

# SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I think they have stumbled onto a way of picking up attendance."

# OPINION

## Uncaring teachers don't really teach

Teachers can be classified in categories of those who care and those who don't.

It's easy to spot the ones who care. They might not be the most popular profs, but they're always on time for class and they usually hold class for the entire 50 minutes. They follow a syllabus and plan lectures ahead of time.

They pay attention to student feedback and try to give their students some idea of what is expected of them. Examinations are carefully prepared.

Profs who don't care, on the other hand, find excuses for being late for class, or not showing up at all. When they do hold class, they lecture straight from the book or right off the top of their heads.

Teachers who don't care spend little time preparing examinations. They use last year's tests, preferably multiple choice, which can be graded with a minimum of effort and thought (usually by an assistant).

One particular uncaring professor at Texas A&M University is easily spotted. He did not show up for the second class of the semester, admitting at the following class meeting that he had no excuse. He just didn't want to come to class.

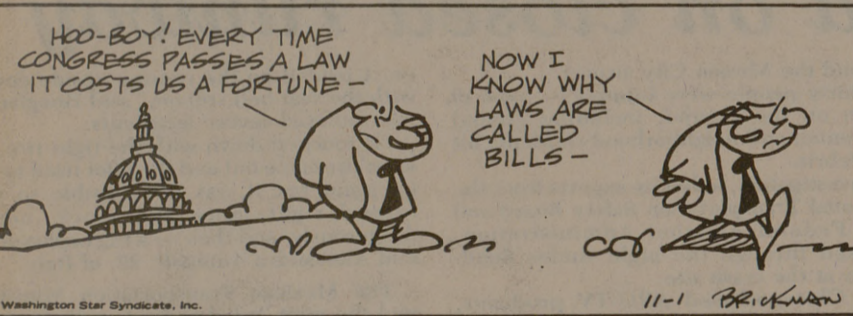
When his students came to class last Tuesday, prepared to take an examination, he waltzed in and began lecturing. A member of the bewildered group asked him about the test.

"I didn't feel like making one up," the prof replied. He rescheduled the test for the next class period, and relied on multiple choice questions submitted by the students themselves.

If students take the trouble to study for a test, the least a teacher can do is have one prepared to give the day he scheduled it.

the small society

by Brickman



# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## BRODER

House should not be frustrated in attempt to curb interest groups

By DAVID S. BRODER  
WASHINGTON — There are no more loaded words in the current political lexicon than "special-interest group" or "single-interest lobby." Journalists and politicians who want to dispose of a viewpoint, without the bother of argument, just slap one of those labels on the adherents of that view and sit back smugly, wrapped in their own cloak of virtue.

A "special-interest" or "single-interest" group is, in fact, nothing more than a collection of individuals concerned about a particular policy of the government, whether it is peace or arms, pollution or procreation. Anyone who understands and values American pluralism is bound to acknowledge the legitimacy of interest-group representation as part of the political and governmental process.

Yet, it is impossible to have followed the debate in the House of Representatives earlier this month on interest-group campaign contributions without recognizing the seriousness of the concern office-holders have over the growing role of these groups in financing congressional campaigns.

Encouraged by legislative actions and administrative rulings, the interest-group political-action committees (or PACs) have mushroomed in number, assets and politi-

cal influence in the last few years. The number of PACs has almost quadrupled since 1972 and the share of House campaign funds provided by them has almost doubled. In 1978, one of every three dollars contributed to incumbent House members came from the corporate, professional, trade association, labor or ideological PACs.

Defenders of the PACs, like Rep. Robert E. Bauman (R-Md.), see them as "one of the most successful vehicles available for increasing public participation in the election process." But, convenient as they may be for the individual, cause-minded giver, there is no doubt that the PACs, as a group, are what Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wisc.) called them: a "centrifugal force" tugging congressmen toward narrowly defined objectives and impeding the process of legislative accommodation by which the House must operate, if it is to function effectively at all.

Obey and Rep. Tom Railsback (R-Ill.), two of the most respected members of the House, offered a bipartisan bill aimed at reducing the influence of the interest-group PACs. It would reduce the maximum allowable contribution from any PAC to a House candidate from \$10,000 to \$6,000. It also would impose, for the first time, a \$70,000 ceiling on all PAC contributions a single candidate could accept.

After spirited, intelligent debate, the House passed the Obey-Railsback proposal by a very close 217-198 margin.

The opponents — mainly Republicans — offered some telling arguments against it. House minority leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) said it was "nothing but an incumbents' protection bill," a view which was inadvertently underlined by a rather blatant appeal from speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill to Democratic incumbents to consider their own interest in limiting PAC contributions to challengers.

Rhodes' argument — amplified by Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.) and others — was that, while most PAC money goes to incumbents, such contributions are a critical element in the budgets of many challengers. He believes that limiting the PAC may damage the challengers' chances of gaining voter recognition and thus reduce the competitiveness of congressional campaigns.

A particularly telling criticism was offered by Rep. Carroll A. Campbell Jr. (R-S.C.). He observed that the Obey-Railsback bill would cut the overall financial resources available for congressional campaigns at a time when serious independent studies clearly suggest that most House races are already underfinanced for the task of informing and motivating potential voters.

Campbell asked an important question when he inquired why sponsors "Let us raise the amount paid and cut back PACs."

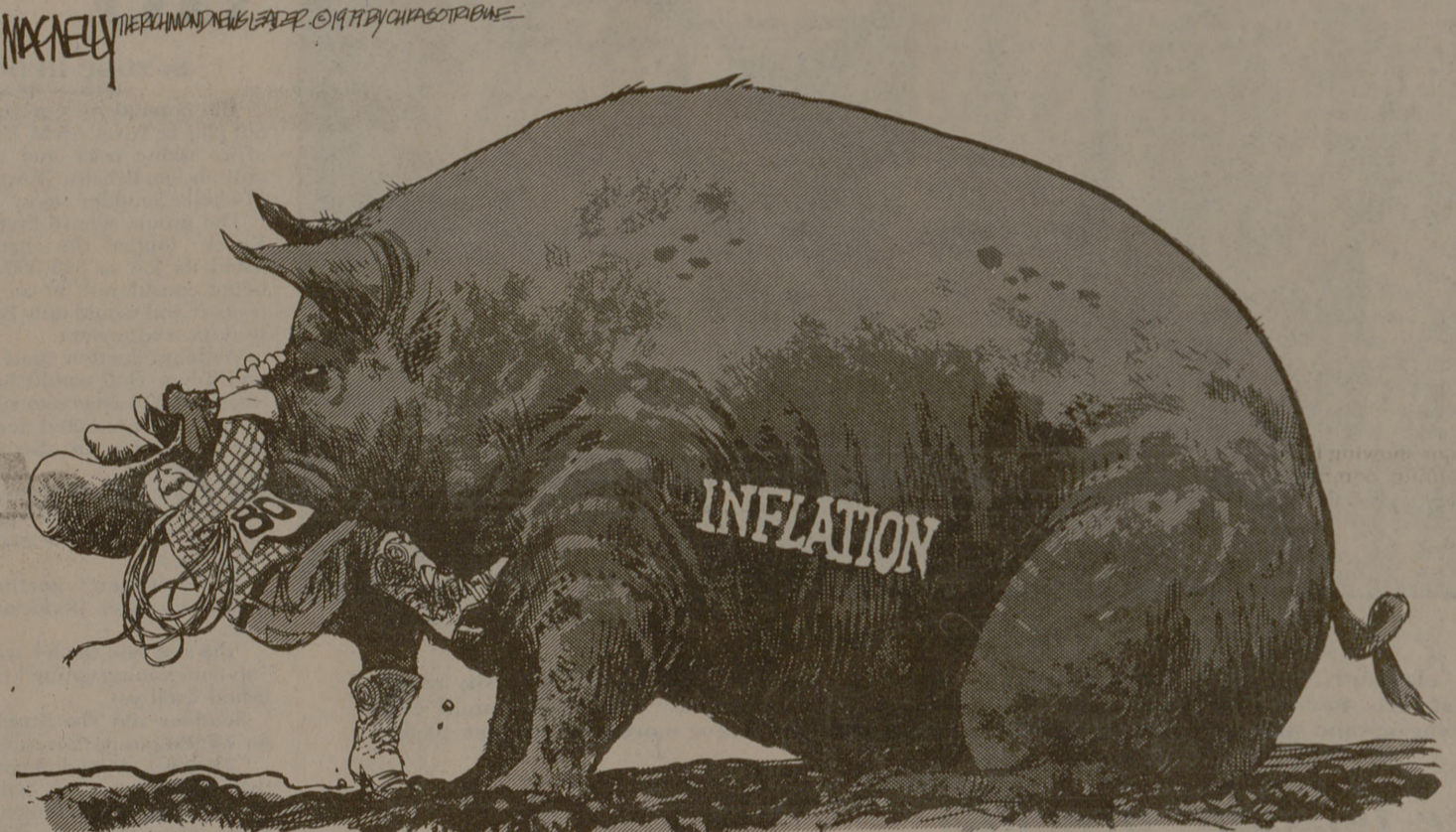
The reason, quite evidently, is that Republicans do more effective raising than Democrats, and the party was not prepared to let that advantage profit fully from that advantage.

Conceding all these valid points, however, it is worth noting that House, after full debate, did pass with two dozen Republicans in critical margin of votes, and at the time, incumbents who had received one in PAC contributions agreeing to limit contributions should be limited.

The House, as an institution, considered decision to slow the influence of the interest-group House campaigns. Ironically, even the bill as written does not affect campaigns at all, there is a likelihood Senate filibuster being organized by conservative Republicans.

That is no way to resolve the issues, seriously weighed by the House. Whether future decisions vindicate its judgment or not, the majority should not be frustrated by a minority.

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# LETTERS

Student says \$5-per-gallon tax idea is an 'incredibly sound suggestion'

Editor: I realize that letters to the Battalion do not usually concern extra-campus matters, but I should like to point out something encouraging in the national economic picture.

In the upper left hand corner of page 11A, Houston Post, Oct. 30, I noticed a call by J.K. Galbraith for a \$4 - \$5 per gallon tax, at the pump, on gasoline.

Bravo! Finally an intelligent economist makes an incredibly sound suggestion for cutting consumption of this too-precious resource!

Indeed, I shall be happy to ride any bike (except in the rain) 3.5 miles to campus when there are fewer large, smelly and menacing gas-guzzlers hurtling up and down Wellborn Road. My goodness, if people don't like to pay \$6 a gallon for gas, they may even walk two or three blocks to the store!

Oh yes, and another thing. Don't think that I'm personally opposed to huge motors and blinding speed, I just think that folks who like that sort of stuff should pay for it. The price is usually steep for living in the past.

Since economist coercion is the only pressure that people really understand, it's about time we started paying for how nice we've had it for the past 50 years. A little suffering builds character. Anyway, we needn't fear that the \$5 tax will pass. It would be prohibitively unpopular with the mass of people, who can't imagine that things can be any other way.

— R.H. Reviere

and could be 5-1 or even 6-0 with a few breaks. The whole team works hard in practice and puts out 100 percent to 110 percent on Saturdays, then reads the Batt where they are put down by the ½ percent who probably didn't even see the game. I can imagine how Green, Zachery, Mosley and the other players feel after reading those letters.

I have attended Aggie games since 1938 and well remember Bear Bryant's first season at A&M (1-10). The same critical ½ percent were yelling for his scalp, too. Just this week some t.u. exes wanted Coach Akers fired.

To Coach Wilson and all the Aggie football team — thank you.

— Jack Kingsbery, '45

trated and angry. Let me state that this letter is being written from personal experience.

I have lived in three different complexes and have yet to receive the benefits of living in a \$225 - \$280 apartment. It seems that the owners/management of these complexes are ignorant as to what constitutes good service. One example of this shoddy service: four-wheel drive parking lots. Yes that's what the occupant needed at this establishment. The holes and crevices in the pavement were so bad that it was a favorite mud hole for youngsters in the neighborhood. Result: it wasn't repaired and rent was raised \$35 for increased maintenance costs.

The most frustrating thing of all is what happens when I complain. I am usually told one of the following: We are working on it (reasonable sounding, but after nine months!), or if you don't like it, move!

The great thing about capitalism is competition and its outgrowth, service and quality. These two factors seem to be missing in this area. I have a theory why. The owner/manager feels that college students are nomadic, here for a semester at a time. True, but we are still paying for the apartment, and therefore entitled to all the required service and respect of a pay-

ing customer. I think it's about time we started demanding service and respect. If we complained to their respective managers at the same time, we might get something done.

Figuring \$250 a month, nine months a year, times four years you come up with a sum of \$9,000. This seems a little steep for slum-like conditions.

— James Brotherton

\$25 reward

Editor: This past Sunday evening, Oct. 2, roommate and myself went to the and played several of the coin-operated machines. In my jubilation at having beaten my roommate, I left my seat on the basketball machine. I'd taken to play, and left it.

Someone has picked it up and I appreciate its return. There's a \$25 reward on questions asked.

Thank you.

— Harold W. Schell

No service, respect

Editor: First let me state that I'm a firm believer in capitalism, so as not to generate a wrong impression.

My gripe is with the apartment situation in Bryan/College Station. Never in my 23 years of existence have I ever been so frus-

# THOTZ

by Doug Graham



## Alum thanks team

Editor: I am darn proud of our Aggie football team, Coach Wilson and his staff. I am not very proud of the few so-called Aggies (J. Barnes '64 is not listed in the Directory of Former Students). Even the Batt editor had to put in his critical two cents by "amen-ing" a letter knocking the team and coaches.

The Aggies have played good, solid ball

## THE BATTALION

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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