



William F. Buckley Jr.

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Buckley: conservatism may be rising

By STEVE LEE
Battalion Campus Editor

William F. Buckley Jr. proclaimed conservatism as "the politics of reality" in a lecture sponsored by the Great Issues committee Tuesday night at Rudder Auditorium.

The noted conservative author and columnist made the remarks in the first of six "propositions" dealing with a possible resurgence of conservatism in America after recent elections. Buckley said that outlining these propositions was necessary in order to carefully answer the question of advancing conservatism.

"Conservatism seeks to inquire of probable, if not altogether predictable, human responses," Buckley said, explaining his politics of reality.

BUCKLEY CITED AN EXAMPLE of prices initially differing for the same product in different states. He said, however, that these prices tend to equal out in the long run as the free enterprise system takes its course. He said the system is both "self-starting and self-regulated" in nature, and said it is "surprising" that critics are often surprised when this occurs.

Buckley's second proposition was the idea that there is "an increasing popular knowledge of the unrealities of progressive

economics." He cited as example one of Sen. George McGovern's proposed economic remedies offered during the 1972 presidential campaign.

McGovern proposed giving \$1,000 to each person earning less than the national income average. Buckley said this proposal had a stunning impact, but that impact was opposite of what McGovern had intended.

Persons earning above the \$15,000 per year income level disliked the idea, according to Buckley, saying they "didn't fancy themselves in careers of philanthropy."

THE IDEA WASN'T popular with persons earning less than \$12,000 per year because there would be a lack of work incentive. He said polls showed that McGovern's plan, therefore, wasn't popular with any significant group of people.

Buckley said that McGovern then attacked corporate executives' salaries, in particular that of the president of Ford Motor Co., who earned about \$400,000 in 1971. He pointed out the importance of the automobile industry and said that the president made a very small percentage of each car sold. He then compared that salary to that of the Rolling Stones rock group on an American tour that year, saying that McGovern didn't bother to question the group's salaries.

Leading into his third proposition, Buckley said there is a "diminishing of ignorance" regarding the mechanics of income redistribution. Income redistribution would appropriate more income from the wealthy to other areas of the economy.

USING FIGURES FROM 1971 to illustrate his point, Buckley said the "very rich," which he identified as those making \$50,000 or above annually, comprise less than 1 percent of the population. Based upon a total taxable income of \$29 billion, this group provided a total of \$12.3 billion that year, or an average of \$37,500 apiece, Buckley said.

"If the government were to confiscate the whole of the remaining income, leaving them penniless," he said, "we would bring in an additional \$16 billion, or enough to pay the cost of the federal budget for two weeks."

Buckley said that although the wealthy already pay a large sum, they could not contribute on the scale that the government is spending.

Buckley further identified a "diminishing of the redistribution myth" in his fourth proposition by saying that the idea of "spontaneous generation" of money in Washington is growing weaker. He said, for example, that the concept of a na-

tionalized agricultural program, which would supposedly provide free food for the nation, is becoming less popular since it would involve a spontaneous flow of money from Washington. Rather, he said, there is a flow of money from state to state for social and various other programs.

IN HIS FIFTH proposition, Buckley said it is useless to proclaim utilitarianism — the doctrine that the most people should benefit — and disguise it as democracy — the doctrine that all people should benefit.

As an example, he examined the praise expressed for Mao Tse Tung upon the leader's death. What many chose to neglect, said Buckley, was that many people were exploited for the supposed good of the country.

Buckley used a quote from economist John Stewart Mill to underscore his sixth and last proposition.

HE RELATED MILL'S stand on equality to a possible remedy for the income tax system. Buckley suggested the elimination of the progressive income tax method, under which the wealthy bear a larger percentage of the tax burden. Instead, he would support a 15 percent taxation on income for all people, thus instilling Mill's doctrine of equality for all, he said.

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UT tickets sent back

Wally Groff, assistant athletic director for business affairs, returned 1,000 tickets for Friday's game to the University of Texas Tuesday afternoon.

The University of Texas initially sent 7,700 tickets for Texas A&M students. About 5,400 tickets were distributed Monday and only 700 tickets were distributed Tuesday.

Sports' Unsung Hero:

The BOOKIE



A&M regents approve \$26 million contracts

Contracts totaling more than \$26 million were awarded Tuesday by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents for additional academic facilities and space for state agencies headquartered here.

The largest contract, \$11,889,000, went to B-F-W Construction Co. Inc. of Temple for construction of the six-story Academic and Agency Building. The 257,900-square-foot structure will house Texas A&M's College of Business Administration, English Department and Institute of Statistics, as well as portions of the Texas Transportation Institute, Texas Real Estate Research Center, Texas A&M Research Foundation and remote facilities for the Data Processing Center, which also serves several state agencies.

Texas A&M officials noted the building, which will be one of the largest on campus, will be built at a 45-degree angle in relation to all other major buildings on campus for optimum solar orientation to conserve energy.

A \$9,063,000 contract was awarded to Zapata Warrior Constructors of Houston for a two-story 103,440-square-foot clinical sciences building for Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Other contracts for projects on the College Station campus: \$1,918,850 to R.B. Butler Inc. of Bryan for the 28,199-square-foot second phase of the food pro-

cessing center; \$1,230,000 to Drew Woods Inc. of Carthage for expansion of the heating and chilled water plant on the new western portion of the campus, and \$353,639 to Mechanical Specialties Inc. of Houston for renovation of the old biological sciences building.

"These new facilities will greatly enhance our capability to serve our growing student body and meet needs associated with our increased research and public service activities, but we will still fall short of generally accepted standards for space per student," said Texas A&M President Jarvis E. Miller.

Thurmond and Stuart of Bryan will build a general purpose facility at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center at Bryan under a \$1,722,400 contract. The 36,300-square-foot building will serve both the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

The regents also awarded three other contracts for projects in Galveston, Sonora and Stephenville. LEM Construction Co. of Stafford received a \$294,639 contract for a parking lot at the new classroom-laboratory building at Moody College in Galveston. A meeting facility will be added to the Texas A&M Agricultural Re-

search Station at Sonora under a \$164,176 contract with Wilbur L. Brown Contractor of San Angelo. Tarleton State University will gain a new horse management laboratory under a \$94,700 contract awarded to Phillip Hale Construction Co. of Stephenville.

Additionally, the regents appropriated \$247,000 for detailed design of waste water treatment plant expansion and renovation of the mechanical engineering shops at Texas A&M, additional facilities and equipment at the Texas A&M Agricultural Research Center at McGregor and a slaughterhouse at Tarleton.

In other business, the regents authorized Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M University to seek approval of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System for new degree programs. Texas A&M is requesting new bachelor of science degree programs in mining engineering and political science.

Prairie View will petition for new degree programs in industrial and chemical engineering and a master of science degree in engineering.

Frank X. McNeerney of New Orleans, George P. Mitchell of Houston and Edward H. Harte of Corpus Christi were reappointed to the Moody College Board of Visitors. Their terms on the advisory group now extend through Dec. 31, 1981.

Editor's note: This is the second of three articles on gambling in and around Bryan-College Station. The reporter spent three months researching the story as an observer and through interviews. Because of the sensitive nature of the material, the names of "inside" sources have been changed. The identity of the reporter also has been protected by the use of a pseudonym. Tomorrow, the final article of this series will discuss the little-known connection between dogfighting and gambling.

By BARNEY J. LEPERIE
Special to The Battalion

Friday, 6:30 p.m. The phone rings.

"B.C. here."

"This is A.Z. of Hilton. What's the line on the Dallas-Pittsburgh game?"

"Pittsburgh by two points."

"O.K., get me down for a quarter on the Cowboys."

"That's a quarter on the Cowboys plus two?"

"Yeah. See ya."

Click.

THE CONVERSATION was between a neighborhood bookie operating out of a Bryan recreational facility and one of his regular customers. The "line" is the point spread, a "quarter" is \$250, and "A.Z. of Hilton" is a code name to conceal the identity of the person who is making the bet.

Bookmaking is just one form of illegal gambling going on in the Bryan-College Station area, some of which is for very high stakes.

The local activity is only a tiny stroke in a complex nationwide picture. In bars, pool rooms, bowling alleys, casinos, at legal and illegal race tracks, at golf courses, at well-disguised dogfight and cockfight pits all across the country, men and women, sometimes compulsively driven, are placing bets every day of the week.

GAMBLING IS IN their blood. They speak a language all their own and they pursue a unique lifestyle.

They gamble and lose, gamble and win, gamble and break even. It doesn't matter. They continue the chase, certain of one day proving that their "system" works.

The more money involved, the more intense the "chase" becomes. And the more pressing becomes the gambler's need for money. He may support his habit from his paycheck, loans from a loan shark, legitimate bank loans or his wife's paycheck. He may even resort to burglary or embezzlement.

It's the same as the addict getting a "fix" or the alcoholic taking a drink. Gambling can become a serious sickness — a compulsion that inflicts pain and heartache on parents, spouses and children.

STEVE (NOT HIS real name) is a 22-year-old junior at Texas A&M University.

He comes from a well-to-do family in Houston. His introduction to gambling came when he was 13 when he began observing his father's weekly poker games. He learned the ropes of card playing from his dad and took part in low-stakes games during his high-school days. Heavier betting on the golf course followed and now he is into betting on football — a passion he has indulged in the last three years.

"I work, get money from my parent, have bookies ride my losses for awhile," he says. "There are always ways to get the cash. I once had to borrow \$1,000 from the bank for a pay-off, got an older gambling friend of mine to co-sign a 90-day note loan. I just knew I would be able to get myself out of the hole in three months, be able to pay off the loan and be in the clear."

BUT THINGS didn't work that way. "I got on a losing streak for weeks, I was broke and there was no way I could go to my parents and explain what had happened. I was in a real jam so I managed a school loan out of the financial-aid office — one of those you pay back after graduation. That gave me plenty of time to work things out and preserve my sanity."

Steve is only one of the 40 million Americans who bet on football games at some time during the season, according to a national poll printed in TV Guide magazine.

Football is only a part of the picture. Gambling in the United States, despite all the federal and state restrictions against it, may be considered one of the country's leading industries, both in the number of participants and the amount of money involved.

MILLIONS OF Americans gamble an estimated \$400 billion annually — only an eighth of which is wagered legally.

In Texas alone, more than \$750 million is bet annually during football season, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

In Bryan-College Station, a prospective bettor can talk to "X.Y." (not his real initials) who hangs out at a popular recreational facility or "Cooky the Bookie," (not his real name) who operates out of a private club. Cooky is considered to be one of the bigger books in town because he handles the "high-roller" traffic. One might also try one of the gambling restaurant operators in town.

Lt. Gene Knowles of the Bryan Police Department and Capt. Jim Beamer of College Station say there are no statistics on illegal gambling in the city.

BUT THE ACTION is here for anyone who knows where to look. Ask any of the seven bookies operating locally.

It is relatively easy for a bettor and a bookie to establish contact. I've done it. So have lots of others.

"This place has got a much dirt as any big city," one Texas A&M professor said. "They're just afraid to expose it." We

were having a drink at a local lounge whose owner is said to be a heavy bettor.

Once you know how to contact your local bookmaker, you should take a few precautions. Check on his past performance. Does the bookmaker always pay up? Will the bookie give the best handicap (point spread, "line") available? How high is the transaction cost (the "juice" or "vigorous")? How are tie games resolved?

THE BOOKMAKER, if he is smart, will check out his potential bettor, including his credit record.

"B.C.," who began his bookmaking business in Austin, complained of getting stiffed too often by bettors who wouldn't pay their losses. That is why he is operating here now.

Most bets can be placed on credit. The bettor and bookie will agree that until one party owes the other some prearranged amount, no cash will be exchanged.

The amount "B.C." and I have agreed upon is \$100 since I am betting on a relatively small scale — \$25 a game.

Most bookies will get their line out on the Wednesday preceding the weekend games and will accept bets until just before kickoff. Many large-scale bookies have agents or "runners" to handle wagers and the numerous telephone calls. The bettor will be given an account number or code name by which to identify himself when placing the bets, as in the opening lines of this article.

JUST AS THE odds on the tote board in horse racing constantly change, so can the bookie's line.

Get your bet down early because what he quotes you on Wednesday will be the best "line" possible and your contract with him cannot be changed even if he is forced to adjust the line in the latter part of the week.

The bookie does this to minimize his potential loss and to even up the amount bet on the competing teams.

The final stage of your transaction with the bookies is the pay-off and the "juice." For instance, you bet \$25 on the Colts and you gain the point spread. The point spread is Philadelphia Eagles five over the Baltimore Colts. Philadelphia defeats the Colts 17-10.

BY APPLYING the line, the score would still give a victory to the Eagles by a two-point margin (17-15). Consequently you would owe the bookie \$25 for the bet and \$5 for the "juice," 20 percent of the amount wagered. The juice is paid only when the bettor loses.

The customary juice is 10 percent (amounts from \$50 to \$300), 20 percent for small bets (\$50 and down) and 5 percent for very good customers (\$300 and up; those who bet heavily, lose and pay up regularly).

Of course, these variables and figures can change depending on who you are dealing with and on the competitive market for bookmakers in the city.

Teague comes home for a visit

By DOUG GRAHAM
Battalion Staff

Olin E. "Tiger" Teague returned home to Bryan and the 6th Congressional District Tuesday for a short visit with friends and relatives.

Teague still is recovering from a recent prostate gland operation and a stroke he suffered in early September. He has been recuperating at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. Teague said he was told his kidneys were failing, but reported that his condition seems to have improved after the prostate operation.

The Democratic congressman flies back to Washington, D.C., today, however, to check back with his doctors.

"I came up here just because my doctors gave me permission to get out a little bit," he said. "I had no purpose except to say hello and thanks to my friends and the press."

Teague has served as representative for the 6th District for 32 years. Upon retiring, he will be succeeded by Democrat Phil Gramm.

Teague will be ending a career as a ranking member of the House Committee on Science and Technology. Before receiving that assignment, he worked on the Veterans Affairs Committee. He sponsored the bill that made widows and orphans of servicemen killed in war eligible for the same benefits as if the

men were still alive.

That bill took 12 years to pass, Teague said.

"The way it got passed was I became chairman of the committee," he said.

As a member of the science and technology committee, Teague said he saw the United States' space effort from the very beginning.

"I started out believing it couldn't be done," he said, referring to the moon landing.

But he said he was soon convinced it was possible to reach the moon, and went about obtaining funds for NASA.

"It was the most interesting part of my life," he said, but added that citizens still feel he misappropriated the money.

"I still get letters saying, 'you old phony, those moon rocks are just from West Texas.'"

Teague received a Buck Schiweitz painting of King Ranch in South Texas from the SCONA committee at Texas A&M University. Teague has long been a supporter of the contemporary affairs group.

At a luncheon with Texas A&M student leaders, Teague donated his Senior Class ring to the Association of Former Students. Teague has lost feeling in his hands and is unable to continue wearing the ring from the Class of '32. The ring is expected to

go on display with those of other prominent former students.

Teague spoke on several political subjects. He said he did not support giving the District of Columbia senators and separate representatives.

"It doesn't belong just to the people who live there," he said. "It belongs to everybody, hope it never comes about, but I'm afraid it is going to."

Teague also said inflation is the country's biggest problem, but that President Carter will have a hard time implementing an austerity program. Everyone is willing to have other people's projects cut but not their own, he said.

One place that could be trimmed, he said, are congressional operating budgets. He said he turns back about \$50,000 of the \$200,000 per year he receives for staff.

"Instead of hiring an extra research assistant on agricultural problems, I can go talk to the Texas representative on the agriculture committee and find out exactly what I want to know," he said.

Tuesday night Teague had dinner with persons who had sponsored a dinner in his honor Sept. 16.

The dinner was canceled when Teague had the stroke, however, along with a science symposium in his honor.