

SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"You're just gonna stick that thing in my arm without putting me to sleep first?"

OPINION

Gentle John Paul

A kind and gentle man has dominated the headlines and national newscasts lately.

John Paul II charmed American on his tour last week, spreading his message, the ancient message, of loving one another.

Some are predicting a religious revival for all denominations, not just Roman Catholics, after his historic trip.

We're not so sure about that, but it was refreshing to see something other than SALT or the Russians in headlines.

Finer mesh needed

What is like a sieve with so many tears in the mesh that it is almost beyond repair? The General Services Administration. Maybe, instead of trying to mend this sieve, the time has come to throw it out and get a new one.

The scandal-plagued federal purchasing agency is still losing millions of taxpayers' dollars to fraud, waste and needless overpayments, according to testimony during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Among examples cited by committee investigators was a check for \$95,256 mailed out to a non-existent firm; the incorrect billing of a company for \$657,914 instead of \$1,657,914; the expenditure of \$2.5 million for a building design that eventually was discarded.

It appears that fraud, corruption, waste and mismanagement have so corroded the fabric of the GSA that it may be beyond salvation.

Certainly the time has come for a general housecleaning, if not for establishing an entirely new government purchasing agency, one with a much finer mesh.

Portland, Maine, Press Herald

the small society

by Brickman



THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
OCTOBER 8, 1979

Kissinger disapproves of SALT Gerald Ford echoes

United Press International
Gerald Ford has effectively thrown his not inconsiderable weight against passage of the second Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement. The former president outlined his SALT position during a well-written — and at times, eloquent — speech delivered the other day to the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Ford made a number of points, but two stand out in particular:

(1) Ford cannot support SALT without

guaranteed commitments to increased defense spending. "Some suggest," said Ford, "that they are for the treaty on the assumption that the necessary defense spending decisions will be made. That is not my position. My position is that I am against the treaty unless the necessary defense spending decisions have been made and have been written into law."

Ford thus echoed former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who made a similar demand during recent testimony on SALT

before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

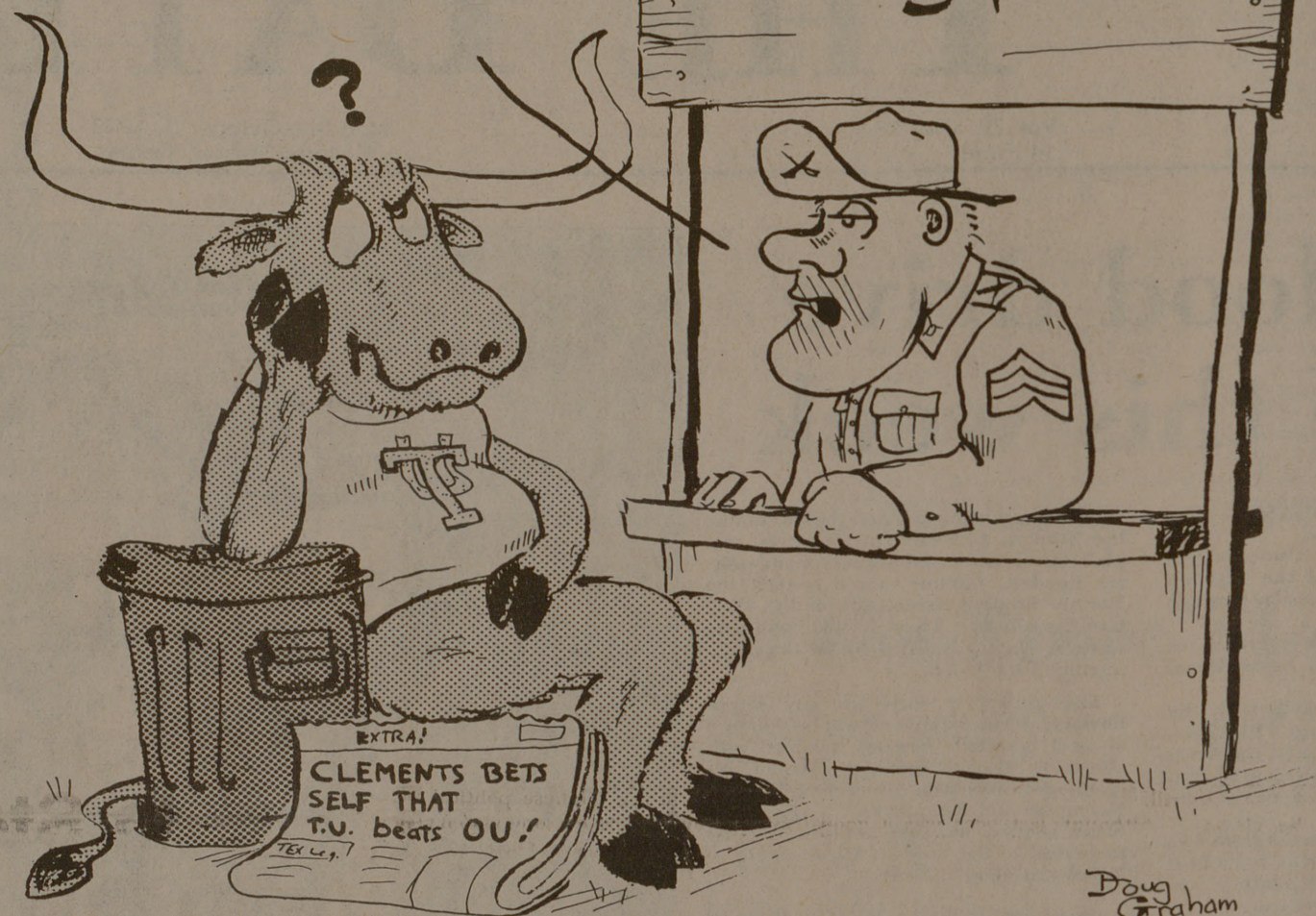
(2) Ford is worried that neither the government nor the public will properly focus on the issues posed by SALT. "My greatest fear for this country," said Ford, "is that the obvious danger signals for our economic security will blind our leadership or our people to the more subtle danger signals for our national security . . . the priority of our defense budget seems a distant concern in the gas lines."

Ford's concern is wellfounded. The

technical intricacies of SALT are difficult to grasp, the seemingly inconsistent for more defense spending is difficult to accept, particularly in hard times. According to Ford, "the decisions we make on our defense budget and the SALT treaty are as important as any decisions America has ever had to make." They may well be. Certainly those decisions demand the most intense scrutiny possible by both the government and public.

The Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal

Boy, are you on the 'horns of a dilemma.



DICK WEST

Do words like 'Le Car' confuse you?
You have no gift for foreign language

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Many Americans were impressed during Pope John Paul II's visit by his abilities as a linguist.

Although he may have hit the books pretty hard while mastering English, Spanish and assorted other tongues, it was plain that he is one of those people who have a knack for picking up foreign languages.

I can recognize the aptitude because I am one of them myself.

Admittedly, I am not nearly as proficient as the pope. Yet I often find I can catch the drift of words and phrases written in languages I have never studied.

To illustrate: some models of a French automobile sold in this country have

printed in large letters upon each side the words "Le Car."

Now I have never had a French lesson in my life, not even at Berlitz. I don't own a French-English dictionary and have not spent any time among French-speaking people.

Nevertheless, the first time I saw the "Le Car" logotype, I intuitively understood what it meant.

Don't ask me to pronounce it, though. This sixth sense I have doesn't extend to the ear. All I can say is that somehow I knew at a glance that "Le Car" could be roughly translated as "The Car."

It was uncanny. And a little eerie. Reminded me of a time I was driving across Germany and passed a food stand advertis-

ing "maten," "bananen" and "wasser-melone."

Although my college transcripts will verify I spent not a single day in German class, something told me that if I stopped there I would be able to buy tomatoes, bananas and watermelons. That something was right on the mark.

And once in Italy I developed a sudden craving for a gelatin salad. I dropped into a restaurant and picked up a menu written entirely in Italian, a language that was Greek to me. Unerringly, and without a moment's hesitation, I pointed to an item listed as "gelatina."

A native of that country couldn't have ordered more accurately. Don't ask me how I do it. It's something

that can't be explained. It's a gift one is born with. Either you have it or you don't.

In fact, the makers of "Le Car" are quite a risk in brandishing their first name in French. Many motorists in this country probably had to rely on the knowledge of vehicular configuration to determine that the object thus emblazoned was a motor car.

A more reliable policy is followed by French sporting wear company. It identifies its garments with little embroidered replicas of a well-known reptile.

If the average American was as naturally savvy about languages as I am, the world wouldn't need pictorial labels. It would simply imprint its athletic togs with words "Le Alligator."

LETTERS

Will we see A&M bury the Cougars, or see Kyle Field bury the fans?

Editor:

Concerning the safety of Kyle Field: Hopefully, everyone realizes that under extreme pressure, objects tend to collapse. For instances, alumni pressure resulted in a type of collapsing last year when we lost our head football coach.

The pressure put on the contractors and builders of the new stadium addition (Kyle Field) is another situation, but the results are nearly the same. Under the conditions the workmen have had to work, mainly the race against the clock, I am skeptical about the safety of the new deck levels. Who can do a "good" job when the pressure is really poured on?

Personally, I don't like the idea of using the Twelfth Man as a bunch of guinea pigs when Texas A&M plays Houston on the 13th. Instead of watching A&M bury the

Houston Cougars, we could see a burial of a different type — a fantastic spectacle.

— R. Kristian Harris, '82

No to Kennedy

Editor:

Right on, Mr. Leonard!

Although I do not necessarily agree with his suggestions for the proper candidate in the upcoming election, I do agree 100 percent with his opinion on Ted Kennedy.

Those who would vote for Mr. Kennedy with the belief that he would be like his brother are uneducated, uninformed, or both. Not only do Ted Kennedy's political policies differ greatly with those of JFK,

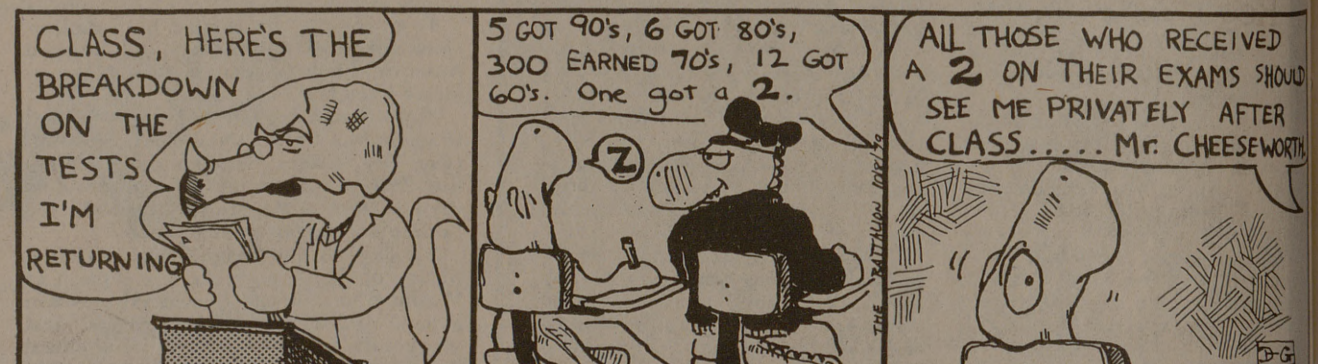
but by the 1980 elections, 20 years have lapsed since the time that JFK was elected. Times have changed and America has changed. Many of those in the Class of '83 were not even born in 1948.

This country does not need social medicine, higher taxes, more welfare programs, or Ted Kennedy as President.

— Angela Denise Andries

THOTZ

by Doug Graham



Readers' Forum

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