

# SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"We're merely testing the waters."

# OPINION

## Trudeau lukewarm to U.S.

Pierre Trudeau is back in power in Canada, and that doesn't bode too well for U.S.-Canadian relations.

Trudeau is pledged to reduce U.S. ownership of Canadian industry.

The Liberal Party leader also is not inclined to increase defense spending; he seems less bothered than (Joe) Clark about the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan; he's lukewarm about President Carter's proposed boycott of the summer Olympics in Moscow. None of that fits well with President Carter's new-found firmness in standing up to Soviet aggression.

It's clear that Trudeau has plenty with which to occupy himself in domestic affairs.

Canada has serious problems of inflation and energy, which in large part are of Trudeau's making. If he returns to the free-spending policies of his previous regimes, the problems are likely to be exacerbated.

It's ironic that voters who indicated last May they had had enough of Trudeau have now returned him to leadership, and with a Parliamentary majority that ought to give him more power than before.

Trudeau has the advantage of being a shrewd politician, something that the inept Clark lacked.

Canada could use some governmental belt-tightening. That's not Trudeau's style, but maybe Canada's growing problems and the comeuppance he got nearly a year ago will have a sobering influence.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

the small society

by Brickman



# THE BATTALION

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# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY  
MARCH 3, 1980

## Reader's Forum

# Film series was 'propaganda'

By DAVID SPRINGER and CELIA KING

We would like to express our views on the series of films presented in Rudder Theatre on March 1 and 2 entitled "Whatever Happened to the Human Race?" produced by Dr. Frances Schaeffer, respected theologian and philosopher, and Dr. C. Everett Koop, Chief Surgeon at Philadelphia Children's Hospital. The series addressed the controversial issues of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, as well as human dignity and truth and history. The commentator was Dr. Charles Thaxton.

Unfortunately, we did not attend the film on abortion, but the films as a whole were very "pro-life." We would like to point out that one of us is a Christian and the other is not.

As a critique to the film, too much time was spent in monotonous repetition of irrelevant symbolism. For example in several minutes of viewing, the audience watched the continual changing of geometric figures and symbols during the oration.

Also we spent a significant amount of time viewing the rain pouring down upon a deserted banquet table which was devoid of meaning. The movie was inadequate as a visual aid to the oration. The analogies presented were inaccurate: black slavery as a parallel to infanticide, Nazi extermination of the Jews as a parallel to euthanasia. Most importantly the films were without documentation; there were no facts. In other words the film was propaganda.

On the issue of infanticide we were not in disagreement of the view that disabled and retarded children have the right to life.

In the third film Dr. Koop defined euthanasia as the killing off of the elderly in our society. He blamed this on the economic burden they present. According to the American Heritage Dictionary, euthanasia is defined as "the action of inducing the painless death of a person for reasons assumed to be merciful." Euthanasia is a broad term not restricted to the elderly.

The film implied that our families no longer care about their older members. Included in this idea is the assumption that

we as a society dump our elders into the nearest nursing home and forget about them. Koop defined this as "passive euthanasia." We are not ignorant of this family situation since one of us has encountered it, and have found it to be a time of doubts, suffering and guilt.

One of the last scenes in the film picturing a monument was abhorrent to us. The monument was a bronze bust of a man holding an infant skyward placed on granite blocks overlooking the sea. On the granite blocks was inscribed the following (paraphrased):

To those members of society that were old, unborn, sick, and disabled who died as a result of the madness of the lust, greed, and selfishness that marked the last decades of the twentieth century.

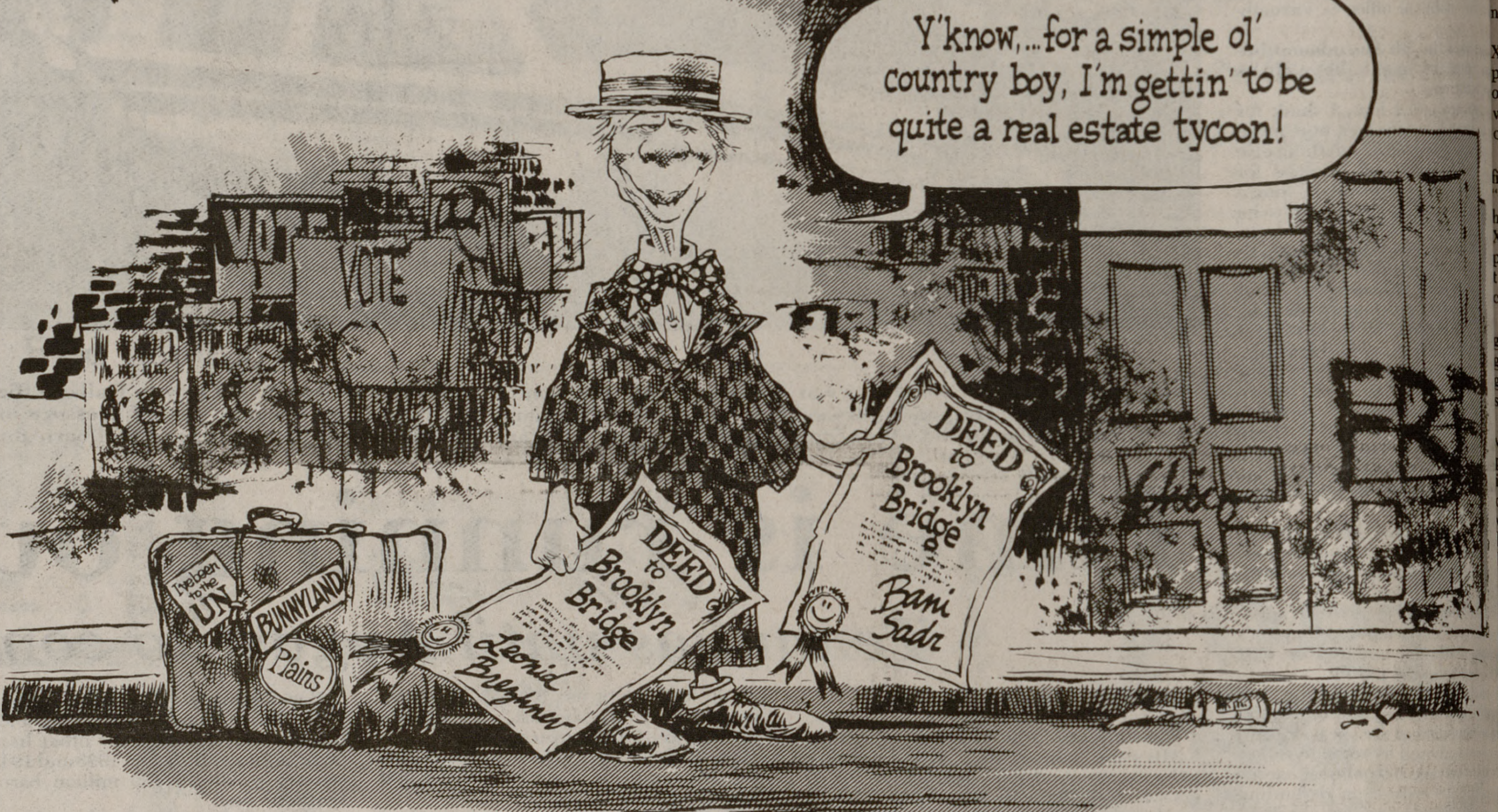
We are in the last decades of the twentieth century now, and we do not feel this justifiable condemnation of our society. If our society has regressed as far as this, we

would not be extending a helping hand to the boat people or the Cambodians in Thailand who are an economic

A major analogy presented in the film was drawn between today's society and Nazi Germany's extermination of the Jews. Dr. Koop said that the church was responsible for the genocide due to their protest. Nazi Germany was a mistake by the time the question of euthanasia was an issue. The churches and the Reich, and thus their protests were of little or no value at the time of German history. It is unfair to blame churches for something Hitler and his tourage were responsible for.

Finally, we question the need for a commentator for the films, and wish we feel the commentator present Charles Thaxton, did not handle the situation competently. When asked by Dr. Thaxton was quite to our surprise. As a commentator, he did not bring to the issues, but confusion instead.

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# 1980 campaign melodrama continues

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK  
United Press International

Presidential campaigns are supposed to be serious business, but you can't prove it by watching what happens in New Hampshire. There, it is unabashed melodrama, running the gamut from alligator tears to duck jokes.

To begin, it is necessary to understand that the New Hampshire primary is a kind of WPA for out-of-work politicians. The first thing a candidate does in New Hampshire is to sign up a current or former governor to front his campaign.

Jimmy Carter nabbed incumbent Gov. Hugh Gallen this year, so Ted Kennedy had to go next door to enlist former Gov. Phil Hoff of Vermont. Jerry Brown brought his own governor.

The Republicans had a larger supply. Howard Baker's ex-governor was Walter Peterson, with Gov. Bob Ray of Iowa on

hand for heavy lifting. George Bush's was Hugh Gregg, which was something of a coup because Gregg played Ronald Reagan's ex-governor in 1976.

Reagan had to settle for an ex-member of the Republican National Committee, Gerald Carmen, probably because the ex-governor who might have signed up with him, Meldrim Thomson, is running for president himself this year.

Reagan did have an ex-governor once removed: Wesley Powell spent the campaign writing pro-Reagan commentaries for the Manchester Union Leader, which by itself supplies many of the sound effects of the campaign.

With the cast in place, enter the duck. Reagan, who gives the impression that he would be shocked by the cartoons in Our Sunday Visitor, tells a joke that is assured to cause armed uprisings in Poland, Italy and Connecticut, not to speak of a march on

campaign headquarters by enraged poultrymen.

At a debate in which none of the candidates actually debate, a citizen braces Reagan about the story. He denies to play the villain, claiming to be the victim of the piece. Repentant, he pledges to slur no more nationalities except the Irish.

The scene changes to a second debate, supposed to be a cataclysmic clash between Reagan and Bush. Reagan has become a hero in this installment, having come to the rescue of the debate with \$3,500 when the most popular villain in New Hampshire, the federal government, hoots the original sponsors with red tape.

Reagan shows what a warm human being he is by inviting the other candidates to join him and George. The sponsors veto this, and the jilted candidates stalk off while Bush grins and gapes. Backstage, the candidates unanimously elect Bush as the new

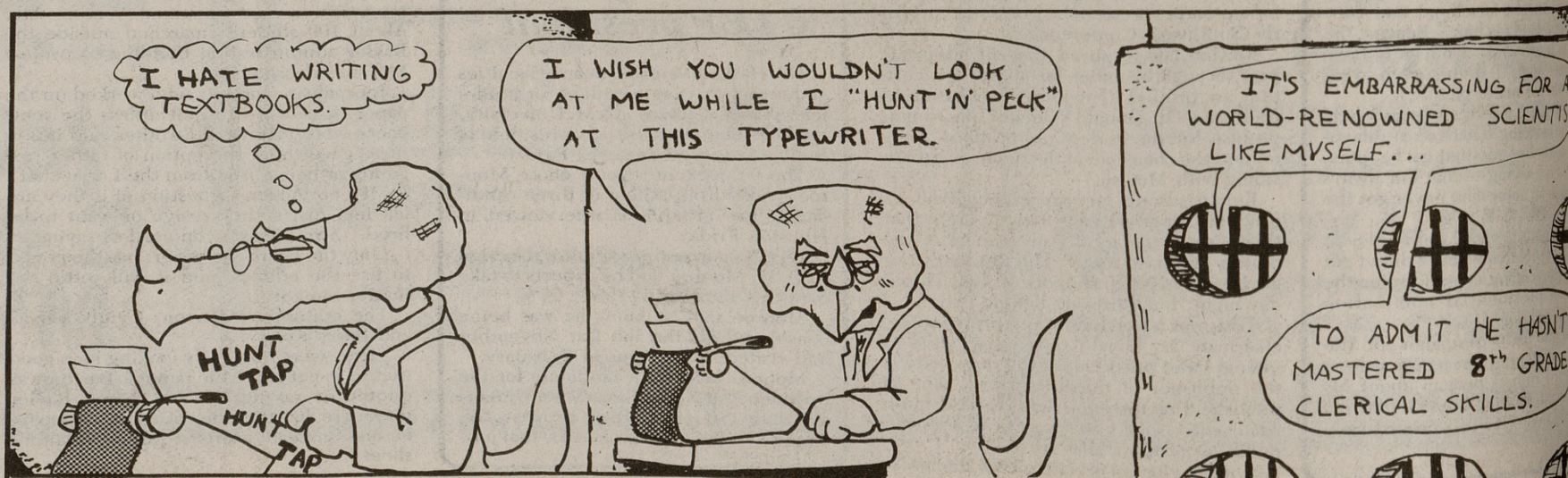
villain.

Reagan comes out of this as hero, fault, which should be a good place for music to come up and the campaign start. But Reagan won't leave it at that, announcing just before the debate that he is cashing his campaign check. Baker, who didn't do all that well with his governors, offers to give the manager room and board.

In real life radio, listeners would be hounded to tune in next week. But the primaries are moving this week to Massachusetts and Vermont, and the Yankees just don't have New Hampshire theatrical flair. So it may be necessary to wait until February of 1984 for the spintangling episode of this epic.

P.S. Carter and Reagan won the Democratic and Republican primaries in Hampshire.

# THOTZ



By Doug Graham