

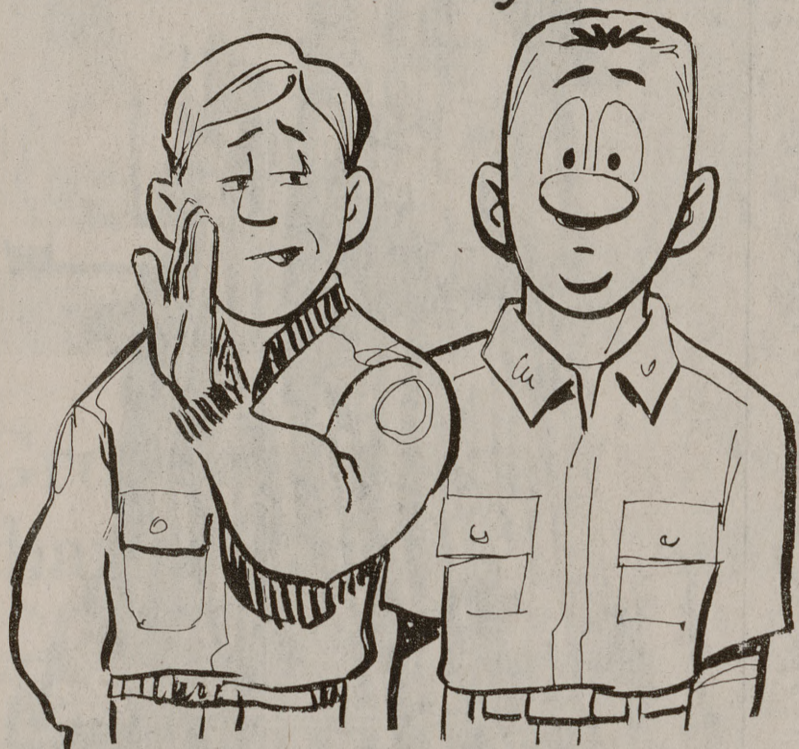
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Keep this under your hat. I have heard from impeccable sources that our team's modest showing this season has been a plot to catch t.u. off guard."

Saccharin addict deserves our sympathy, not disdain

I'm an addict.

Now that I've made that brazen confession to all of The Battalion's readers, I will say that my addiction was not brought on by the intentional use of illegal substances. My drug is sold on every grocery store shelf and in most vending machines. I am addicted to saccharin.

The usual source used to feed my addiction is sugar-free soft drinks. They are so easy, accessible and socially acceptable that my mother has never even suspected I'm an addict.

It wasn't hard to do. One drink brought on another and another, until, over the years, the drinking became a necessity instead of an option. Now I can't live without a one-calorie cola in my hand.

As with most evils, this addiction, and the threat of forced withdrawal, does strange things to my personality.

If, perchance, the supply in my room happens to be low, I have been known to tear the room to pieces looking for the dime that will make the

Offhand

By Venita McCellon

35 cents it takes for the vending machine to relieve my rampage. If none is to be found, I run up and down the halls begging from my friends.

If the vending machine eats my money, then the fight is on.

Stealing may have to become a way of life for me, with the price of saccharine soft drinks these days. Manufacturers, knowing the addictive qualities of saccharin, have now hooked most of the female population, and a whole lot of the men. The next logical step was to raise the price. They're making big-bucks profit off my daily quart (and sometimes more).

But the price is not important in the face of attack. I can do without food, but feeding habit is a way of life. The real crisis is to have a saccharin attack and there is none found at any price.

After one incident that left me the biggest idiot my friends know me to be, I learned my lesson. I am always prepared.

Now I discreetly carry little pink packets in my purse for emergencies. I've found that the tiny Sweet N' Low will tide me over until I get to a Diet Pepsi.

I can identify with those experimentalists who can think of nothing more wonderful than to have my head dunked in saccharin. What a sure thing.

I don't deserve your disdain for being such a weak and degrading habit. I deserve your sympathy. There's no help in sight. Have you ever heard of someone being admitted to the hospital for saccharin addiction?

The crucial decisions lie ahead for Reagan

By DAVID S. BRODER

BOOMINGTON, Ind. — On the three campuses and at the five civic and business forums which I have visited the past 10 days, there are two questions that come up for discussion more than any others. One is whether the Reagan-GOP victory two weeks ago signals the long-heralded, often-anticipated but never-yet-realized political realignment that could usher in an era of Republican and conservative rule. The second is whether the Moral Majority and like-minded religious political action groups have emerged with sufficient influence on the new government of rewrite social policies, regulations, laws and even the Constitution, according to dictates of their own conscience.

I thought it might be useful to devote several columns to those two topics — and to what these conversations lead me to think may be an unsuspected connection between the two questions. First, on the long-term significance of the Nov. 4 vote. Sifting through the returns of that election makes it clear that for the first time in a generation, it is sensible to ask whether we might be entering a new political era — and era of Republican dominance. The election was plainly more than a repudiation of Jimmy Carter. The voters also gave the boot to a dozen Democratic senators and two dozen representatives, most of who were also identified with the policies of welfare-state liberalism. As a result, the Republicans captured both the White House and the Senate and cut the Democratic majority in the House by more than half — their best showing since 1952.

But 1952 proved to be a flash in the pan, a personal victory for Dwight D. Eisenhower which, it quickly became clear, did nothing to disturb the long-term Democratic dominance of government. Democrats regained their congressional majorities in 1954 and held them until now.

To find an earlier example of the kind of basic realignment of party strength some observers think may have begun this month, you have to go all the way back to the Roosevelt-Democratic victories of 1932 and 1936, which ended a long period of Republican ascendancy. Roosevelt and the Democrats won in 1932 because millions of voters suffering the ruinous consequences of the Great Depression left their old political allegiances to vote FDR.

Something like the reverse of that occurred this month. Millions of traditional Democrats who had supported FDR and his Democratic successors broke their old allegiances and voted for Ronald Reagan. They were reacting to the decline in living standards, the squeeze of inflation and interest rates, and the frustration of American power abroad, as symbolized by the Iranian hostage ordeal. In some instances, they

were also protesting the changes in social customs, life-styles and community standards condoned or encouraged by liberal legislatures and judges — the issues of the Moral Majority.

In both the urban areas of the Northeast and across the South (the two bases of the New Deal), millions of white Democrats abandoned Carter for Reagan. Enough of them also rejected the Democratic senators and representatives they had been returning year after year to make this look like more of an old-fashioned party-line vote than anything that we have seen since the ticket-splitting fashion took hold in the 1950s.

Was there an ideological message in the 1980 vote? There sure was. You cannot look at the defeat of such stalwart liberals as McGovern, Culver, Javits, Bayh, Nelson, Brademas, Cornman, Church, Magnuson — the list goes on and on — and not get a message.

There was more ideological content in Ronald Reagan's 1980 campaign speeches than there was in Roosevelt's speeches in 1932. You had to be very shrewd to discern the shape of the New Deal in the rhetoric of FDR's 1932 campaign. But you had to be dense to miss the message of Reagan's campaign: a flat-out repudiation of basic economic, diplomatic and social policies of the reigning Democratic liberalism.

There is enough issue-content in the Reagan campaign rhetoric to give shape and structure to a long-term political realignment if those policies produce the benefits Reagan and the Republicans promised their millions of new supporters this fall.

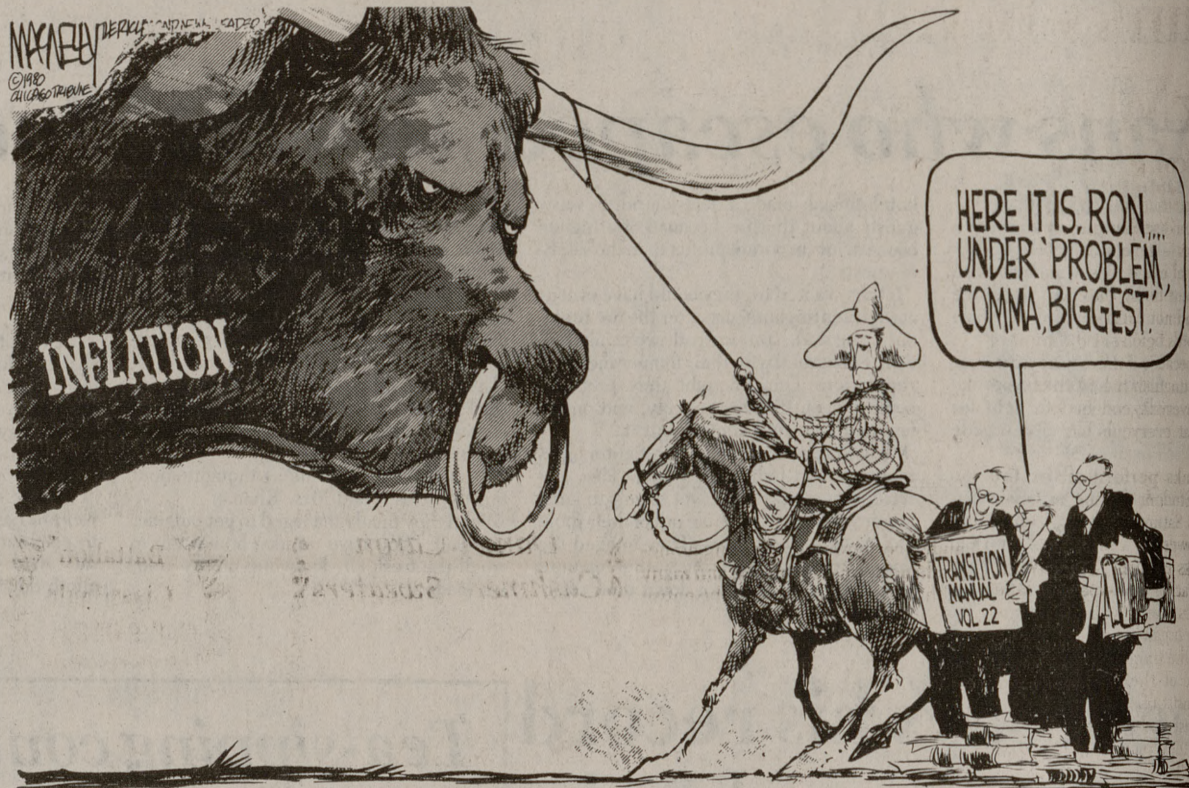
But when you have said all this, there is still reason to hesitate in describing the 1980 election as more than a half-step toward a new Republican-conservative era. Something very important was missing in 1980 from the pattern of the 1932 election and earlier realigning elections.

In 1932, millions of additional people were drawn into the electorate. Millions who had been bored by, indifferent to, or cynical about the elections of the 1920s decided they had an important stake in Roosevelt's election.

That did not happen in 1980. On the contrary, voting turnout again declined, continuing a 20-year pattern of disenchantment. Particularly significant was the fact that most of the "baby-boom" generation, now between 25 and 35 years of age, sat on the sidelines of this election, expressing no choice.

Until they throw their weight into the political balance, it is premature to talk with any certainty about the beginning of a new era of politics.

Reagan and the Republicans have an historic opportunity to change American politics, but the crucial decisions on that change still have to be made.



It's your turn

Poster plasterer has misconceptions

Editor:

The recent smear campaign waged by "Paul" and his roommates against Tom Wilson and his drug problem clearly showed that Paul has some serious misconceptions about football, drugs, and life in this free society.

First of all Paul is wrong in advocating winning at any price. Such a philosophy is in direct conflict with that of Texas A&M football. Football at this university is a pastime that allows a player to practice sportsmanship and to build good moral character while enriching his education. Winning is by no means important, and is surely not strongly emphasized by the alumni, the board of regents, or any member of the football staff.

Secondly, giving the players drugs, as Paul prescribes, could in no way help the players' performance, much less aid in their undergraduate preparation for the "real world." Any sane person (someone who stays away from drugs) can tell you that drugs make a person delirious, dizzy, irrational, unpredictable, and often both physically and mentally ill. I shudder to think of the bad publicity we would receive if one of our players suddenly had a "bad trip" in the midst of a game. A young man who is hooked on the stuff clearly is no use to the team, the university, and (while I'm at it) mankind.

Worst of all, Paul and his roommates are on the road to destroying one of the foundations upon which this great nation was established. When great leaders, such as Tom Wilson, cannot honorably rid an organization of lowlifes without being publicly harassed by actions like Paul's, there is no freedom or moral decency. Furthermore, when honorable actions are in the in-

terest of both the majority and state laws, opposition to them can only indicate either lawlessness, immorality, or drug addiction. Besides, it's more than just a good idea, it's the law.

I hope that there are enough decent students at this university to overshadow the bad apples, like Paul, and project the true image of Texas A&M. I also pray that Paul corrects his educational shortcomings. I'd hate to think that someone from this great institution of higher learning might go through life thinking that drugs can enable an athlete to perform better. Or worse yet, believe that anyone has the right to publicly question the actions of the good.

Paul T. Schertz

Editor's note: "Paul and his roommates" refers to a few people who posted flyers across the campus last week. The flyers encouraged Coach Tom Wilson to "give the players back their drugs and watch us start winning again."

Ags still No. 1

Editor:

This letter is directed to the members of the

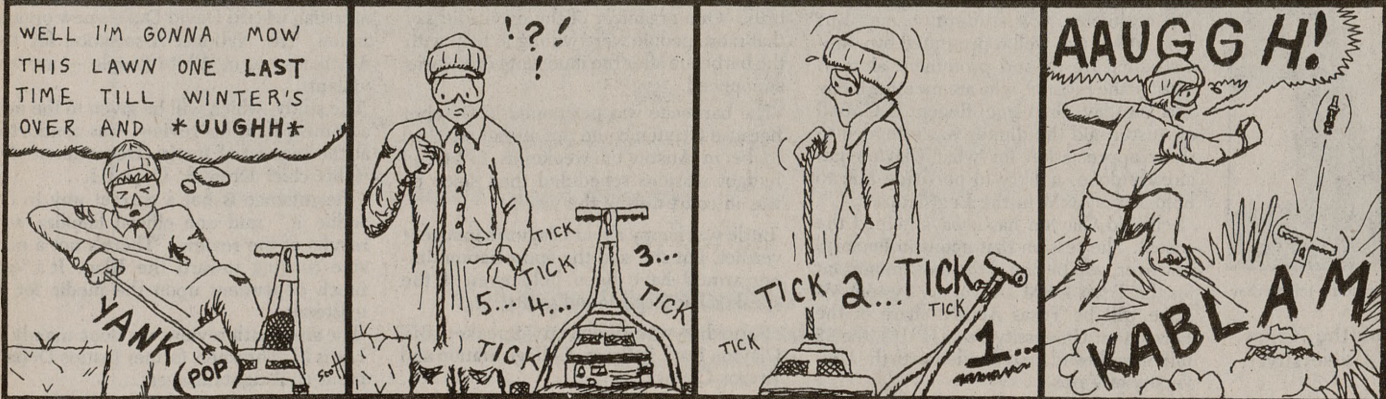
Fighting Texas Aggie Football Team. Only one thing to say, and that is that no matter what our final ranking is in the SWC, you all are still number one.

Anti-smokers successful

Editor:

On behalf of the American Cancer Society, Tau Kappa Epsilon, I would like to express appreciation to the students of Texas A&M University in their support of the Fourth Great American Smokeout. Over 300 students pledged to give up cigarettes for 24 hours during the campaign in the MSC, November 20. Also, thanks to the thousands of interested students and employees that stopped at the table and allowed the volunteers to place a "Kiss Me I Don't Smoke" sticker on their faces. Without the help and support freely given, the smokeout would not have been a success. Again, thanks to the greatest student body where.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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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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