

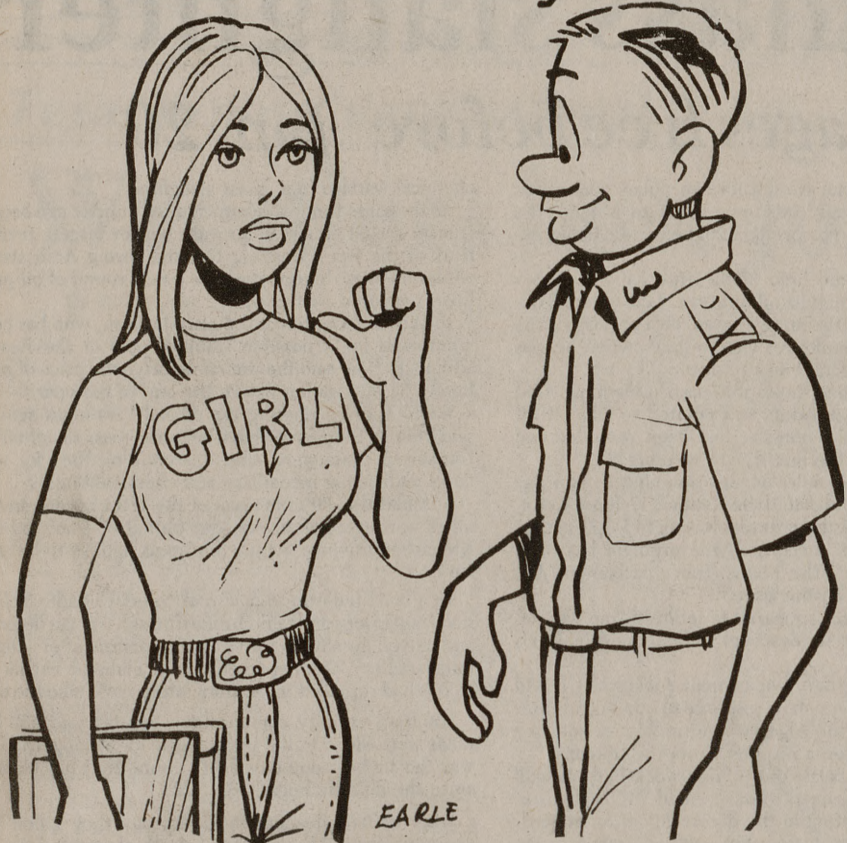
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Since I wear so many boy's clothes, I thought it might clarify that I'm a girl."

Church of Christ preparing for ordination of homosexuals

By DAVID E. ANDERSON
United Press International

In an unprecedented action, the United Church of Christ has prepared for its local congregations a study guide that anticipates the ordination of homosexuals to the church's ministry.

"It would seem," the guide says, "that a gay or lesbian person would be subject to the same understanding, procedures and criteria for ordination as would any candidate for the ministry."

"However," it adds, "the subject of homosexuality is complex and currently quite controversial."

"There are many different, and often conflicting, viewpoints about homosexuality," it says. "Likewise, there are many different, and often conflicting, viewpoints about the ordination of a gay or lesbian person."

No issue has convulsed U.S. church life more in recent years than the ordination of homosexuals. Most denominations still insist that homosexuality is a sin and the overwhelming number of religious bodies forbid ordination of

avowed, practicing homosexuals to their ministry.

Although a number of pastors and priests have acknowledged their homosexuality in recent years, nearly all of those professions have occurred after ordination rather than before.

In the 1.8-million-member United Church of Christ, its 6,491 local churches are independent of all outside control and ordination to the ministry is usually carried out by an association of churches, acting at the request of the local congregation of which the person to be ordained is a minister.

The national denomination has no say about who shall or shall not be ordained but does provide standards that are usually respected by the associations.

Prepared by the denomination's Office for Church Life and Leadership, the study guide was created to aid local church decision-makers in finding their way through the mass of contradictory opinion on the issue.

It notes first that the national church's "Manual on the Ministry," which contains ministerial standards, does not take up the matter of professed homosexuals.

The guide says it hopes such a study by local ministry committee members through step-by-step process of looking at the issue "will prepare a committee for a responsible, faithful consideration for the ordination of a gay or lesbian person, if or when such a request is made."

Organized around five study sessions, members of local ministry committee, the study offers biblical, medical-psychological and legal-ethical perspectives with suggestions for further reading, study and discussion.

One session also calls for identifying local ministry committee members' identifying assumptions on the issue of homosexuality, including a short questionnaire aimed at eliciting members' knowledge and attitudes toward the issue.

The guide is not intended "to state or imply particular position" on the ordination of homosexuals.

"Rather, it seeks to affirm the integrity of ecclesiastical procedures for ordination, while recognizing the request for help in dealing with a complex and controversial issue," it says.

Study shows kids voted way their parents did

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
United Press International

Maybe professional pollsters ought to check out kids to be closer to the mark in their next presidential predictions than they were in the last election.

In grade and high school mock elections before the actual presidential election Ronald Reagan came out with a good lead, in contrast to most public opinion polls showing the race a probable toss-up.

Looking back, it appears the kids voted just about the way their parents intended to and did in the actual election.

Dr. Terry Borton, editor-in-chief of "Weekly Reader," said the kid elections were more accurate than those of professional pollsters for practical reasons.

"The kids have daily interactions with actual voters — their parents," he said. "They see them at the dinner table, hear them talk, watch their facial reactions."

"The same happens when the family watches television together."

"The kids picked up on the pocketbook issues, I believe. Inflation. This is what they learned at home from the table talk and in front of the TV talk."

"They also seemed to pick up on international affairs, especially dissatisfaction over the hostage situation."

Reagan was a hands-down winner in these student elections:

— The 1.2 million voter mock election sponsored by "Weekly Reader."

— A more than 30,000 voter election run by "Scholastic" magazines.

— A high school vote put on by the Parent Participation Television Workshop in 31 states.

— The 467,000 voter election run for interested students, fourth to eighth grades, by Ronald Lewis, a fourth grade teacher at Maquan School in Hanson, Mass.

"Weekly Reader" voters — kindergarten to 12th grade — gave Reagan 45 percent of the popular vote and 369 electoral votes. President Carter collected 41 percent and 169 electoral votes.

"Scholastic" voters in 1,000 junior high classrooms favored Reagan over President Carter by about two to one. Reagan ran up 17,958 to President Carter's 11,934 and 6,597 for John Anderson.

High school student from 31 states and the District of Columbia, gave Reagan the lead. They predicted President Carter would get the short end of the electoral votes — 262.

College mock elections favored President Carter.

At Yale, Ray Fair, economics teacher, and Steven Rosenstone, political science teacher, found the election "a toss up," "too close to call."

The kid elections showed something else: that teachers belonging to the National Education Association — the 1.8 million member teachers' union — probably didn't attempt to swing the kid vote to their union's official choice, President Carter.

The NEA was out plugging for President Carter and had distributed election kits to teachers. The NEA journal, "Today's Education," for November featured a cover picture of President Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale.

The NEA, in fact, this presidential election made a very big thing out of endorsing and then working for the Carter-Mondale team — out of gratitude for President Carter's endorsement of a separate U.S. Department of Education, an NEA goal for 25 years.

The "Today's Education" pre-election cover story told teachers:

"On November 4, the election, no doubt, will be close. The participation of NEA's 1.8 million members and their family members may well make the difference in who wins. Teachers' votes will be crucial."

"This has been a banner year for teacher involvement in politics. Teachers are making history as they practice what they teach. In so doing, they help keep our democratic processes vital and protect America's most important national treasures: its children and its future."

"NEA's support of Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale is one expression of teachers' commitment to excellence in education and democracy."

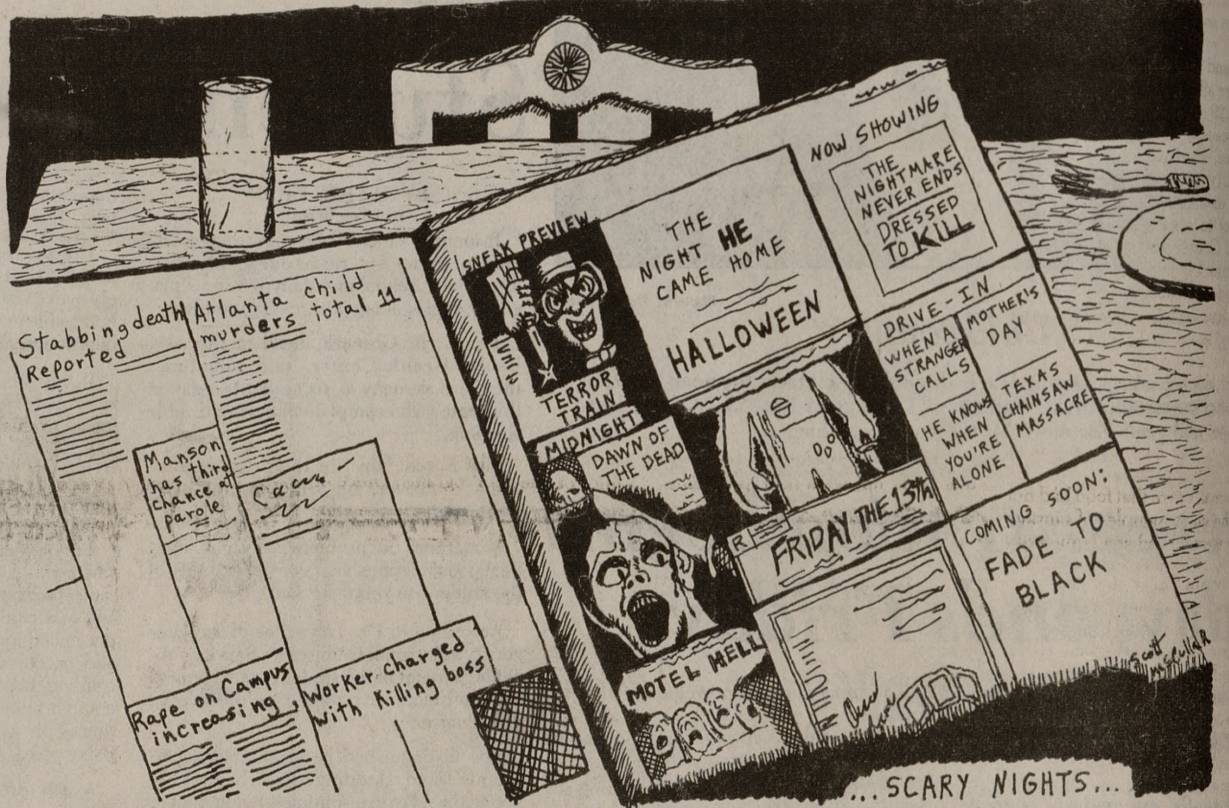
The cover story noted that then presidential candidate Ronald Reagan and the Republican platform took views opposite the NEA's on many things including:

— The Equal Rights Amendment. NEA favors; Reagan doesn't.

— Tuition tax credits to aid private schools. NEA opposes; Reagan favors.

— Collective bargaining rights for teachers and other public employees. NEA favors; Reagan doesn't.

NEA's board voted support for Carter-Mondale by 118 to 4. Whether their members followed their lead in the actual election is something the pollsters probably will try to figure.



It's your turn

Motorcycle safety needs more emphasis

Editor:

During October, there were at least two motorcycle fatalities in Brazos County. On the November 7, The Battalion carried a short front page article chronicling a grad student's close encounter with a truck. Motorcycle accidents are receiving more media coverage of late.

Motorcycle safety seems to receive less coverage. Perhaps this is due to the nature of the media. Whatever the cause, there is a need to publicize the positive side of the motorcycle safety efforts in the State of Texas.

In 1978 Texas revised its drivers' licensing statutes to require that all people under age 18 who wish to be licensed to operate motorcycles must take a DPS approved course in motorcycle operation. We have taken an obvious positive step toward motorcycle accident reduction.

The course of instruction that the DPS will approve consists of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's (MSF) Motorcycle Rider's Course (MRC). This is currently a 20-hour curriculum incorporating both classroom and riding range sessions, and was based largely on a "Beginning Rider's Course" developed for Kawasaki by Texas A&M University. TAMU has trained a large number of instructors. In fact, 129 of the 476 MSF-certified instructors in Texas (27 percent) were trained right here in College Sta-

tion. Similar instructor preparation programs are being run at Sam Houston State, Southwest Texas State, Prairie View A&M, North Texas State and Texas A&I. The Motorcycle Safety Education Instructor's course (SAED 430) is still offered here, but registrations in fall '80 were inadequate to support even one section.

The statute revision is a big step in the right direction, but there is a chance that it will have little effect. In 1979 only 3,400 Texas residents were trained in the MSF MRC, while 17,000 + motorcycle endorsements were awarded to people under age 18. Only about 20 of the MSF-certified instructors taught anyone to ride. The public as a whole is unaware of the change in the licensing statute, and there is so far no state-wide program to make the MRC available to young people. Projecting ahead to

May-June 1980, the licensing statute will either: Stand as written being enforced, Stand being ignored; or be modified or repealed. It seems to be in the public interest that the statute be enforced written, but this will depend upon adequate instructors being trained by institutions such as TAMU.

The Motorcycle Safety Education Course "Teaching Motorcycle Safety Education" (SAED 430) is being offered in Spring '80. Registration is encouraged, as enrollments will be limited. Prior riding experience, while desirable, is not required. Motorcycles and helmets are provided. For further information contact Dr. M. E. Dennis at 845-3019, or by the Safety Ed program office at 118 MSF. Let's keep another Aggie tradition going.

Paul M. Sittler

Warped



By Scott McCullar

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