

# Opinion

## Quayle's silver spoon tarnishing public opinion

I didn't think George Bush could do it, but he picked a running mate who will lure me into pulling the Republican lever in the voting booth.



Mike Royko

That's because Sen. J. Danforth Quayle III, Bush's surprise choice, is my kind of guy. In fact, in reading his biographical material, I was surprised how much we have in common.

To begin, J. Danforth used to be a newspaperman.

And he was quite successful at it. When he was only 27 years old, he became an associate publisher of the Huntington Herald in Indiana.

Although it isn't a major paper, few newspapermen become associate publishers of any kind of paper when they're as young as J. Danforth was.

I'm sure his father was proud when J. Danforth came home and said "Dad, I have terrific news. I've just been named associate publisher of the Huntington Herald-Press."

On the other hand, J. Danforth probably didn't say that to his dad, since his dad was the publisher of the Huntington Herald-Press when J. Danforth became associate publisher.

But J. Danforth didn't stay with newspapering. He decided to go into politics. And he managed to get elected into the U.S. House of Representatives before he was 30. And eight years ago, when he was only 33, he became a U.S. senator.

It's not easy to become a U.S. senator when you're that young. For one thing, you have to go around to newspapers and try to get their endorsements. And some publishers might not have confidence in someone that young.

But it appears that J. Danforth made

a good impression on the powerful and enormously wealthy man who owned one of the biggest papers in Indiana, including the Indianapolis Star. I'm not sure how the conversation went, but it might have been something like:

"Young fellow, we think you will make a fine senator and our papers will support you."

"Thank you, Uncle."

"You're welcome, Nephew."

But to get back to the things J. Danforth and I have in common.

My generation had its war. And although I wasn't eager to visit Korea, and did nothing heroic when I got there, I put in my time and dutifully attended all of the chaplain's VD lectures.

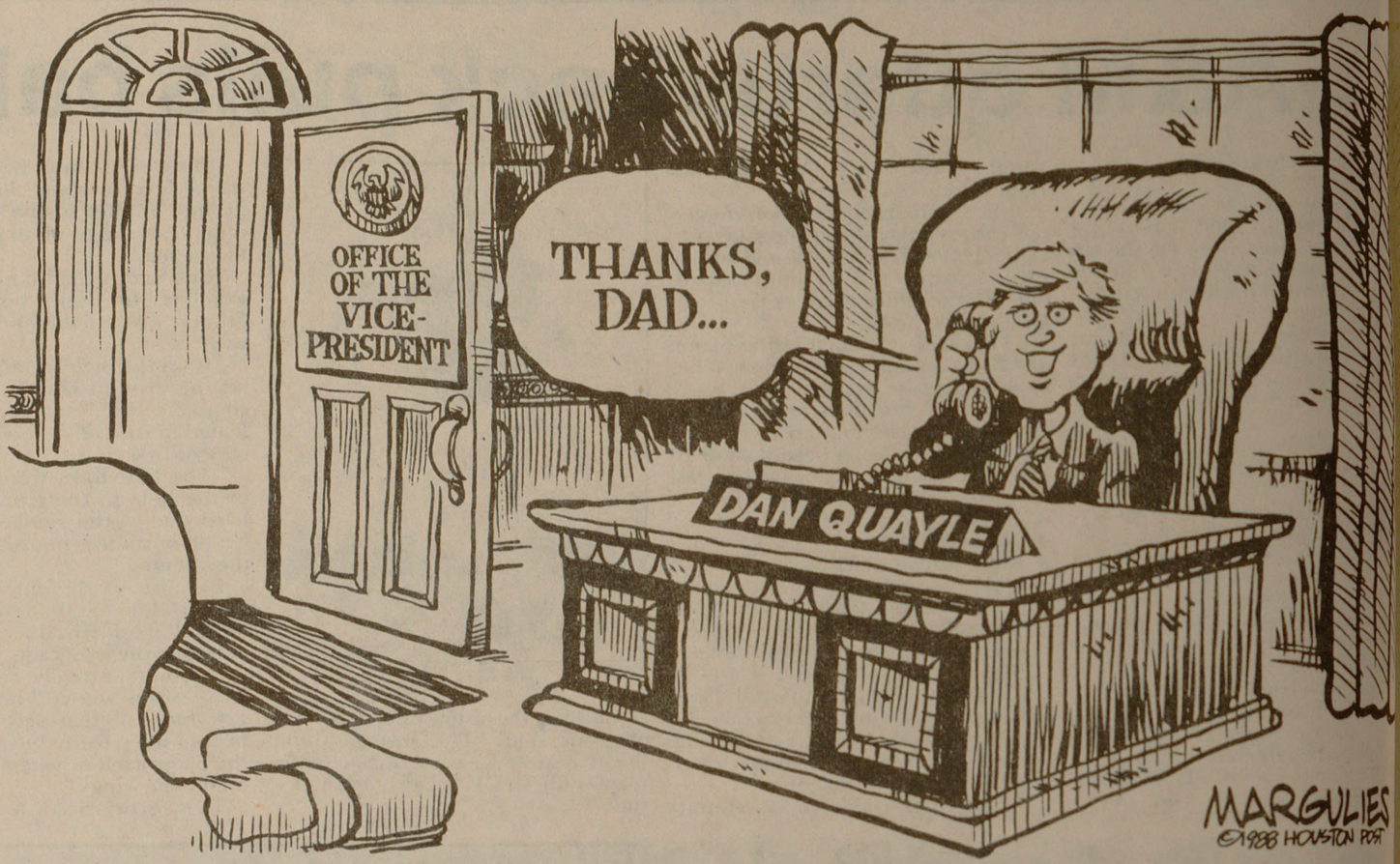
And J. Danforth did his duty, too. His generation had their war in Vietnam, and he was in uniform. Between 1969 and 1975, when the fighting was fierce and heavy, he was a proud member of the Indiana National Guard.

Now, I don't want to hear any snickering from those farmboys and blue-collar types who were in Vietnam. Had the Viet Cong shown up on the outskirts of Indianapolis, I'm sure J. Danforth would have been there with guns blazing. And, after driving them back, he could have returned to his office and written an editorial condemning the threat of communism to all decent Hoosiers.

But let me return to things we have in common.

As those who have seen him on TV know, J. Danforth looks remarkably like Robert Redford, except much younger.

In fact, when he first ran for the Senate, Redford sent him a telegram asking him to stop publicizing the fact that they looked alike. I guess Redford, a liberal Democrat, didn't like the idea of a conservative Republican cashing in on his good looks. And I can understand how Redford felt. Because Redford was older, Redford looked like Redford



long before J. Danforth looked like Redford.

On the other hand, it wasn't J. Danforth's fault that he looked like Redford. For all we know, he might have preferred looking like Paul Newman.

J. Danforth responded by informing Redford that he wasn't bragging about their resemblance or even using it in his campaign material. He said the media kept bringing it up.

And to this day, they're still doing it. Only this week, reporters in New Orleans asked him about the resemblance.

According to one report, he sighed, his blue eyes flashed, he brushed back his blond hair, and said: "I've had that stigma ever since I first ran for the Senate. It's stuck ever since."

I know how he feels because I, too, have the stigma of looking like a movie star. Not Redford, though, Jimmy Durante.

I've had that stigma since a nurse in the maternity room pointed it out to my stunned parents and it's stuck ever since. But I'll say one thing for Durante — he never complained or asked me to

have my nose removed.

All things considered, I think Bush made a brilliant choice.

We now have a Republican presidential candidate who comes from a wealthy, prominent family — part of the Eastern elite.

And he has a vice-presidential running mate who comes from an even wealthier, prominent family part of the Midwestern elite.

That's what I call a balanced ticket. Copyright 1988, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

## She likes to roam around, never tie her down — She's the wanderer

When I was a sophomore in high school, I had an ultra-conservative religion teacher who tried her best to instill the fear of God and of the outside world into her students. There were two things I distinctly remember from that religion class: you must spell sophomore with an o between the h and the m (she thought we were all illiterate nincompoops) and you must never wander aimlessly through life.

Lydia Berzsenyi

I can handle the spelling lesson. That's no problem. But the second doctrine never sat quite right with me.

I'll be graduating from A&M this December with my bachelor's degree. I have always planned to attend graduate school after I got out of undergraduate hell, preferably the next semester. I figured that way I would have at least two more years to figure out what to do with my life. Heaven knows I wouldn't want to wander aimlessly for any time at all!

But as it always seems to happen, my plans uncontrollably changed due to financial strain and now I'll have to postpone graduate school by a semester.

It's really no big deal. I'll still be younger than most when I get my master's degree, and my chances of finding a job won't be hurt by the pause in my education. I'll actually have a break from tests and papers and books and due dates and . . . all the hassles of school. And by waiting a semester I'll be able to make it financially.

There's only one problem. Now I'm

left with eight months between finishing one degree and beginning another. What am I supposed to do for eight months? That religion teacher drilled into my mind that I was not supposed to wander aimlessly EVER, even for a few months.

If I listen to my teacher, I should get a good job with direction and purpose. I should use those eight months to prepare myself for the future in my field and make every day count toward a successful professional future. I should keep my goals and dreams firmly in hand, waste no time or effort and settle down to business.

But you know, I've been going to school for a long time now, and working whenever I'm not in class. I've made sure that my life has been full and hectic and by no means calm. And now, with a free eight months stretching before me like a sea with limitless possibilities, I don't think I want to be sensible.

One of my best friends from high school was a National Merit Scholar, made fantastic grades in everything from science to English, was truly interested in most of her subjects and caught on quickly and was involved in a host of student organizations. Everyone expected her to attend a top-notch university and become a valuable addition to the work force as a scientist or businesswoman.

But she surprised everyone when she decided to pursue her lifelong dream in lieu of a formal college education. She had always wanted to be an artist, so she enrolled in a small art school in Georgia, moved, got a job as a graphic artist and lived a very non-academically oriented life.

After working in advertising art she

discovered that it was not the career for her. She also decided that she was not getting the education she wanted from her art school. She may have wandered aimlessly for a while, but at least she learned something new that may have otherwise taken her years to figure out.

I don't know exactly what I want to do with my life. I have a general picture, but there are lots of details that are still blurry at this point. I'm beginning to think (heaven forbid) that wandering aimlessly through part of my life may NOT be the worst thing in the world.

Maybe it could even be good for me. When am I ever going to get a chance again to take a few months off just to figure out what I want out of life?

Now, I'm not proposing utter chaos, a life as a couch potato or hitchhiking across the country with a guitar slung over my shoulder. I've still got to support myself, and a few luxuries might not be bad every once in a while.

But perhaps this is the time to have some fun, get a no-pressure job, catch up on some reading (and I don't mean textbooks) and watch a sunset or two.

Maybe I can even save enough money to go to Europe for a month. Maybe I can spend some time with my friends and find out who they are instead of which homework problems they've done.

I don't intend to wander aimlessly through my whole life, but maybe wandering aimlessly through a couple of months won't hurt me.

Lydia Berzsenyi is a senior math major and editor of The Battalion.

## Mail Call

### A tradition Aggies can do without

EDITOR:

Recently in *The Battalion* there have been two references to the beginnings of a so-called "New Tradition." The activity is that of dropping the newly acquired Aggie ring into a pitcher of beer. The owner if the ring must then drink the entire pitcher prior to placing the ring on his finger.

The Aggie ring represents many things. No Aggie needs an explanation of the real and time-honored traditions which surround the acquisition and the right to wear an Aggie ring. The idea that in some way those traditions will be enhanced by an artificial "right of passage" associated with a pitcher of beer comes as a surprise.

This would be a surprise to me even if I did not work in alcohol and drug abuse education. Although I would not limit anyone's legal right to enjoy a cold beer on our usually hot days, I cannot understand how or why drinking beer to excess can be connected to an Aggie ring.

I understand fairly well the influence of peer pressure. In this activity I suspect that the peer pressure is high. I also suspect that many Ags would rather not drop their new symbol of success and affiliation with the great traditions of Texas A&M into a pitcher, or even a mug, of beer.

Allow yourself the respect for your own decisions and respect others as well. This is a "New Tradition" that Ags can do without.

Dr. Dennis J. Reardon

Coordinator, Center for Drug Prevention and Education

### Bentsen's interests not best for Texans

EDITOR:

Lloyd Bentsen is running television ads justifying running for two offices. Although Texas law allows a person to run for the Senate and vice presidency, the law is not in the best interest of Texans.

These men put themselves up as candidates because they wanted to represent Texas' interest in the Senate. Now, it appears Lloyd Bentsen doesn't care about representing Texas' interest in the Senate unless he loses his attempt for the vice presidency. I guess he changed his mind, but this doesn't surprise me.

He has changed his mind on contra aid since becoming the vice presidential nominee, and has made a career of voting on both sides of the issue.

Lloyd Bentsen is neither conservative moderate or liberal. The only interests he represents are his interests. Lloyd Bentsen is trying to convince us that Texas wins if he wins both elections, but in reality Texas loses again.

The special election which will take place will cost Texas taxpayers in excess of \$6 million. Texans should elect Beau Boulter as their next senator.

Lloyd Bentsen chose the office he wants to hold. Now it is our turn to tell Mr. Bentsen how we feel about his self-serving decision.

F. Lanham Lyne Jr.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

## The Battalion

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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 Journalism.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

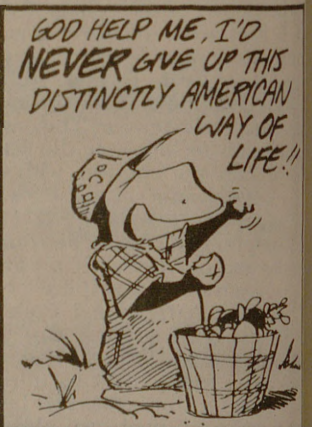
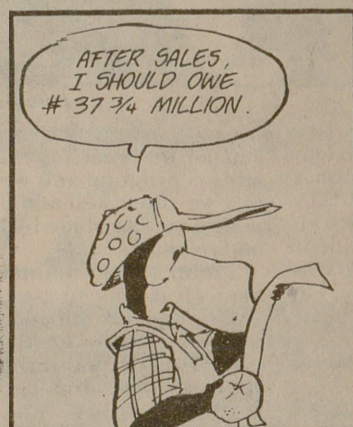
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