

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 29, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"He's disturbing it again."

Ultra-conservatives are threat to Reagan

By STEVE GERSTEL
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The first rumblings from the right are rolling off Capitol Hill as President Reagan moves beyond the first 100 days of his administration.

The visible discontent is, so far, a mere glimmer — certainly nothing which could be construed as marring Reagan's exceptionally smooth relationship with Congress.

It is, however, a sharp reminder of the constant peril for Reagan's programs posed by Congress' ultra-conservatives.

The first breach, which apparently was unexpected, occurred just before the Senate and House wandered away for one of their frequent times-out, this one in celebration of Easter, the week before and the week after.

It came when three conservative Republicans, joining all the Democrats, killed Reagan's budget in Senate Budget Committee. The three were Sens. William Armstrong of Colorado, Charles Grassley of Iowa and Steven Symms of Idaho.

Grassley and Symms, a pair of freshmen transfers from the House, are included in any mention of staunch conservatives in the Senate. Yet, they are, at the same time, considered open to persuasion.

Armstrong is more difficult to characterize than Grassley and Symms and has established somewhat of a reputation as a maverick. But he is ferociously in favor of a balanced budget, which seems to be his top legislative goal.

The reason given by the three defectors on the committee is that the budget resolution showed a \$44.7 billion deficit for 1984.

In the administration's master plan, 1984 is supposed to be the year of the balanced budget.

As a result, Armstrong said, he could not vote for an "unpolished diamond" when, with some more cutting, the stone could be turned into a "perfect jewel."

The general feeling is that the Armstrong-Grassley-Symms troika could have been turned around.

The assumption is that the concerns of Armstrong, Symms and Grassley will be met — presumably through assurances of deeper cuts for fiscal 1984 — and the Reagan budget will get through the Senate just about intact.

From the very beginning, Reagan has had to assume that ultra-conservatives would support him only as long as he did not start drifting to the center. They have participated politely in the "honeymoon" period and have voted for Reagan's nominees, despite serious misgivings over some appointments.

The exception has been Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., their leader. Helms has voted against some of Reagan's cabinet choices and has sought — apparently with some success — to block others.

But the time may not be distant when Reagan is going to have to accommodate the ultraconservatives — or risk being encircled by Democrats, GOP liberals and the right.

The Republican margin in the Senate is very narrow — 53-47 — and the slightest erosion can undermine his programs, just as the budget resolution was waylaid.

And in the House, the Democrats still command a majority.

Brief thief could be anyone

A female friend of mine had her underwear stolen Thursday.

All 15 pair.
Plus a bra.

She got her drawers cleaned out, it seems, when the spin cycle on her washing machine stopped.

She stepped out of her apartment washateria for a few minutes then came back to move the clothes to a dryer.

She saw nothing amiss until she started folding clothes from the dryer. That's when she realized she had met her Washerloo.

Now losing some undies might seem funny. And it is. But the loss of 15 pair of lace and nylon could run into some money.

Think about women's underwear. Taken from a random sampling of three other women that I could find who wear underwear, I calculated the average cost of female briefs to be \$4, with a variance of \$3. For testing purposes, we assume that no Hollywood brands are in the sample because they would shift the average toward double digits.

Leftovers

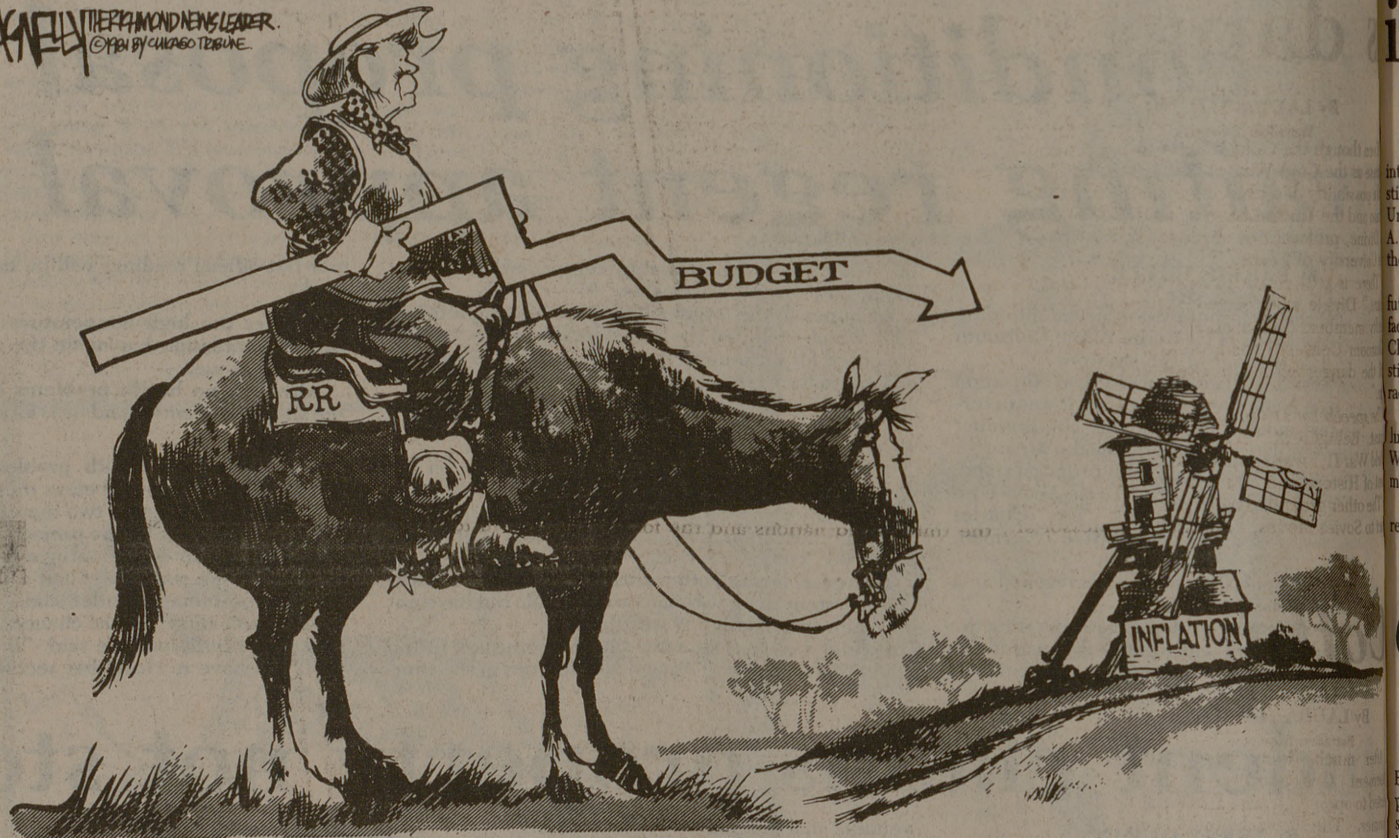
By Todd Woodard

But with a pair costing \$1-\$7, just the sheer cost of new panties would range from \$15 to \$105. That'll take the fruit out of your loom.

Speaking of fruits, who would rip off 15 pair?

- Someone who needed the briefs.
- Someone who wanted to throw a party and hang the undies off lampshades.
- Someone who needed patches for a parachute.
- You have a good imagination. Fill one in of your own.

MAGNELL THE PUNCH AND NEWS LEADER
COPY BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Try dictating a letter to the editor

From secretaries to letter-writing

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Are you a bit bleary-eyed, body all aching and wracked with pain, from so much celebrating?

It figures. With hardly any time to recover from the festivities associated with National Secretaries Week, we now find ourselves whooping it up in celebration of National Letter Writing Week.

Back-to-back observances of this sort can take a lot out of a person. Nevertheless, there is something to be said for keeping them separate.

If you let Secretaries Week slip by without paying due homage to the honorees, you can partially atone this week by writing a nice letter of apology.

Although not directly connected with the program, one of the highlights of National Secretaries Week was the appearance before a Senate subcommittee of Phyllis Schlafly, head of an organization opposing ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Many secretaries are women and Schlafly imparted some timely advice on how women workers can avoid sexual harassment on the job.

"When a woman walks across the room, she speaks with a universal body language that most men intuitively understand," Schlafly testified.

"Virtuous women are seldom accosted by unwelcome sexual propositions or familiarities, obscene talk, or profane language."

Yes, and apparently it pays to be homely as well. The latest issue of Working Woman magazine, published during Secretaries Week, reports that "being beautiful can be more of a hindrance than a help" to business careers.

Perhaps Mac Davis will compose a theme song for secretaries — "Oh, Lord, it's hard to be homely when you're sexy in every way."

Anyway, there you have the secret of female success — modesty and plainness. Now back to National Letter Writing Week.

The latter celebration is sponsored by the friendly folks at the U. S. Postal Service who

brought you the 18-cent stamp and now threaten to bring you the nine-cent Zip Code.

One of the themes of this year's observance is: "The importance of letters to the editors to the American way of life."

The postal service doesn't care how you write such letters as long as they bear sufficient postage. But certain groups are more rigid, among them the Writing Instruments Manufacturers Association.

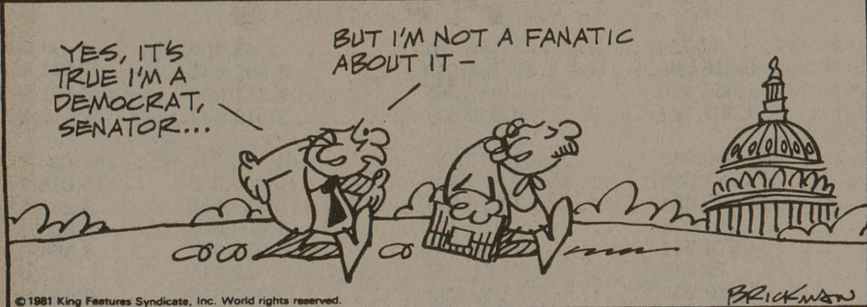
WIMA, if I may call it that, would like everyone writing a letter to the editor to use pen and ink. But not just any pen. Pointing out the psychological advantages of using matching pens with letters, it makes these recommendations:

"Sharp points for cutting remarks; thick points for getting messages across to obtuse recipients; thin points for weak arguments; fine points for intricate issues; broad points for sweeping statements."

WIMA's advice, incidentally, was typewritten.

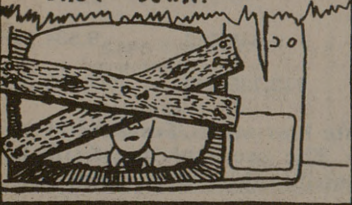
the small society

by Brickman



Warped

BULLETIN: DUE TO THEIR AUDIENCES' ABSOLUTE REFUSAL TO ALLOW ANY MORE MISREPRESENTATIVE PROGRAMMING ON THE AIR, MOST NETWORKS AND LOCAL TV STATIONS ARE COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN!



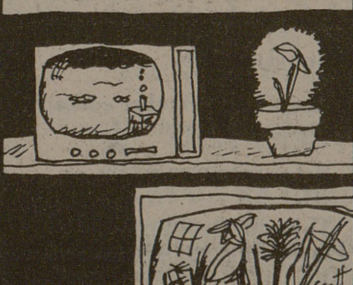
BECAUSE VIEWERS HAVE SUDDENLY TAKEN TELEVISION PERSONALLY, ONLY THE HIGHEST QUALITY PROGRAMS REMAIN. NBC IS FOREVER OUT OF THE BROADCASTING BUSINESS, AND THE OTHER NETWORKS ARE DEEP IN PANIC.



ANNOUNCERS OF COMMERCIALS ARE REDUCED TO SIMPLY HOLDING UP THE PRODUCT. SALES OF REMOTE CONTROL SILENCE DEVICES FOR TELEVISIONS HAVE SOARED.



MEANWHILE, VERY POPULAR PASTIMES WITH FORMER VIEWERS ARE THE CONVERTING OF THEIR SETS INTO AQUARIUMS AND PLANTERS.



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION
U S P S 045 360

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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 POLICY
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The 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 are 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.
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