Amendment.

In addressing the issue of qualifications, I'll give Mr. Robertson and Mr. Jackson the acid test.

The Scriptural imperative concerning protection of innocent lives from harm is one principle both candidates address. God sees abortion, infanticide and euthanasia as abominable, murderous acts. How do our minister candidates stand on these issues? Pat Robertson affirms the Scripture's teaching by condemning the slaughter of millions of unborn children and favors legislation protecting the lives of the elderly, infirm and unborn persons. Jesse Jackson supports the Roe v. Wade decision and opposes any legislation to protect the lives of these people.

I challenge every registered voter to take the "interviewer's approach." Information is available from various student organizations supporting various candidates in the MSC; these sources almost always provide reliable information. Pursue the candidate's "resumes," comparing their training the experience. Investigate their dealings for integrity and competence in "public" and "private" life. Listen to them speak and answer questions in debate. Once you've chosen your candidate, help him with a little sweat off your brow or a few dollars. Aid his campaign in some small way. Then vote in the primary on March 8th. If you wait until the general election November 4th, you may not like the slate. If you do not vote for your choice in the primary thinking your candidate's chances were slim, then the fault is yours.

Ricardo Davis is a graduate chemistry student.



## Mail Call

### Those silly senators

EDITOR:

Just whatever is the matter with those silly faculty senators? Imagine them harassing the Board of Regents for bestowing a full professorship with tenure upon the great Jackie Sherrill. Obviously this overly objectionable group of bookworms is completely unaware of Mr. Sherrill's unique qualifications for such an appointment.

The man may not have the "academic qualifications, experience and/or achievement in arts, letters or sciences outside the academy" to warrant such an appointment, yet he does something which is far more valuable. He molds young men into great leaders of society, men who can go into the world and use the social skills and discipline they learned through years of toil on the football field to im-

prove the world around them. One has only to look at Guy Broom, Chet Brooks and Kevin Murray to realize the kind of man Jackie Sherrill is.

Let's face it, if this were high school, these senators would be the nerds jealous of the Friday night hero who always gets the girl.

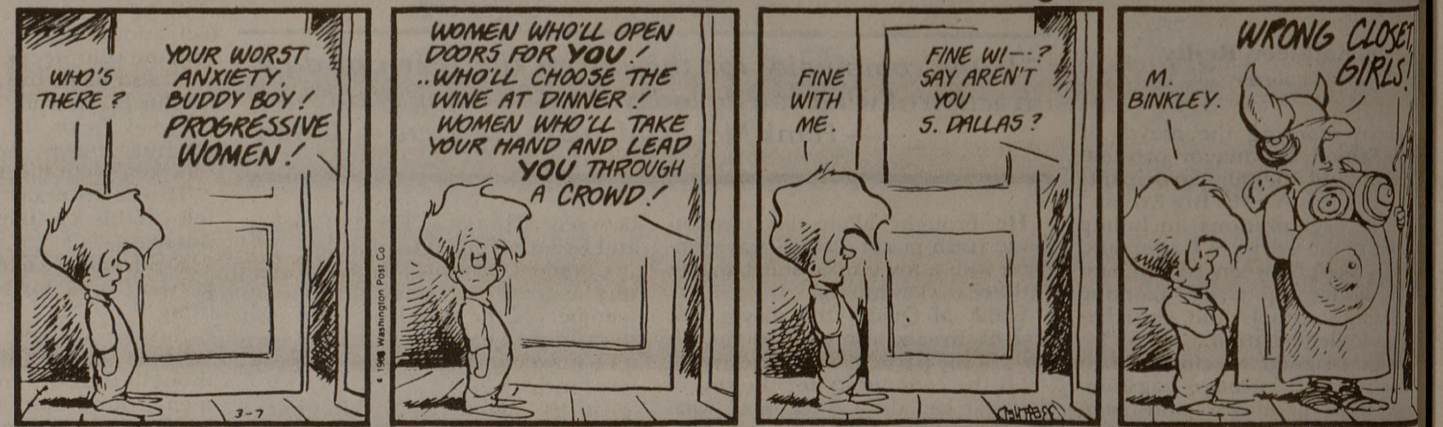
I would also like to take this time to nominate the Bagwhan Shan Ranjeesh to replace Frank Vandiver as President of Texas A&M University. Once you get right down to it, he is the only one capable of filling those shoes.

Michael A. Dunn '88

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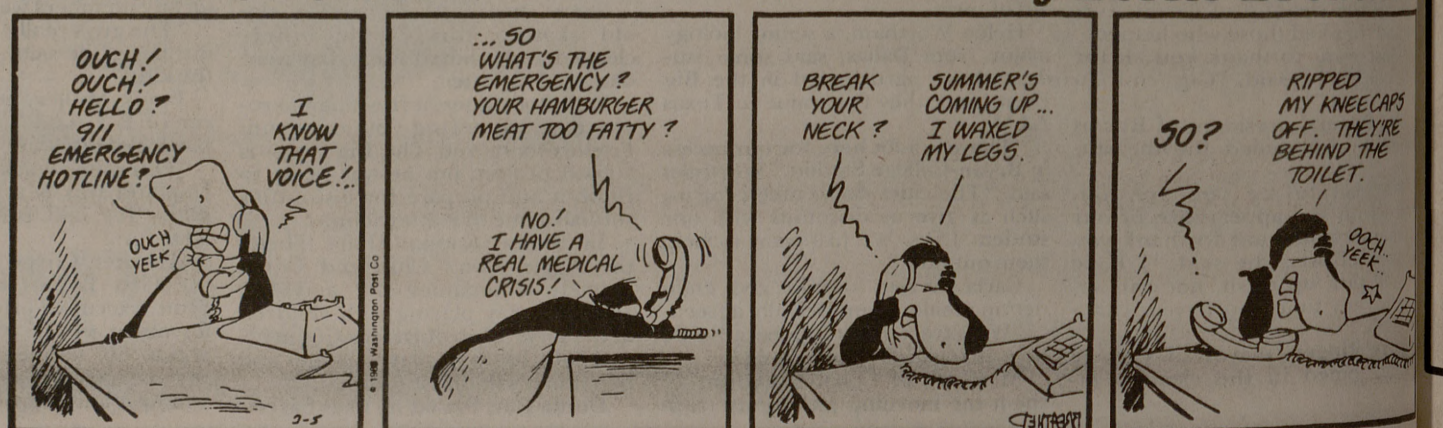
### BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



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