

# VIEWPOINT

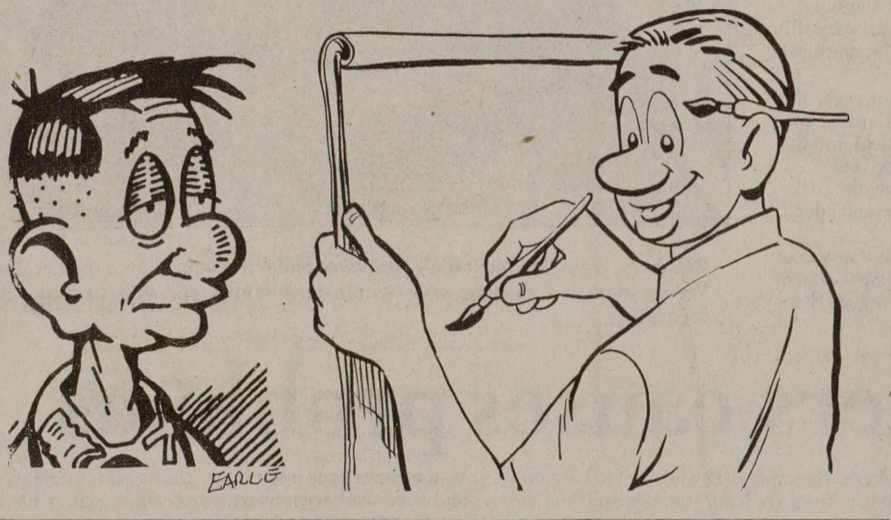
THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 20, 1980

Slouch By Jim Earle

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SLOUCH

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## Time for GOP to reap the victor's rewards

By STEVE GERSTEL  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — An army of Democrats will depart the Senate in January — hoisting high the white flag of surrender — after revealing more than a quarter of a century in the spoils of war.

This is civilized warfare Republicans and Democrats engage in every two years. Casualties are counted in the number of jobs, not lives, lost.

Nevertheless, the news from the battlefield can be grim — and not only for the generals and admirals.

One estimate is that some 3,000 Democrats are now looking for new spots. There is no need for them to wait until January because only a few, at best, will be able to hang on.

Under normal circumstances — those that Democrats have become accustomed to over the last 26 years — the blow of election defeats can be softened. But not this time.

The network of alliances and professional friendships, forged in the incestuous atmosphere of the Senate, will not be enough to allow the rank-and-file to move from one job to another without ever stepping outdoors.

Election day marked the end of an era. Democratic dominance is over. And hungry Republicans want to jobs for their own.

It doesn't mean the Senate will be stripped of Democrats next January. Far from it.

The Democrats will still assign one-third of all committee staffers and all Democratic senators will have their staffs. The minority leadership gets its own hierarchy. Democrats can name doormen, elevator operators and pages.

But the Republicans now have two-thirds of all committee assignments, a huge leadership staff and all the plums the sergeant-at-arms can hand out.

In fact, Sergeant-at-Arms Nurdy Hoffman, although personally popular with all senators, must also go. The post pays too much to leave to a Democrat.

If President Carter had won re-election, many of those leaving Capitol Hill could go

job-hunting at the other end of the avenue. But those jobs, too, are going to the Republicans. The generals and admirals — the senators who were ousted in the conservative purge or defeated in party primaries — will also be on the streets come January. But there is no chance any of them will go hungry.

Most are well-off, some wealthy and more than one qualifies as a legitimate millionaire. And the doors are usually open — to law firms, lobbying groups, universities and corporation board rooms — for former senators. No experience needed.

Sen. Jacob Javits of New York, although 76 and ailing, is open to an offer from the Reagan administration.

They owe him something. His refusal to bow out let conservative Republican Alfonse D'Amato win the Senate seat. And he campaigned for Reagan in Florida, New Jersey and New York.

There has been some talk — not much — of an ambassadorship, perhaps roving, perhaps some Western European nation or perhaps Israel.

The only other departing senator with a chance for a spot in the Reagan administration is Sen. Richard Stone, who lost his primary.

Stone, a moderate, is one of three Democrats named to Reagan's transition team dealing with foreign policy. He could become an undersecretary of state.

Several Democrats — Birch Bayh of Indiana, Frank Church of Idaho, John Culver of Iowa and Donald Stewart of Alabama — are young enough to make another try.

Barry Goldwater of Arizona and Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota returned to the Senate after their failed runs at the White House. Not many others have tried and succeeded.

Senate President Pro Tem Warren Magnuson of Washington will disappear into retirement unless a law firm wants his name on the door.

And if tradition holds, very few of the senators will return to their states. Washington has become their real home.

## Preventive cruising, boredom characterize nights on patrol

Jim Huff is a sergeant on the Texas A&M University police force.

We all know what that means. He writes a lot of tickets and hassles a lot of students, right?

Wrong. During the two nights I rode with him on patrol, we responded to a wreck which sent a student to St. Joseph Hospital. We took an ill man to A.P. Beutel Health Center. We aided three ill students until paramedics arrived. We investigated a malfunction in a fire alarm system in a dormitory. We retrieved a student's books, which had been locked in the library. No ticket writing, no "busts."

We did a lot of preventive cruising through campus.

No racing through stop signs, no doughnuts in parking lots.

And between calls we talked a lot. We talked about what influenced him to become a cop.

"My dad is sheriff of Live Oak County (between San Antonio and Corpus Christi). It's something I always grew up with. It kind of gets in your blood."

We talked about the frustrations of the job. "On campus, a lot of people think our only

### Staff notebook

By Jennifer Afflerbach

function is to write parking citations, to harass them. They don't see the total picture of the services that we provide, until they are needed. I think it's kind of unfortunate because we do many other functions. The one that is seen or recognized by most is the one that is most unpopular — ticketing vehicles."

We talked about the satisfactions. "What the officers really appreciate is for somebody just to say, 'Thank you.' Also, there's just the satisfaction you yourself get out of helping people."

We talked about the low pay. "The salary isn't very good at all. It's something you're in because you like it. You'll never get rich at it."

We talked about his opinion of female officers.

"A female officer can handle some things possibly a little bit better than a male can, especially situations where another female involved. I definitely would mind having a female partner to ride with."

We talked about whether he was scared. "You don't really get scared until something happens. Yes, I have been scared. I've been more scared after I sit down and write the report."

We talked about the incident that was most in his mind after a year on the job. One night last fall, he got a call that a student was in a dorm chasing a girl around with a butcher knife.

"I went up there with three other officers. We tried to talk the knife away from him. Finally, after 10 to 15 minutes of reasoning, he put it down. No one got hurt. I will forget that."

We talked about why he likes police work. "It's always changing. You don't know what to expect."

I know what I expected. An episode with Baretta. Instead, it was more like a public assistance. No flaunting of authority, just a



THE SECRET OF SATURN'S RING PATTERNS REVEALED...

It's your turn

## 'Exceptional' classes well worth search

Editor:

It is pre-registration time again. In the spirit of quality education, I set out to compile a list of the "exceptional" classes and their professors.

I must admit, so far the search has been a failure.

The reasons for the failure seem worth noting. The problem is not that there are no exceptional teachers at this university — there are many. McDermott in philosophy, Adams in history, Bryant in anthropology, all come highly recommended and that list is by no means complete. In fact, the number of good profs is part of the problem. It is hard to be recognized as superb when everyone around is pretty darn good.

The size of the University also hampered me. I tried to limit my search to those courses you might take with an elective — mainly liberal arts. I came nowhere near checking all of the possibilities, must less checking all of the departments.

It was also hard to find students who had strong opinions about their classes. Many of the students were interested solely in their major. Others wanted their electives as easy A's. Many students don't even look for a good prof when they pick their electives.

To me the last reason for failure is the greatest failure. It would be unfortunate if a student left this school without taking a good elective just for education's sake. It is worth the search to find a prof who teaches like Dickson in

archeology, or Stacell in environmental design, or Dale in English.

The looking ain't easy, but the payoff makes it well worth it.

Dave Witzel

### Wilson needs board support

Editor:

An Open Letter to the Board of Directors, Texas A&M:

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise" — is an admonition that speaks pointedly at this time to all of us who love Texas A&M. With rumors, and rumors of rumors, running rife concerning the A&M football situation, wisdom with strength is urgently needed, and there is no better place to start than with the A&M Board of Regents.

A unanimous vote of confidence publicly espoused by the board at this point in time for Coach Tom Wilson, would be the greatest sing-

le catalyst to continue our football program in the positive direction recently started by Coach Wilson at great personal risk to himself, family and his career. Such undertakings need the support of the board now to back him up to the fullest.

What Coach Wilson has done this year is a required soul searching of mountainous proportions and quality found in only the rarest of occasional public figures. What Coach Wilson did looks far beyond this season, but success with quality for years to come.

What is needed now is wisdom with strength to set solidly with him. Let's get about it together — beginning with our Board of Regents. Coach Wilson has started us on the path which leads to greatness — but it requires discipline, integrity, hard work and devotion to great school. Coach Wilson has put himself on the line for us and we must support him. Isn't it time we stood firmly with him?

Dan R. Sutherland, M.D.

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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.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M University 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 upon request.

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### Warped



By Scott McCullar