

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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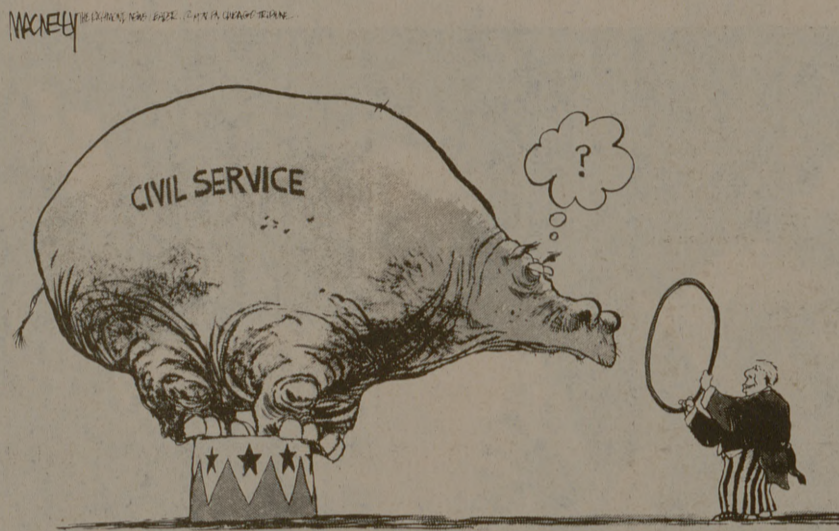
Maximized benefits

I was fortunate enough to take part in a student editors' conference at the White House last weekend which culminated in a half-hour question and answer session with President Carter. The experience was interesting enough, but as expected nothing of earth-shattering importance was released. Carter knew better than to give college editors first shot at any hot news — the wrath of the White House press corps is legendary.

Strangely enough, it was from an assistant secretary of Health, Education and Welfare that I learned some interesting news. Mary Francis Berry, head of the educational branch of HEW, told the conference that substantial increases in federal student aid for public and private colleges were in the works to help students combat rising educational costs. She said, however, that no move has been made to help institutions battle increasing operating costs.

It makes one wonder how much good will result from increasing student aid benefits when at the same time college costs continue to rise. Since most institutional funding comes from the state level, it might be a splendid idea for the Texas Legislature to work along the same lines as the federal government. Perhaps then students could do more than just keep their heads above water.

J.A.



Affirmative Action overkill

By LILLI DOLLINGER

Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to be told you couldn't enter a certain school or get a job because of your sex or the color of your skin? Think about it. If you are white, and especially if you are male, it's more possible than you may think. Our government has decided that past discrimination of minorities warrants "affirmative action." This action includes forcing businesses and schools to set aside a certain number of openings for minorities: qualified or not-so-qualified. This reverses the situation of whites and minorities. As a matter of fact, this action is like curing a drought with a downpour. This drought is gone, but now we have a flood.

Case in point: Allan Bakke is suing the University of California at Davis Medical School for discrimination. He is white and is more qualified than the 16 minority students selected before him. Out of a total of 3,737 applicants, 100 were accepted, but 16 of those positions were set aside for minority students under a "minority admissions program." This program is a nice

way of establishing a quota. Of course, very few people would support quotas, so the government calls them Affirmative Action Plans.

Reader's Forum

The Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law for all, regardless of color (or sex). Past cases have determined that racial classifications and discriminations violate this clause.

The advocates of Affirmative Action claim that past racism justifies reverse discrimination. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a forerunner of the current quota programs. Those who were so vocal in the 1960s about racial discrimination against blacks do not seem to be so worried about unjust discrimination today. Think about

the absurdity of ending discrimination by discriminating.

Affirmative Action may be a burden to the majority but let's look at from the minority's viewpoint, also. First of all, the minority student or employee that is accepted or employed merely because of race is at a disadvantage. Why encourage a person falsely about his or her abilities or background preparation? A study of specially admitted black and Chicano law school graduates in more than a dozen states indicated that roughly 60 percent or more could not pass the bar exam. What was accomplished by this affirmative action.

Let's also think about the qualified minority students, those who would have no trouble gaining admittance to a professional school because of their abilities. The stigma attached to them because of these quotas is very damaging. They say all too clearly that the minority member just does not have what it takes to make it and must therefore be given what he hasn't the ability to earn. His talent and hard work will hardly be appreciated. This is a sad

commentary on the American way of life.

The proponents of Affirmative Action believe that the government should practice racial and sexual discrimination in order to make businesses and schools representative of society as a whole. This goal is unfit for a free society and should be re-examined by not only our political leaders, but by each and every citizen that expects to be treated according to his abilities and hard work. This country should keep its ideals high in regard to its dealings with its citizens' lives. Each one of us has a stake in the Bakke case and the ideal it represents. Let's hope the Court rules to establish the right of all young people to be judged on their own merits when attempting to secure employment or higher education.

Lilli Dollinger is a freshman math major and is secretary-treasurer of Texas A&M Young Americans for Freedom. Opinions expressed in this column are the author's only and not necessarily those of this paper.

No halt to 'bracket creep'

By DON PHILLIPS

WASHINGTON — If you pay taxes — and almost everyone above the upper poverty level is supposed to — you are suffering from bracket creep.

Bracket creep is not a disease, nor is it a condition associated with underclothing.

Bracket creep is a form of tax increase. But it is not brought about by any action of Congress or the Internal Revenue Service. In fact, it is brought about by inaction.

It works this way. Every year almost everyone's salary increases, but part of that increase merely makes up for — or partly makes up for — inflation. The "real" increase in income is the amount of salary increase on top of inflation.

But the Internal Revenue Code is written as if there were no such thing as inflation.

Under our graduated form of income taxation, the percentage of money withheld in taxes rises as income rises, no mat-

ter whether the increase represents a "real" increase in salary or simply keeps one even with the rate of inflation.

Commentary

Therefore, year by year, the taxpayer keeps popping into higher tax brackets and pays an increasing amount of income in taxes even though part of that income rise is eaten away by inflation.

Taxpayers thus creep up into higher brackets — "bracket creep."

When Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal briefed reporters on President Carter's \$24 billion tax cut bill, he was asked numerous times why the multitude of charts and tables did not include a table taking into full account the effects of ex-

pected inflation including bracket creep.

After giving evasive answers for a period, he appeared to promise such a chart within a few days. It never appeared.

Republicans, who favor a much larger tax cut, were only too happy to do a little of their own calculating. They came up with a chart which seemed to show that a family of four would actually pay higher taxes in 1979 if it made \$17,500 a year or more.

In 1980, under the GOP chart, every four-member family making \$10,000 or more would pay higher taxes, and in 1981 every family of four would pay more.

The GOP chart takes into account both the increase in Social Security payroll taxes scheduled under current legislation, and the full effects of inflation, which is estimated to be 5.9 percent this year, 6.1 percent in 1979, 5.7 percent in 1980 and 5.2 percent in 1981.

Of course, both the Carter White House and the Republicans can use statistics to their best advantage — Carter to make his tax cut look bigger and the GOP to make his tax cut look phony.

But one major fact is clear: inflation is dealing Americans a double whammy, and some people a triple whammy.

On the one hand, inflation erodes the value of the dollar and robs us of a part of whatever salary increase we receive.

Inflation also pushes us into higher and higher tax brackets.

And at the local level, especially if we own property, inflation pushes up local taxes.

Add to this the fact that Social Security payroll taxes are scheduled to rise year after year, and one can only wonder how long it will be before some harried soul shows up at the doors of his congressman with documents proving he owes various governments more money than he makes.

Letters to the editor

Dance deserves more budget consideration

Editor:

Included in the Kyle Field expansion are plans for a dance studio. It's amazing that an \$18 million, four-story complex housing classrooms, a lecture hall, laboratories, 14 racketball courts, and five basketball courts can only manage enough money and space for one dance studio. This addition will bring the number of dance studios at A&M up to two.

The dance studio we have now is used to the fullest extent. That one poor room is used from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m. Classes are held continuously from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and other groups, such as Dance Arts Society and Shorin Karate, work out there until the room is locked at 10 p.m. It also is used on weekends. All the PE classes that need the studio are filled to overflowing.

Believe it or not, Aggies love to dance — anything from ballet to square dancing. And it's not only girls, boys are there, too.

However, I don't want to be misunderstood and accused of being against the racketball and basketball courts. I love to play racketball and if I were seven inches taller, I'd be seen playing basketball, too. It just seems to me that someone, somewhere is overlooking or ignoring this demand area. A&M always manages to expand in just enough time to be overcrowded. I have enough faith in the staff and administration of A&M to know that it could be managed to plan and pay for more than one dance studio somewhere in \$18 million and four stories.

— Deborah Wright, '80

American tradition

Editor:

I was pleased to see a small group of civilian Ags stop walking and proudly place hands over hearts as the Corps brought down the Stars and Stripes Monday evening. Unfortunately though, it's a pretty rare occurrence.

Often, either alone or with my outfit, I've stood at attention as our flag is being lowered and seen Ags surely within sight and sound continue on their way with little or no regard for what is taking place. This is particularly noticable on weekends. It seems rather ironic that Aggies who are

the finest fighters for so many proud traditions within our beloved University often refuse to pay due respect to our country's "traditions" by taking a few proud moments to salute Old Glory. I promise you won't regret it — chances are it'll make you feel great!

Certainly the Corps is one of the proudest guardians of traditions at A&M. We don't have a monopoly on it though! On a grander scale, we are staunch defenders of America's "traditions" but we definitely don't have the only hearts that stand up to her on display of those "traditions." We're all Ags. We're all Americans!

So, c'mon non-regs: we want your help in showing pride and spirit in America!

— James E. Edge, '80

TM again

Editor:

In Friday's Batt, George Sofka tried to "clear up" misconceptions regarding TM. Either he is misinformed himself, or is a part of the active deceptive program of TM in this country. Let me clear up some of the misconceptions about the misconceptions.

Fact: TM seeks to hide its true religious nature through deceptive titles. One need only read his book, "Meditations of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi" to see this. On page 168, he states, "not in the name of God-realization can we call a man to meditate today, but in the name of enjoying the world better." When Maharishi first came to America, he was very blunt about declaring the religious nature of TM. The first organization he established to spread TM was called "The Spiritual Regeneration Movement." However, as he became aware of the legal situation here of separation between church and state, as well as the technological mentality of Westerners, the name was changed to Transcendental Meditation, to portray a "scientific" image. Most recently it has been changed again to the "World Plan Executive Council," promoted as an educational organization, to make the whole deception more palatable to Americans and further obscure its religious nature. The state of New Jersey ruled Oct. 20, 1977, that TM is religious in nature and cannot be taught in the

public schools.

Fact: The basic nature of TM is that of Hinduism. Psychology Today Magazine (April 1974) wrote, "The Science of Creative Intelligence (the doctrinal teaching of TM) as it is called, is clearly a revival of ancient Indian Brahmanism and Hinduism. Its origins lie in the ancient texts — Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, the teachings of Buddha, and the Synthesis of these traditions by Shankara." Most of all the teaching of maharishi and TM (such as the definition of faith, God, Karma, reality, consciousness) can be found in classical Hinduism and the Eastern Religions.

Fact: Maharishi admits that it is religious. The use of the Matra is a subtle

means of communicating with "the gods." He speaks of "chanting to produce an effect in some other world, to draw the attention of those higher beings or gods living there" (pp. 17, 18). When asked if meditation were a form of prayer, he responded, "A very good form of prayer. A most refined and most powerful form of prayer is this meditation which directly leads us to the field of the Creator, to the sources of Creation, to the field of God."

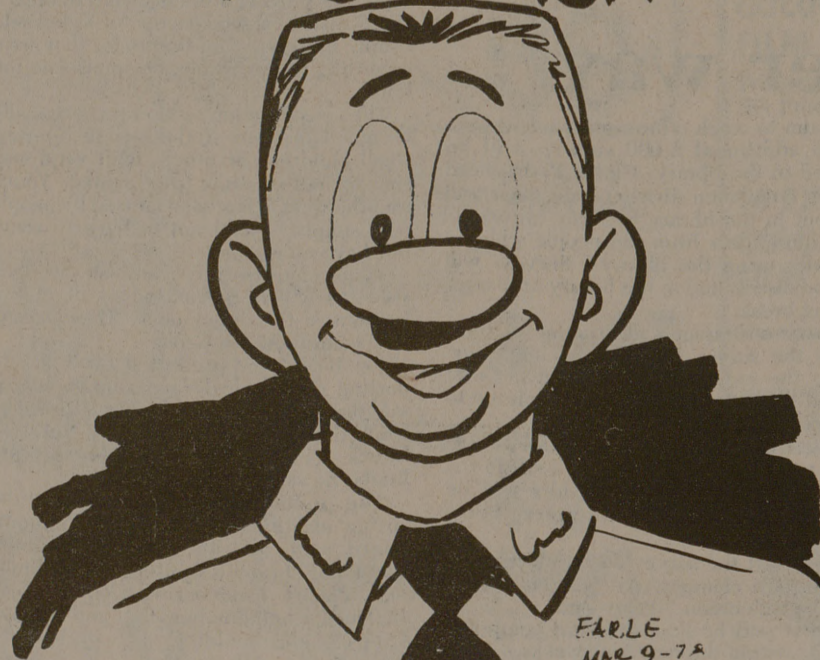
I think it is time TM stops deceiving the students of A&M about its true nature. Its basic thrust is that of Eastern Religion, which I'm sure some involved themselves don't realize, and is not to any degree compatible with the truth of Christianity.

— Willis Hudson

Slouch

HAPPY SPRING VACATION

by Jim Earle



TOP OF THE NEWS

CAMPUS

Drug study volunteers to report

Volunteers for the Influenza Drug Study are reminded to turn in their weekly reports and receive payments at the Texas A&M University Health Center reception desk today or Friday during normal clinic hours.

LOCAL

Property owners meet tonight

College Station property owners are invited to a meeting at 7:30 tonight to discuss how property is rendered for school district taxation and how market value is determined. The meeting will be conducted by Tax Assessor-Collector Jewell Ellis and his staff, and will be held at the South Knoll Elementary School Cafeteria.

STATE

Violent crime may be on decline

Crime increased steadily in Texas during 1976, but violence may be on the decline, the Department of Public Safety said Wednesday in Austin. DPS officials said the agency's Uniform Crime report which will be issued in a few weeks may show an increase in the number of violent crimes reported in 1977. But officials noted another report released Wednesday is based on a random survey of citizens and includes both reported and unreported crimes. While the Uniform Crime report is based only on crimes reported to police, the survey showed crime increases from 1975 to 1976 involved property crimes such as theft, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

NATION

Farmers try to delay food

In their quest for higher prices, striking farmers Wednesday tried to persuade truckers from North Dakota to Texas to delay shipments of food. But a veteran market reporter said two days of cajoling had no effect on the movement of fresh fruits and vegetables to grocery stores. Most farmers used a soft-sell approach, inviting truckers to stop for coffee along interstate highways. Then they explained their plight and asked the truckers to voluntarily park the trucks until they were carrying perishables. The farmers hoped their final push would force Congress into favorable action on the Dole-Bentsen Bill, an emergency measure which would grant farmers 100 percent parity if they would take 50 percent of their land out of production this year.

Mud-stranded tribe receives aid

Army and National Guard helicopters dropped food and supplies to an estimated 10,000 mud-stranded Navajo reservation residents Wednesday in the fifth day of "Operation Mudhole." After three days of good weather the muddy Arizona ground was beginning to get firm, said Ralph Meek, the tribe's director of public safety. There's beginning to be some ground movement in some affected areas, and providing that storm coming off the Pacific doesn't get this far, we plan to start winding the operation down tomorrow," Meek said.

Students demonstrate at capitol

Last week more than 100 Langston University students demonstrated at the Capitol in Oklahoma City, trapping legislators in the House for more than four hours in an effort to gain more money for the predominantly black school. On Tuesday, a House committee suggested abolishing the school despite warnings from Chancellor E. T. Dunlap that it could cost the state \$70 to \$80 million in federal funds. House Speaker Bill Willis, D-Tableau, predicted the proposal would never pass the House and said it did not represent a majority view. "It was obviously a reaction to the demonstration," Willis said. Other lawmakers said closing the school would save the state money on an institution with a poor academic reputation.

Bell says miners will work

Striking miners will heed a federal court order to return to work and end the nation's longest continuous coal strike, Attorney General Griffin Bell predicted Tuesday in Kansas City, Mo. He expressed confidence that the 160,000 striking members of the United Mine Workers union would comply with a court order to end the three-month-old walkout. Bell told reporters after the ceremony it was too early to comment on the possibility of federal seizure of the mines. He said he assumed the strike would be resolved before such action became necessary.

Flynt shooting suspect freed

A young man arrested as a possible suspect in the Monday shooting of Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt in Georgia was in Norfolk at the time and has been released from custody. Teddy Morris, 20, was freed after being questioned by police officers from Lawrenceville, Ga., who flew to Norfolk. Capt. B. H. Blanton of the Gwinnett County, Ga. police department said Morris "admitted it was all a hoax." Paul Lipkin, an attorney for Morris, said his client had contacted a false Lipkin to collect the reward money in the case and it had gotten him into trouble.

WEATHER

Fair and warm today, turning partly cloudy and warmer on Friday. High today mid-60s, low tonight mid-40s. High tomorrow mid-70s. Winds light and variable. Cooler Saturday and Sunday with decreasing cloudiness.

THE BATTALION

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