

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 9, 1980

## Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Have you seen my armadillo?"

## America needs Anderson

By BRUCE W. CROOKER

This year presents an opportunity that is unique for the United States. It is also a year in which the voters of this country are on the horns of a dilemma concerning the race for the presidency.

On the one hand is the incumbent president who demonstrates a lack of initiative and foresight, who lurches from crisis to crisis, who shows weakness to our enemies and inconsistency to our allies, who does not come to grips with the economic crisis of our economy, who does not have control of the destiny of this country nor even that of his own party.

On the other hand is an aging ex-governor of California who thinks that the answer to our foreign policy is an arms race, who feels that a woman's place is in the home, safely under the thumb of her husband, who believes that pollution is caused by trees, who knows practically nothing about economics, who wants the federal government controlling the pregnancies of women, and who would undo laws requiring employers to provide a safe workplace and laws that make our land a clean place to live.

### Reader's Forum

People are in a dilemma because they see four more years of incompetence, no matter which of the two major party candidates they elect.

This year is unique because, in this year, the voters have an alternative to the mediocrity put forth by the Democrats and Republicans. John Anderson represents a new force on the American political scene. Anderson brings more than two decades of Congressional experience and a platform that offers tough, new solutions to the difficult problems facing our country. He represents a mood, a spirit, that has enabled him to qualify to be on the ballot in 48 states so far. His policies, from the economy to welfare, from energy to health care, represent clear alternatives to the other two candidates. He presents a new style of honesty and candor in a campaign

in which one presidential contender has the other must carefully follow a script out of fear of yet another blunder.

With the election less than a month away, it is vital to the future of the United States that every person know the positions of each candidate and vote accordingly. For the sake of the country, each person should vote for the individual candidate and for what he stands for, rather than for his public relations image or party affiliation. As we sit at the crossroads of our tiny, it is important for every American to examine the platforms of all three presidential contenders. If each person will do this, confident that John Anderson and the United States will be the winner.

More information on the National Campaign for John Anderson may be obtained at our table in the MSC from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day, or by calling Wayne Ilger at 0582, Bruce W. Crooker at 822-7122, or Zabeth Graser at 846-6115. America needs Anderson and John Anderson needs you.

Bruce W. Crooker is a senior microcomputer major from Freeport.

## Psychologists develop children's course in TV

By PATRICIA McCORMACK  
United Press International

Do kids need to know how come animals talk on some television commercials or shows — despite the fact that their own mutt never utters a syllable?

Do they need to know why a TV character pops out of a box of dynamite or a lake or something — but it never happens in their world?

The answers to these questions on special effects in television, according to psychologists, is "yes." But, say they, kids also need to know about other aspects of television.

There is so much agreement on this that it's now trendy for boys and girls to take school courses on television.

A pair of distinguished Yale University psychologists, with \$100,000 provided by ABC Television, has produced a curriculum for grades 3-to-5 they report is effective in doing this. And they say a test involving a group from Orange County, Conn., schools was highly successful.

In addition, Drs. Dorothy G. and Jerome L. Singer, codirectors of the Yale Family Television Research and Consultation Center, other benefits include improving the kids' vocabulary, writing and critical thinking skills.

The curriculum they designed is called "Getting the Most Out of Television." Further trials with it are going on in about a dozen school districts, including those in Phoenix, Ariz.; Omaha, Neb.; Carry, N.C.; Stamford, Conn.; Portland, Ore.

The basis of the curriculum is videotapes 10-to-12 minutes in length.

"Television is so much a part of the experience of growing up in this country that more attention must be paid to how it affects children and how the medium can be used constructively," Jerome Singer said.

"We think this project is a step in the right direction. Our experience with these modules in classrooms seems to demonstrate that both teachers and children are excited about the project and welcome the chance to understand more about the medium they've grown up with."

The Singers have received further funding from ABC to produce a TV-viewing curriculum for kindergarten and grades 1 and 2.

Commenting on ABC's support of the project, Melvin A. Goldberg, vice president, news, social and technology research for the television network, said:

"We believe children who are educated how to use television better will ultimately appreciate the medium more and perhaps contribute to its growth."

Nan-Lynn Nelson and Bing Bingham are the on-air hosts of "Getting the Most Out of Television."

Nelson was featured in NBC's Emmy Award-winning children's series "Hot Hero Sandwich." Bingham portrays Alex in "Dear Alex & Annie," ABC's musical advice column-of-the-air for adolescents.

The Singers said the aim is to use children's natural interest in television to enhance cognitive and social skills.

"The emphasis was on teaching children about television so that they could better understand the medium and what it offers, and so that they could learn to be less passive viewers and more discriminating consumers."

Capsules of videotapes that go with the course:

— "The Technical Side of Television": How television pictures are made and broadcast and how television equipment reproduces pictures and sound. Children are shown a TV studio and control room, studio sets and parts of a camera. Electronic transmission is explained.

— "People Make Programs": Designed to show students how people work together to plan and produce TV programs. This unit also explains different types of programs — such as comedies, dramas, and animated shows.

— "The Magic of Television": Illustrates how special effects are produced and used to enhance the action or story. The module also teaches how to distinguish between fantasy and reality on TV.

— "The Characters We See on Television": Explores the use of TV characters as role models and highlights certain character behaviors which, through enjoyable on TV, should not be imitated in real life.

— "Action and Violence": This unit is designed to teach the distinction between fantasy action of entertainment TV and the real-life action news and sports. Ways in which violence and action are staged are illustrated through demonstrations of staged fights and break-away props. Students are cautioned against imitating certain types of TV action.

— "The Real World of Television": A review of different types of news programs, such as newscasts, documentaries, newsmagazines and public affairs shows. This module explains how a TV news program is produced and how other sources of news, such as newspapers and magazines, are important adjuncts to TV news.

— "Commercials": Teaches youngsters how to be more informed and discriminating consumers. The module explains the purpose and intent of TV commercials and illustrates certain advertising techniques used for product enhancement.



NORTHGATE: A MATTER OF TIME...

It's your turn

## Reader hits inability of coaching staff

Editor:

This letter will probably be received after the Texas Tech game, but whatever the outcome, my opinion will not change. I would first like to state that I am not a 'bad Ag.' I support our University in many ways and want to see it become the best in the country in academics and athletics. However, I feel that I must express my opinion on the ability, or should I say inability, of our coaching staff.

Due to the drug controversy that has risen in the past couple of weeks, I do support Tom Wilson's decision of dismissing the two players involved, but I also believe it was blown out of proportion. No one can tell me that two players can cause defeats of 42-0 and 25-9 in consecutive weeks, when one of the above didn't participate in the last game. Anyone who has any football knowledge could tell that our team was ill-prepared for the Penn State game. The basic fundamentals of blocking and tackling were missing from this game. To solve this problem Mr. Wilson demotes some of his first team to the second team. Has he thought of taking the blame for such a poor performance? In fact I have never heard him take the blame for a

defeat. For once I would like to see Mr. Wilson blame himself and his coaching staff for a poor performance and not the players. Maybe he should take a lesson from Lou Holtz, Bill Yeoman, Bum Phillips and others.

Let's look at past and present facts that show what kind of coaching we have had and now have. We have been in the top ten or top five in recruiting in the past decade, but how many times have we been in the Cotton Bowl during that time? There are 21 Aggies presently in the NFL, more than any other major school in the country. Twenty of these players have been selected in the past 6-7 years, and a majority of

them start. There will probably be four or five Aggies selected this year. This tells the story of our coaching staff's inability to bring the talent of our players during their tenure at A&M.

One of these days we will find a great coach that will be consistent with our very talented players. I still have confidence in our coaching staff, and think they will override their handicap and win the championship.

Gig'em.

Mike Fredericks

### THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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## Warped



By Scott McCullar

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