

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I knew it! Interest rates are the same, the inflation rate is unchanged. I'm beginning to lose confidence in our new president."

Vengeance by ignoring men on Sadie Hawkins Day

I honestly can't believe that some man thought he needed to remind me that Sadie Hawkins Day is approaching. I'm just not the type that would let such a monumental day go by without notice. Boy, let me tell you, I'll notice.

Good ole' Sadie. She hasn't let me down since Al Capp introduced the Sadie Hawkins Day Race in 1938 in his comic strip Li'l Abner. And though not much is known about Sadie, I know all I need to know about the race. It was a race held every year so that the spinsters of Dogpatch could rightfully pursue the unattached male-types, and, if they caught one, would get to marry him. What a sport.

I get a mental picture of Daisy Mae, the victim of unrequited love, dragging Abner, the hero, around by the ankle. Abner, though, al-

Offhand

By Venita McCollon

ways managed to evade Daisy Mae, until he finally got tired of running and married her in 1952. Nice ending.

But, the end hasn't come. Sunday is Sadie Hawkins Day. I don't think I'm ready.

First, if anybody dares to call me a spinster, I'll spit in his eye.

Next, if I have to run anywhere, I'm not sure the guarantee of a husband is worth it. If there's any other little twit chasing my chosen man, I'm

sure my 20-minute mile won't cut it.

I'm hopeful a more civilized method evolved, where women can just make their move on a man and ask him

I don't think I'm ready for that, either.

I can think of a long list of prospective suitors. Deciding will be a problem. The fact that all tell me to drop dead may also be a problem. I wasn't cut out for this.

The excitement is wearing off. I'm totally weird and bashful and refuse to out for 20 years of my life, I can do that one day of the year.

That's it. I'll deal with this day by ignoring the men I've had my eye on. What a drive them nuts. Besides, it's easier.

Sadie, you can run if you want. I'm relax — alone.

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Social Security woes might hurt benefits

By JERELYN EDDINGS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Social Security System, which marked its 45th anniversary this year, faces funding problems that threaten the benefits millions of Americans expect to take out after a lifetime of contributions.

Some 35 million people currently receive Social Security benefits. About 115 million people are working in covered employment, officials say. They will pay some \$118 billion in taxes to finance this year's benefits, which will exceed \$120 billion.

The financial troubles result from a range of problems including higher prices, a lower birth rate which means fewer people to contribute, longer life expectancy which means more people to receive benefits, and wage gains that can't keep up with inflation.

A recent report by the Democratic Study Group, an organization of liberal Democrats in the House, said, "Because of the unforeseen and unprecedented economic situation of the past year and because wage gains have fallen behind price increases, there are once again serious short-term financing problems" for the Social Security system.

Old Age and Survivors Insurance, the OASI box on many paychecks, is part of the three-pronged program that also includes Disability Insurance and Medicare Hospital Insurance. It is expected to run out of sufficient funds to meet its obligations by the end of next year.

Social Security Commissioner William Dwyer, last month told the House Select Committee on Aging that Congress has shown such support for the Social Security program in the past, he had no reason to think the lawmakers would allow it to go bankrupt.

He told the committee's 80-year-old chairman, Rep. Claude Pepper, D-Fla., that alternative funding had to be devised, such as allowing the old age section to borrow from other parts of the program or dipping into general revenues.

The new Congress will have to decide how to keep the program healthy. Several possibilities have been mentioned so far, among them the

politically difficult option of raising the payroll tax again. Already, efforts are under way in the Congress and by the administration to offset a scheduled January increase that has caused an uproar.

Other proposals have been for special excise taxes, perhaps on gasoline and oil; the use of general revenue funds; extending coverage to government and other non-covered workers; reducing obligations by such steps as raising the full retirement age from 65 to 68.

"It is clear from both the report of the Board of Trustees of the Social Security Program and the administration's mid-session fiscal 1981 budget review that the Social Security System is headed for cash flow problems in the short term," the study group said.

The report said it also was clear that juggling Social Security funds is only a stop gap and steps must be taken to increase revenues or reduce benefits.

The administration's July budget review projected the reserves of the old age trust fund — which the Social Security administration always wants to contain one year's worth of benefits — would run out in November 1981. Reserves of the three trust funds combined would fall to 7 percent of a year's benefits in 1985, it said.

The report was the first since 1977, when financial disaster was forecast for the system and Congress enacted changes aimed at bringing \$80 billion into the system between 1978 to 1983.

"The cash flow problem of the OASI trust fund is due almost entirely to recent adverse economic conditions," the study group said.

"For example, because of inflation, this year's cost-of-living increase will cost \$16.4 billion in higher Social Security benefits and will raise the average monthly retirement benefit from \$228 to \$330" — \$3,960 a year.

The DSG report forecasts a gloomy future for Social Security under the current system.

"Sometime during the first half of the next century, there will be too many beneficiaries (retirees) and not enough contributors (workers)," it said.

It's your turn

Rather be safe winners than risky losers

Editor:

We're not sure that anyone but the Board of Regents and a few select others at Texas A&M will ever know what the actual circumstances were that preceded Emory Ballard's resignation. However, the circumstances leading up to October 25th's defeat by Rice and this past weekend's defeat by SMU are VERY clear. It has taken the present coaching staff, ("Coaching" is used very loosely here), just two seasons to tear down what it took COACH Ballard six (6) years to build up.

The Houston Area Aggie Club was unhappy with a 9-2 season; unfortunately, excessive greed rarely yields profitable results. Ballard's best season was 10-1 in conference play, 10-2 including the bowl game, something the present team won't have to worry about, thanks to the present coaching staff. With Emory Ballard coaching the Aggies, we were respected in the conference, whether or not we went to the Cotton Bowl. At present, the A&M football team is again an AGGIE JOKE, and the "coaching" staff (again used loosely), is the biggest Aggie joke of all.

The players, taken individually, are capable of an 11-0 season. Last spring, Sports Illustrated commented that A&M had the third best recruiting in the Nation, yet the team is playing third-rate football. It's therefore obvious that the coaches may be held solely responsible for

the miserable games they're playing as a team.

Perhaps the coaches, the head coach in particular, should spend as much time coaching as thinking up excuses, like the players on drugs, to cover past losses.

The main objective to Emory Ballard's style of coaching was that the games weren't exciting enough. If this season has been exciting, we'd rather be bored. I doubt that Mississippi State's alumni will be trying to buy out Ballard's contract anytime soon, and I'm sure Coach Bear Bryant wished Ballard had never left A&M. The Houston Area Aggie Club, along with others, have had their cake, now it's time for the humble pie. EAT UP!

Janet W. Davidson '76
James E. Davidson '75
C. R. Young
S. R. Young

Sports coverage good

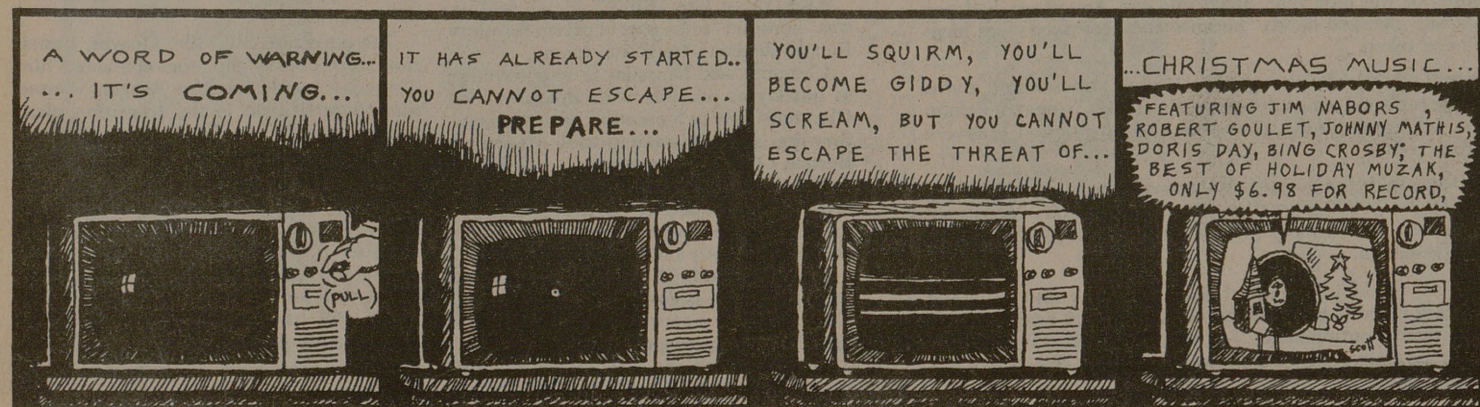
Editor:

I am writing this letter in reference to which was published a couple of weeks concerning the quality of the Battalion's section. I, too, have been very pleased in the way in which sports articles have been written. It has been a pleasant surprise to see tremendous interest and dedication of the editors have in covering not only the events but also the ones which would otherwise go unnoticed. Special praise should go to Richard Oliver, whose superb writing can keep even the most non-sports person totally interested. Keep up the work.

George M.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



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