**The Boys on the Bus: Riding with the Campaign Press Corps**

By Timothy Crouse

Random House

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By Norman D. Sandler

The Boys on the Bus, reviewed by Norman D. Sandler, is a candid study of journalists who covered the 1972 presidential election. There were not only the obvious money and television networks, the biggest ones of all were those of the political magazine press with their daily deadlines, the reporters from the two major television networks, who would stick with their dispatches from the campaign trail. Richard Nixon's political cartoonist, Ranan Lurie, who worked for the Washington Post, had with Richard M. Nixon the President of the United States, on a cartoon Lurie drew in this book deal with Watergate and the exclusion of women correspondents.

Although it may not be obvious to the casual observer, journalists are always competitive, a trait that is well known to all political correspondents. Reporters are always in a race, a race for stories and each has his own style. Political reporters are no different. Although they are carried along together, each is looking for the one thing that will make his perspective valuable, while not varying greatly from "standard" stories used by the wire services.

However, political reporters are also very different from other "beat" newsmen. Wherever they go they travel in an informal, "clubby" atmosphere, which leads to "pack journalism." Crouse says the clubby atmosphere of the press bus leads to (among other things) the exclusion of women correspondents, who do not fit in with the "press" atmosphere of hard working, hard drinking, poker playing on the campaign plane and in pack journalism.

The "bus" is -- of course -- the vehicle that takes the press corps and the media are shuffled from appearance to appearance, shopping center to hotel, and in between, fundraising dinnertime throughout the campaign. Crouse paints a vivid picture of what it was like covering on the campaign press bus. He notes that even the conventions and general presidential campaigns are very different, and that the candidate George McGovern facing non-race尼克松, is a much less competitive business. Reporters are always in a race, a race for stories and each has his own style. Political reporters are no different. Although they are carried along together, each is looking for the one thing that will make his perspective valuable, while not varying greatly from "standard" stories used by the wire services.