Baseball predictions and casual remarks

By William Lasier

Every so often it becomes necessary to clear one's desk — and one's mind — of the clutter of letters which pile up until one does nothing but stare into space. The season of Little League Baseball has arrived, and I find myself preoccupied with my respective media, for we both found ourselves preoccupied with our respective media, and the letter was never printed. There is no doubt in my mind that the column did not show a great deal of insight into the problems of the Cable system. There is also no doubt that the letter should have appeared. In the first case I can blame only myself, in the second I can blame time and events.

As our series on the cable by Kent Pitman shows, the issue is a complex one. MITV is troubled by inexperience in working with the medium — it seems to me to be far more difficult to work on camera than in print — and by inevitable shortages of personnel. The situation is not hopeless, but it will take some time to develop into the kind of educational and enjoyable medium it could become. That's all I'll say on the matter until I can deliver the concrete, constructive advice which Bill's letter calls for.

Another column provoked a negative response in the form of a letter which did appear. The column — Students may suffer from Carter actions (March 25) — was criticized in a very well-reasoned letter by a Mr. F. Stollwagen. Mr. Stollwagen's letter also appeared in the column, but not under his name. However, I stand behind everything else in it. College students are an elite group of people, and I continue to maintain that their talents can be used effectively if they are given the opportunity. And this is an issue which should be subjected to careful debate over the next year, in time for a change to be proposed before the 1978 elections. Of course, the new UAP and UAP, whoever they might be, could prove that the system is workable, and the need for reform would vanish. Finally, it is incumbent upon any respectable journalist — if he can get away with it — to make predictions on the upcoming baseball season. Lee Gilman Brownson's forecasts of the April 5 issue be the only appearance of such activity among The Tech's staff, I have taken out my crystal ball and gazed into it. The results? New York and Cleveland will defeat New York again in the World Series.

By Thomas J. Spieak

British Prime Minister James Callaghan remains in power today by one of the closest balancing acts in the history of recent Western politics, but last month's deal between his ruling Labor party and the minority Liberals Party highlights the tenuousness of Callaghan's position. Because Labor does not command as effective majority in the House of Commons, Callaghan is forced to count the votes of his more socialist backbenchers and the tribes of his Labour(MPs) against the need to accommodate more centrist elements in Parliament to stay in power. At the same time, Labor has been hurt by increasingly successful electoral challenges by nationalist groups among the United Kingdom's Celtic minority.

To keep his fractious coalition together, Callaghan does hold out the prospect of a Conservative Party victory if Parliament is dissolved and new elections are held in the near future but this will become an increasingly important threat if he cannot deliver on a measure designed to defuse the major challenge to his party's tenure.

Devolution. Labor's answer to the nationalist threat, would grant Scotland and Wales a form of home rule, devolving powers to Westminster, which would retain control over taxes, foreign affairs, and defense policy. Under such a proposal Left Party opposition has centered on the assemblies' lack of taxation powers.

Perspectives: Callaghan on shaky ground

Callaghan faces the tenuousness of his position. His Gallup's guideline motion to curtail debate on the measure also raised hackles along the backbenches, causing grave doubts about the bill's ability to pass in this Parliament. Although they do not think the bill goes far enough, the Nationalists are expected to support it while striving to strengthen the assemblies.

The SOAP would probably withdraw Scotland from the Common Market, which they opposed joining in the first place. They insist that the North Sea oil, which is expected to produce $9 billion in revenue by 1980, belongs to Scotland and that Scots alone should receive the revenues.

The Liberal Party favors devolution but not as Labor has proposed. The Conservative Party is split by the issue, and the most vocal Tory critics claim that devolution is yet another step in the imperial decline.

Labor needs devolution if it is to survive in Scotland and Wales. Since Labor and the Tories are about equally strong in England, the continued loss of "safe" seats to the Nationalists could prove disastrous.

Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Nationalist party, wants the Welsh assembly to have equal legislative powers to constraint assembly. They do not favor total devolution from the UK, but see self-government within the Commonwealth. They also believe Scotland should have a seat in the United Nations.

The Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) wants full autonomy for Scotland and Wales. Some pro-independence Scots in the Commonwealth and continue to recognize the Queen as the head of state. An independent Scotland would probably enter into customs and passport unions with England and Wales but would retain full control over its external affairs.

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