

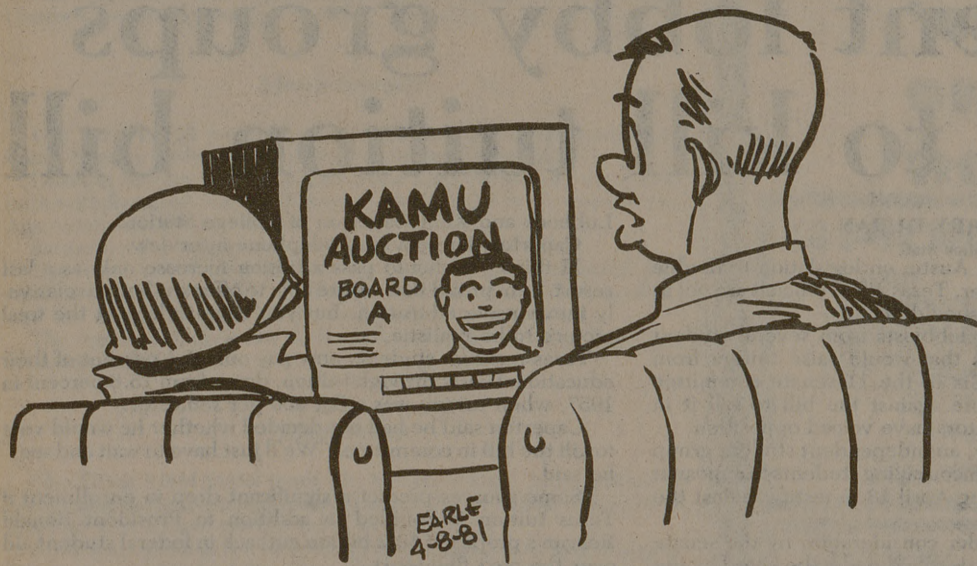
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 8, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I would have donated something for them to auction off this year if it weren't for my bad experience last year when I offered to auction myself off for a date. I know if they had tried they could have gotten more than 20 cents."

Policies shaped by a Moral Minority

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — A lot of public-opinion surveys cross this desk, but the most intriguing and important one I have seen in a long time came from an unusual source. It was done by Research and Forecasts, Inc., a New York survey firm, for the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford, and the results flabbergasted the people who took the survey, officials say.

As a company whose sales pitch must be tuned to the attitudes of millions of Americans, Connecticut Mutual had an understandable interest in what it calls "American values in the Eighties."

What the survey found — and demonstrated more clearly than anything I have seen — is that there is not a "Moral Majority" in America, but that our politics and government, along with other institutions, are being increasingly shaped by an intensely religious minority with a penchant for activities that make them politically influential.

On an eight-point scale of religious commitment (ranging from prayer to Bible-reading to church attendance and religious proselytizing), 26 percent of those surveyed scored high — meaning they frequently did at least five of these eight things.

As you might expect, older people, Southerners, blacks, women, and the less-educated and lower-income people are more likely to be intensely religious than their opposites.

As you also might expect, the intensely religious also make up most of the morally militant minority. Large majorities believe that adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, teen-age sex, pornography, abortion and marijuana are morally wrong. More than 40 percent condemn pre-marital sex or cohabitation by single people. But only 24 percent of those surveyed found all 10 of those activities morally objectionable.

But what the survey clearly shows is that the quarter who are intensely religious and strongly moralistic are also the ones who are the doers, the talkers, the joiners and the voters in their communities. Therefore, they "extend their influence far beyond that

which their numerical strength alone would suggest."

Compared with those with the lowest degree of religious commitment and moral concern, this minority is twice as likely to believe that voting is the main thing that decides the way things are run in this country, seven times as likely to attend community or neighborhood meetings and twice as likely to feel they can influence the way their community is run. They are 28 percent more likely to vote in local elections.

As the report says, these findings "illuminate the political successes of such groups as the Moral Majority and suggest that it may be the intensely religious who may well be the most vocal in the Sixties and Seventies."

That possibility is increased by two other findings documented in the study in far greater detail than I can summarize. One is that "moral issues" are becoming the most controversial in American politics, as traditional questions of the welfare-state, the scale of government, defense and foreign policy fade into gray consensus. The second is that behind the "Moral Minority" is a large mass of the "latently religious," who themselves judge leaders and issues increasingly in moral dimensions.

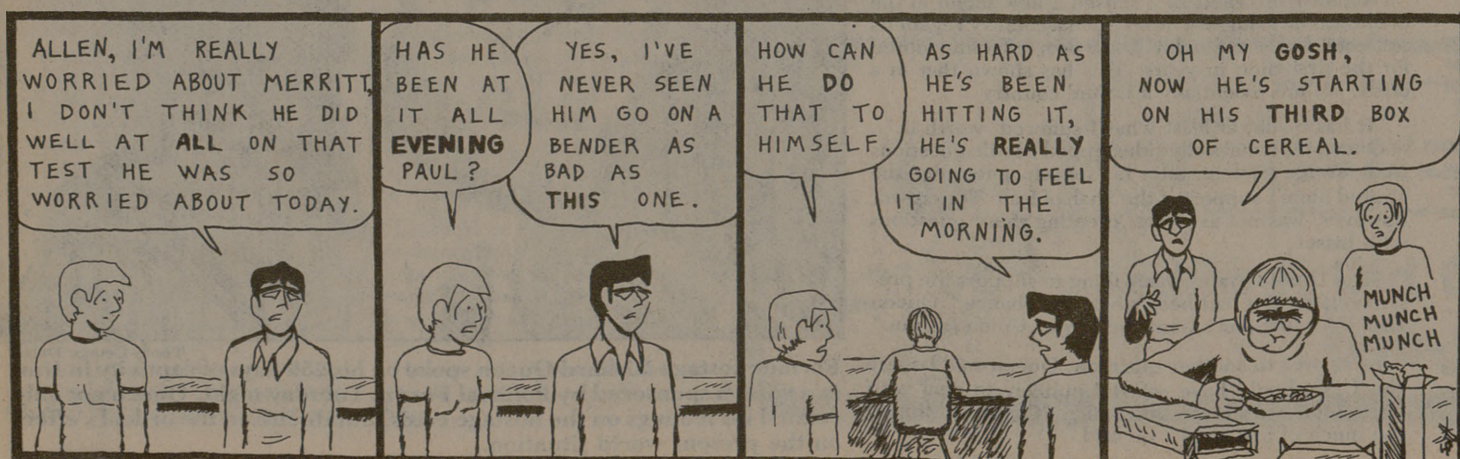
"Our findings," the report says, "suggest that the increasing impact of religion on our social and political institutions may be only the beginning of a trend that could change the face of America."

"It appears," the report says, "that our society is at a transition point and that the public may be willing, under almost imperceptible influences, to throw its entire weight behind a leader who strikes the correct 'moral' or 'reaffirming' tone."

"This new trend is both heartening and potentially frightening. Since the injection of faith into politics via religion is capable of creating a single powerful voting bloc, this suggests the opportunity for a truly visionary leader, or a dangerous demagogue, who, by striking the appropriate religious-moral notes, could be swept into a position of awesome power."

To which the only comment is, obviously: Amen.

Warped



Parable defends tenure policy

By JOHN A. MCINTYRE

I read with interest the stories about Professor Whitt in Wednesday's Battalion including criticisms of the tenure policies in the College of Science. I believe that the policies should be defended as well as criticized and would like to do so through the following parable. In my experience, some issues become more clear when discussed in terms of football.

OF TEACHING AND REASON

As at most universities in Texas, the University of Dallas and the University of Houston each had a department for the teaching of football. However, the State Legislature had instructed these two particular universities to develop the game of football as well as to teach the game. Thus, it was necessary that the faculty in these two football departments be able to play as well as teach football.

To carry out these football programs the Legislature provided additional funds to insure that two competitive football programs be established in Texas. The administrations of both the universities were successful in recruiting faculties of outstanding people. Among the better known faculty members at the University of Dallas were Professor Anthony Dorsett and Randolph White. The University of Houston was no less successful having appointed to their faculty Professors Kenneth Stabler and Earl

Reader's Forum

Campbell. Of course, all of the faculty appointments were not made to established performers. At the University of Houston, one of the younger men, of whom great things were expected, was Professor Joseph Doakes.

After a few years however, it became apparent that Professor Doakes was unlikely to contribute significantly to the department team. On the other hand, he was exceptionally successful with his teaching. He was very popular with the students, not only for his excellent lectures, but also for his innovative teaching methods. He had time to develop his creative teaching procedures because he no longer attended the daily team practice sessions.

While the other faculty members were also quite effective as teachers and met their classes faithfully, some of them did have difficulties. There was the time the dean received a letter from an irate mother whose son had written home that, in the Monday class after the game with the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh, Professor Stabler obviously not prepared his lecture. Although he clearly was well-informed on the subject, "How to Avoid the Pass Run," his presentation was disorganized and seemed to have doubts about the reliability of his theories.

Professor Campbell, on the other hand, was most conscientious in preparing his lectures. However, he often had difficulty communicating with the students. One student complained bitterly that Professor Campbell had told him that the most effective procedure on an end sweep was to over the tackler. However, at examination time, the student received a low grade because of his inability to successfully execute an end sweep.

Nevertheless, when the time for renewing contracts arrived, Professor Doakes found that he was not offered a new contract. He complained that he had decided to teach football rather than play football and so should be judged on the basis of teaching. However, the coach responded that the University of Houston had directed to produce a good football team and that he needed to continue to recruit promising football players. The latest report on the controversy is that Professor Doakes's contract was not renewed and the University of Houston still has a successful football team.

John A. McIntyre is a professor of physics.

It's your turn

Students need on-campus meals

Editor:

I am concerned about the administration's decision to limit the meal plans offered to off-campus students next year. As an off-campus student who stays busy with many extracurricular activities, I, as well as many other off-campus students, enjoy eating a well-balanced meal at a convenient time and place, and at a reasonable price, not to mention the saving of time buying groceries, preparing meals, and cleaning them up.

However, because of a hasty decision by the Board of Regents to add several new dormitories, many off-campus students wishing to eat in campus dining facilities not only take the risk of being turned away from the meal plan at pre-registration, but those who do receive meal cards will be forced into eating in the Duncan dining facility — segregated from other on-campus students. I feel that not only does the addition of these new dorms fail to solve the problem of the on-campus housing shortage, but it creates a new problem concerning the shortage of food plans available to off-campus students.

This year was the first year in the history of the University that the dining hall management was forced to limit the availability of board plans to students, and yet not only were the Regents insensitive for more dining facilities, but they added to the problem by thoughtlessly deciding to approve the construction of several small new dormitories.

If the Board of Regents wishes to partially alleviate the problem of on-campus housing shortages, the Board should not only have approved a more large-scale dormitory complex which would have made a significant difference in the housing shortage, but they should also have been more responsible for providing the additional relating dining facilities for these residents without imposing upon other students already benefitting from the meal plan.

The Board of Regents — or anyone else for that matter — has no right to infringe upon the services offered to others (including off-campus students) unless they can prove that these services are not being used to their fullest potential.

Chris Duncan

By Scott McCullar

Candidate gets raw deal

Editor:

In the past week and a half I have witnessed a hard working Aggie pursuing his own personal Aggie dream. The man, a chemical engineering student, Singing Cadet, co-op student, and cadet in the Corps of Cadets, was determined to become an Aggie Yell Leader. His dream was to show the University and the country his Aggie Spirit, and help lead the Twelfth Man to national recognition for their support to this great University. He recognized Aggies for what they were and what they stood for, he felt he was capable of taking these people, and their love for Aggieland, and binding them even closer in camaraderie. With the good of the University in mind, with the thought he had something to offer that no one else could, he began his push. Just as all the other candidates have spent the last several weeks totally devoted to their campaigns, so has Rick Vogel. His grades have taken a back seat (by the way he has above a 3.0 in chemical engineering), his girlfriend has had to take second place to his campaign, and worst of all, the Singing Cadets have been partially put aside so that he could give his all for Aggieland. I think that this is admirable. I don't know how the yell Leader vote will come out, but that is not the issue here. I do know how the Singing Cadets vote came out, and that is the issue here. Because Rick spent last weekend here at Aggieland campaigning instead of in Dallas singing with the cadets, he has been dismissed from the organization. I know how much Rick loved the Singing Cadets and I know how much it hurt him to miss the concert. I also know how much it hurt him to be dismissed. His efforts to help the University have gained him dismissal from the group he was devoted to for three years. He is rewarded for three years of service by being dismissed over one weekend tour. I say, if the Singing Cadets are so void of understanding and do not want this servant, we do! I am proud to be a Fighting Texas Aggie and able to call another Fighting Texas Aggie, Rick Vogel, my friend.

Richard Josefy '82

Editor's note: This letter accompanied by 39 other signatures.

Johnson endorsed

Editor:

I would first like to express my personal gratitude to all the individuals who sacrificed their time to help us with our campaign.

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

MEMBER

Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor: Dillard Stone
Managing Editor: Angelique Copeland
Asst. Managing Editor: Todd Woodard
City Editor: Debbie Nelson
Asst. City Editor: Marcy Boyce
Photo Editor: Greg Gammon
Sports Editor: Ritchie Priddy
Focus Editor: Cathy Saathoff
Asst. Focus Editor: Susan Hopkins
News Editors: Venita McCollon, Scott K. Meyer
Staff Writers: Carolyn Barnes, Jane G. Brust, Terry Duran, Bernie Fette, Cindy Gee, Phyllis Henderson, Kathleen McElroy, Belinda McCoy, Kathy O'Connell, Richard Oliver, Denise Richter, Rick Stolle
Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
Photographers: Chuck Chapman, Brian Tate

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of

Regents. The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. Editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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, \$33.50 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. United Press International is entitled exclusively to use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

By DENISE

Raising the mi
in Texas to
have little effect
policy regarding
on campus. But
has been able
Traditional
has talked dry pu
The official
the Texas A&M
Regents concern
campus is rough.
"Possession of
liquors on any
the control of T
University Syst
prohibited. The

Traditional
iversity has
and drunk
What this
day-to-day
that liquor
bought on
enjoyed on
less done so
places.

to issue Sys
to effect th
This policy w
1978.
Just three mo
Director Jack K. W
regulation that
today:
"Areas in wh
use of intoxic
prohibited inclu
mitted to, class
es, offices, dorm
dances, stadium
facilities, din
and meeting f
centers and cha
ation or use of in
permitted in
housing and on

John A. McIntyre is a professor of physics.

While the election results did not

out quite as I had hoped, I realize the

to continue to pursue our ultimate goal

improve Texas A&M University.

"My years in the Student Government

A&M have allowed me to develop an

understanding of how our students feel

how the Student Government should

I am also keenly aware of the respon

ibilities of the student body president,

well as the qualities necessarily to excel

the position. Now it is time to choose

between the two candidates left in the

race. I believe that each one of the

candidates on a personal level and real

izes that each one is a capable individ

ual.

However, I do feel that one of the

candidates, Ken Johnson, is more exper

ience and has a greater understanding

of the needs of the University. Ken

Johnson has a year's experience work

ing within the Student Government

executive committee and has had the

opportunity to develop contacts throu

ghout the university system. These tw

points are invaluable to the student

body president, and to my mind make

him the better choice for student body

president.

David B. Collins

Thanks for the ride

Editor:

I am a former student and a scient

fiction fan. While attending AggieCon

last year, I was walking across campus

on Sunday morning to the place where

I was staying. It was nearly deserted

except for a few other people walking

out to their cars. I was walking down

Street from the MSC when a young man

in a yellow truck called out to me and

asked if I wanted a ride. He looked

like a fairly decent guy, so I said yes

and got in, and he cheerfully took me

to the two whole blocks to my friend's

house. I really appreciated this be

cause I was exhausted and footsore

and makes me feel good to know that

A&M is still attracting people who care

enough about others to do small kind

nesses for them. Good luck in your

studies, unknown freshman.

Lila D. Young