

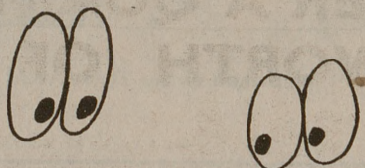
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 5, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



EARLE

"It's that time of the year when we need to get more sun."

Freshmen consider children important

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
United Press International

Raising a family rates as an important life goal for 63.1 percent of current college freshmen, says a report on the 15th annual "American Freshman" survey conducted by the American Council on Education and the University of Southern California at Los Angeles.

Another goal receiving a high lifetime priority with the crowd entering college last September is "becoming an authority in my field." Seventy-three percent said so by checking that option on a list that was part of the survey taken by questionnaire.

The freshmen also gave their views on subjects ranging from the biggest domestic problem (80 percent said inflation) and sex (47.9 percent approve it if people like each other) to legalization of marijuana (39.3 percent said yes) and drafting women (53.7 percent yes).

Nearly 300,000 completed the questionnaire and were described as a sample of students at 540 two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Of these, 187,124 questionnaires from 355 institutions were used to compute national norms. Survey officials said these were adjusted to represent the nation's total of about 1.7 million full-time freshmen this academic year.

On a catch-all list of statements about those and other matters students were asked to indicate that they "agree slightly or somewhat." That is how views were elicited.

Here is a sampling of what percentage agreed slightly or somewhat with the following statements on the survey questionnaire:

— The government isn't protecting consumers, 75.2 percent; government not controlling pollution, 79.8 percent; too many rights for criminals, 65.9 pct; not obey laws against own views, 32.3 pct; should abolish death penalty, 32.3 percent.

— Need national health care plan, 58.1 pct; energy shortage caused depression, 87.3 percent; abortion should be legalized, 53.6 percent; grading in high school is too easy, 59.7 pct; women's activities best in home, 26.6 pct; live together before marriage, 43.4 percent; discourage large families, 44.8 percent.

— Wealthy should pay more taxes, 70.3 percent; women should get job equality, 93.3 percent; prohibit homosexual relations, 48.9 percent; students help evaluate faculty, 71.1 percent; regulate student publications, 41.2 percent; college has right to ban speaker, 26.1 percent.

Among their personal objectives, after giving

high priorities to raising a family and becoming an authority in their fields, students considered the following also essential or very important:

— Being well off financially, 63.3 pct; helping others in difficulty, 64.7 percent; developing a philosophy of life, 50.4 percent; keeping up with political affairs, 40.0 percent; promoting racial understanding, 33.1 percent.

On career matters, the survey showed more young college women than ever are aiming for traditionally male careers. Among them, more than one in four, 27.2 percent, is planning a career in business, engineering, law or medicine.

That figure is more than a 400 percent increase since 1966.

The trend was accompanied by changes in students' attitudes toward the role of women. For example, the notion that "women should receive the same salary and opportunities for advancement as men in comparable positions" is supported by more men and women than ever before — 93.3 percent, up from 81.3 percent a decade ago.

"These trends," said UCLA Prof. Alexander W. Astin, director of the survey, "no doubt reflect the continuing influence of the women's movement on the attitudes and aspirations of the young people."

"As far as political labeling is concerned," Astin said, "students continue to move from left to center."

Some 60 percent — highest in the history of the survey, now call themselves "middle-of-the-road." Liberals and far left students continue to decline, from 24.5 pct. last year to 21.7 percent this year. The number of conservatives and far right students, meanwhile, increased slightly, from 17.5 percent to 18.3 percent.

"These trends show that political labels can be misleading," Astin said, "since the decline in students who call themselves liberals has been accompanied by both liberal and conservative trends in student views about specific issues."

"At the same time, student support for such liberal causes as equal rights for women and busing is at an all-time high."

This year's freshmen class distinguished itself by borrowing more than any previous entering class.

The report said about one in five, 20.9 percent, now has a federally guaranteed student loan.

This is up from 13.2 percent over 1979 and a 100 percent increase over 1978 when the comparable figure was 10.4 percent.

Speculation, hopes rampant as Regents meet this week

Observers of System politics — and other interested parties — were asking three major questions prior to this week's Board of Regents meeting:

— Would Clyde Wells seek another term as chairman of the Board?

— Who, other than Wells, could conceivably become the chairman?

— What might the implications of the first two questions be for the System's future?

That Clyde Wells would not be the chairman of the Board of Regents for a seventh term was assumed by many and hoped for by even more.

The surprise came Tuesday when Wells removed himself from consideration for the job. Most observers had envisioned a struggle for the chairmanship, with one or more regents challenging Wells for the job.

With Question #1 out of the way, the area of focus narrows considerably, for a change in Board leadership will be coming — and, as a corollary to that, a change in System direction could be in the works.

Item: Gov. Bill Clements reportedly was very upset that Wells and his fellow regents dismissed Dr. Jarvis Miller as University president.

Item: H.R. "Bum" Bright is not only a big wheel in Texas business, he's a prominent former student and close friend of Clements.

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

Item: It's not inconceivable — and not yet denied, either — that Clements spoke with Wells about the latter's pursuit of a seventh term as chairman.

Item: It's also reported that Clements has contacted several regents, soliciting support for Bright as Board chairman.

Item: The names of now-regents Bright, Joe Richardson and William McKenzie were those submitted by the Association of Former Students to the governor as recommendations for the three regent slots.

Item: Several prominent former students have indicated the Association of Former Students is counting heavily on Bright to run for the chairmanship.

If these observers haven't allowed their hope for Bum Bright as chairman to obscure their evaluation of the facts, there's every possibility that Bright will be Wells' successor.

The only other current regent who could wind up as chairman is John Blocker of Houston; Clements' other appointees are unknown quantities.

That's all that can be deduced about Question #2.

Question #3 provides the opportunity for most conjecture: Where will the System be under a new Board chairman?

It's an exceedingly difficult question to speculate about, for Bright has been hesitant to discuss his ambitions as a regent and his plans on System affairs.

It's a safe bet that the former students will like for Bright to be chairman because they would be more receptive to their forthcoming report which evaluates the System reorganization. That report, to be released to the association sometime early this year, is expected to review the System's organization favorably. The report's ultimate objective is to present a comprehensive set of arguments to the regents, designed to strongly encourage them to change the System organization to something more closely resembling the form.

Since Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert endorsed the reorganization, some are speculating that the repudiation of the man's plan will be tantamount to the repudiation of himself.

Whatever the outcome, it will certainly present a different picture than the one painted in July.

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It's your turn

Arm-twisting easier than bargaining

Editor:

Jon Davis' Reader's Forum (The Battalion, Jan. 27) raised some interesting questions about American foreign policy. I answered most of them in my article "Base foreign policy on neutrality, trade" (The Battalion, Nov. 5, 1980). In that article, I explained that the American government does not seek to promote freedom in other countries, but has instead supported "pro-Western" dictators all over the world. The Shah is, of course, one example.

What I did not explain in that article is why the U.S. government pursues such a policy. The reason is simple enough. Suppose you're the president of the United States and you (for whatever reason) would like 100,000 barrels of oil from a certain Middle Eastern country. If that country is relatively free, you will have to bargain with their oil companies, go through their legal channels, etc. The upshot is that there is no guarantee that you will get them to

deliver any oil. On the other hand, if the country is ruled by a dictator who is dependent on you for money and military weapons, you can tell him, "Deliver or else." The principle is just this: It's easier to twist an arm than to bargain with free men.

Let me emphasize that this process is bipartisan. Conservatives like to bribe these dictators with weapons while liberals do it with "foreign aid." The result is a foreign policy which is great for the U.S. government, costly for American taxpayers, and ruinously oppressive to the citizens of Third World countries.

Thomas L. George, Jr.

Tell Maurice's story

Editor:

In light of the recent removal of Maurice McDaniel from this Texas A&M basketball team, I believe that in order to provide an objective view of the situation, his point of view should be investigated and reported objectively. In this way, both sides will be clearly understood. This letter is not intended to discredit Coach Shelby Metcalf or The Battalion, but to allow the student body a complete understanding of the situation.

William M. Al...

THE BATTALION

U S P S 045 360

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The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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By Scott McCullar

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