

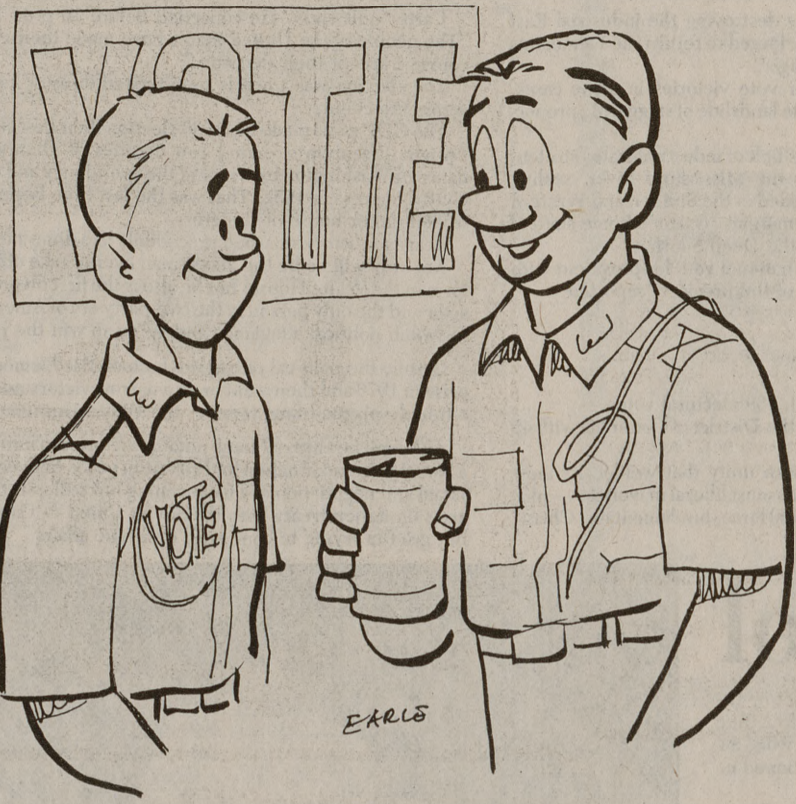
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Now that we have selected a president through the constitutional process, we should rally behind him with our full support, for better or worse, for at least a couple of days before we get on his back."

Reagan's election may sting, but bureaucracy will survive

When John Hill lost the governorship in 1978 I felt rather like this: How could it happen? How could semi-intelligent people elect the person they did?

Then, of course, Governor Bill took office and he's turned out to be not as bad as expected.

That's what we can hope for Governor Reagan, now President-elect Reagan. In California, we hear, he was somewhat able to surround himself with qualified administrators. Perhaps he can do the same in Washington. He certainly has some of the most dynamic people in Congress on his side, such as Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.).

And throughout the campaign he fine-tuned his election pitch to meet more moderate, more realistic stands. His great tax cuts, he now says, are aimed for 1983 or 1984, not 1981.

Soon he will realize — as all those newly elected to Washington find out — that he not only "does not know where the bathroom is," but he does not know how Washington really works. He will learn compromise is important.

Inside/outlook

By Liz Newlin

He will learn he cannot dismantle the GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY in four short years. That bureaucracy is entrenched in the five-story buildings that line Pennsylvania Avenue. And it's not moving soon. The civil service laws take care of that.

Reagan has said he would cut the budget by eliminating "waste and fraud" in the government. Remember, that's what Carter said four years ago. And see how far he's gotten?

Like we said, Reagan has a lot to learn. In the meantime, we suspect, things will go on about as usual. The "E" for Education that was taken out of HEW will not be extinguished. The De-

partment of Energy will have the same telling the new Reagan guys — the same things. And the new guys, will only be able to come to the same conclusions the Carter guys came to. The only exception is that the guys at the Pentagon will get a raise, and more life to play with, like bombs and airplanes.

The people who supported Reagan Bush, hoping for the 20-year course to him into office — are celebrating today. They fought off an underdog's surge at the election against an incumbent. They do have something to be proud of.

But they should realize the government and the mixed economy, semi-welfare created — was not built in a day. And Reagan, no matter whose majority is on his side, will not be able to dismantle it in four years.

Governor Bill has been trying since. And he hasn't gotten very far either.

Standardized tests causing controversy

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
United Press International

The National Education Association and some other groups want to erase standardized tests from the school scene to protect "the kids."

Kids would be the last to reject the idea, it's safe to say.

But there is another side to the coin. And experts examining it at a national conference said life without tests would be chaotic.

That's not what foes of tests say. They claim standardized tests discriminate and are, therefore, unfair. Tests, say they, put lifelong labels on kids — bright, dull, high achiever, low achiever, mediocre, average.

The standardized test most often at the center of the attack is the Standardized Achievement Test — SAT — widely used for college admissions and administered by Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. One expert said:

"The social consequences of not using tests would be disastrous."

He is Dr. Robert L. Ebel, professor of education, Michigan State University.

"In schools and colleges, in business and government, the information tests describe is virtually indispensable," he said. "These institutions suffer not from too much testing but from too little good testing."

"Critics of testing have chosen the wrong thing to attack. It is not testing, per se, that is harmful. It is the frequent use of poor tests."

Ebel took on two major opponents of testing — the NEA and the NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The leadership of the National Education Association (1.8 million member teacher union) suggests that shortcomings exist in order to protect their members, not to encourage individuals to excel. Thus the opposition of the NEA to testing makes sense in the short run. It does not make sense in the long run. For teachers and teaching to prosper in the long run education must prosper."

"It has not been prospering lately in part for want of sufficient concern for excellence in learning. Tests have much to contribute in the pursuit of excellence."

As for "leadership of the NAACP" opposing testing, Ebel said this serves their "immediate and narrowly special interests."

"They see tests as barriers facing poorly educated minorities, barriers to opportunities for further education and employment. They do not see tests as unprejudiced assessors of competence, as powerful arguments for equality of educational opportunity."

"The low scores that minorities often receive on tests seldom if ever can be attributed to bias in the tests. Almost always they reflect the damage inflicted by inadequate education."

Ebel cited ways in which not testing in schools and colleges would have harmful social consequences. He said it would:

— Handicap communities seeking excellence in schools. Tests can reveal how much has been learned of what was set out to be learned. They can indicate how effectively the pupils have been taught, and how successfully they have studied.

— Handicap minorities. It would deny them the help of objective evidence in their struggle for equal access to opportunities for education and employment. Tests are color blind. They are essentially unbiased. Low scores on a test for any group do not show that the test is biased against them — simply that for whatever reason — including lack of opportunity to learn — they have not learned the information being tested.

— Handicap students seeking to learn. Purposeful efforts to learn require definite goals for learning and definite indications of success in achieving those goals. Good tests help to define goals and provide indications of success.

— Handicap schools in their attempts to select and retain competent teachers. To be a good teacher one must know thoroughly what is to be taught and how to teach it. The ability of tests to measure the amount of relevant knowledge a teacher possesses is not likely to be questioned by those who are well informed and reasonable.

Enemies of testing are not the mainstream. Ebel said:

"Elimination of testing is advocated by relatively small numbers of people, some of whom have relatively loud voices."

"It is not advocated by the public generally, as a Gallup poll has shown."

"Within the enterprise there are a few leaders and many followers who oppose testing out of a misguided egalitarian philosophy."

Warped



It's your turn

Coaches need time to build programs

Editor:

With all the talk pertaining to our football season and particularly Coach Wilson, I wish to submit some facts:

Since 1947 Texas A&M has had nine head coaches. This works out to 3.6 years per coach. First-year wins of these coaches is interesting:

1934 Homer Norton (2-7-2)
He later led A&M to the National Championship in 1939 and four bowl games:

1940 Sugar Bowl (also National Championship)
1941 Cotton Bowl
1942 Cotton Bowl
1944 Orange Bowl
1948 Harry Stiteler 0-9-1
1951 Ray George 5-3-2
1954 Bear Bryant 1-9-0
Look at his record since 1954!

1958 Jim Meyers 4-6-0
Now Assistant Dallas Cowboy Coach

1962 Hank Foldberg 3-7-0
1965 Gene Stallings 3-7-0
Now Assistant Dallas Cowboy Coach — he was last coach to win SWC, beating Alabama (Bear Bryant) in Cotton Bowl in 1968.

1972 Emory Ballard 3-8-0
His record since then needs no explanation.

Darrell Royal, considered by many to be the most outstanding coach the Southwest Conference ever had, won six, lost three, tied one his first year in 1957.

Frank Broyles had a 4-6-0 in 1958, his first year at Arkansas.

Ron Meyers at SMU had a 3-8-0 record his first year there in 1976.

Grant Teaff had a first year at Baylor of 5-6-0 in 1972; then a 2-9-0 in 1973.

It takes time for a coach to get his program underway. How can we expect Tom Wilson to devote his undivided attention to the football team when some students and some exes con-

tinually second guess and criticize his endeavors.

It is sad that a coach's average tenure at Texas A&M is less than four years. Coach Wilson must have time to build a winning program at Texas A&M.

Barney Welch '45

Soccer team has problems

Editor:

We would like to commend Richard Oliver on the fine job he's doing as sports editor. In the past, sports other than varsity were given minimal coverage; however, under Oliver's direction, all sports, and in particular soccer, have been given fair time and space in The Battalion.

The Oct. 28 Reflections column was a fresh attitude we wish more people would take. The soccer team deserves the same coverage as any varsity sport, especially when you note their 5-3-2 record.

However, there are several problems facing the soccer team and other Texas A&M teams as well. It is our feeling that it's high time the University addresses these problems and starts providing solutions.

First, the soccer team is recognized as a club, not as a varsity sport. What does it take for a team to acquire varsity status? The soccer team

has the dedication, talent, and direction of its players, assistant coach David F...

and newly acquired coach Telmo Franco. His record reflects their ability to represent the University in a winning fashion.

Without varsity recognition, the soccer team is faced with several problems. One is the condition of facilities on which to practice and play. They have been "removed" from the Pennington Complex by the Intramural Department of the University. Also, since it's recognized as a club, it receives minimal funding. This prevents them from traveling to games and other events. Their players wind up shelling out the money they should be provided by the University.

Soccer is an exciting sport that's getting attention in the Bryan-College Station area. Until the SMU game, the soccer team has been supported only by loyal fans consisting of family, friends, and children from the soccer team held this summer. Team members were involved in camps locally and statewide. The players' involvement helps make a name for the team and the University.

It seems a shame that players can get after four years of the same rigorous training, practice, and playing schedule as other sports and not be recognized. We feel the University recognizes the soccer team as a varsity sport — it's well-deserved.

Paula Hill

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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.

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