

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY  
MAY 4, 1981

## Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Don't talk to me, don't ask me a question, and for goodness sake, don't slam the door! I've got my brain cells arranged for my exams, and the slightest jolt might blow it all."

## Cookbook is from out of this world

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — If what the world needs now is yet another cookbook, that void has just been filled by the National Air and Space Museum.

The aeronautics wing of the Smithsonian Institution has published a collection of the favorite recipes of 50 of America's most famous fliers, from aviation pioneers like the Wright Brothers all the way down to today's spacemen.

The Wright boys were partial to pear salad, especially Orville, and, according to their niece, Mrs. Ivonette Miller, also used to pig out on fig ice cream.

Amelia Earhart is represented in the cookbook by sour cream waffles, Charles A. Lindbergh by Swedish butter cookies and former astronaut Harrison Schmitt, now a U.S. senator, by what apparently is some kind of outer space chili.

Although the "Famous Personalities of Flight Cookbook" may be a real grabber for aviation buffs, for someone with only a minimal interest in flying (me) it is curiously unsatisfying.

I was disappointed that only a brief mention was made of what I regard as the key development in aerial cuisine — airline meals.

The cookbook is unsparing in historical vignettes about the personalities whose favorite dishes are featured, but of airline meals it notes only that they are usually "prepackaged, reheated foods."

Nothing at all is said of the brave and

hardy pioneers who first ate the stuff.

It is all very well to tell us that "Jackie" Cochran contributed "ingenuity and persistence" to aviation. Surely, however, those who gave their stomachs deserve equal treatment.

I would be particularly keen on reading something about the bold innovator who developed the concept of serving little paper cups of nearly frozen dressing for airline salads.

It never ceases to amaze me how the airlines consistently get their salad dressing the consistency and temperature the Arctic tundra is during that brief period in summer when its surface thaws.

That courageous soul who first lofted a forkload of airline salad to his lips and felt his teeth twitch from gelid shock surely is as deserving of a niche in aviation cookery as Ed Link, the flight trainer inventor who submitted his brother's recipe for "conch fritters" (heavy on the paprika).

Another curious omission is any recipe commemorating Howard Hughes. It could be he customarily dined alone and would tell no one what he liked best.

Nor is there any listing for "Wrong Way" Corrigan. My assumption is that he started out to make Oysters Rockefeller and ended up with Quiche Lorraine.

Anyway, I'm betting the book will be popular enough to warrant a sequel. One logical spinoff would be an aircraft maintenance manual edited and annotated by Julia Child.

## Society can solve its problems

### Reader's Forum

Armageddon — Has it arrived?

The wisdom of prevention is better than the wisdom of remedy. Prevention is the better cure. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Everyone is familiar with these homilies and their moral messages, accepting at face value the credibility with which they are universally received and espoused. So why does the United States, in both its public and private institutions, corporation, and businesses, wait until "after the fact" to rectify pernicious social maladies, when the major antecedents of these baneful events are known and solvable?

These are some of the question that traversed my mind during the recent shooting of President Reagan and others in his presidential retinue. Exacerbating this quandary was a Newsweek article entitled "The Assassin Syndrome," demarcating in its wake a psychological profile of some nine points that linked together the past and present figures who have tried to kill a U.S. President or other prominent national public figure.

That profile ran the gamut from a childhood that was plagued by the Scylla and Charybdis of loneliness and self-loathing, usually under the aegis of a one parent household, into a young man or woman possessed by bizarre and unusual fantasies. Aiding and abetting this macabre scene is the numerous and sundry extremist groups who are seeking proselytes of this mental ilk. What discerns these disturbed young men and women, however, from others who join cults, is a pathology, that is so perverse and pervasive that even the groups to which they swear allegiance to treat them as pariahs and/or scapegoats, the net result is a person whose logic and reasoning is so scrambled and convoluted as to preclude rational actions of any kind. Newsweek's denouement is that hundreds of thousands of citizens fit this basic mold and the answer — if there is one — is supervision of possibly dangerous people by their friends and family.

What vexed me is the fact that a viable

solution is within our midst, but the blinders of indifference, obduracy and omniscience, characteristic of our advanced technological society, have reduced our vista of possibilities to a slim few. Delimiting our options still further is the current economic labyrinth within which we find ourselves encased and overwhelmed by. It would thus appear that only the great Merlin's legerdemain could extricate us from the followers of Hades, whose notion of perdition is becoming more secular than ethereal with each passing day.

Armageddon, however, can be postponed, because inherent in the problem is the phoenix of my solution. As Newsweek so rightfully concluded, the psychological profile that marks the assassin could just as well be worn (and probably is) by hundreds of thousands of citizens. Short of an Orwellian state then, what is needed to demarcate the potentially dangerous from transient disturbances is an event that is ubiquitous in nature and a given for every U.S. citizen. Such a concatenation is present in the form of our educational system, one of whose main tenets is compulsory attendance through age 16. A captive audience, however, is necessary but still not a sufficient enough condition for distinguishing between those demmed emotionally labile form those judged mentally sound. It takes the expertise of a man or woman versed in the principles of human behavior and learning to understand why schools and society do what they do. Just such a seraph is available in the persona of a school psychologist.

It is the school psychologist, through his training in education, psychology, sociology and science who is best able in the edu-

ational system to assess the child's milieu (his environment at home as well as in school) and make a judgement that is infallible but more often than not, centered around the bullseye of life. The accuracy of this assessment is assured through the armamentarium of psychological and educational weapons at his disposal, ranging from individual and group counseling, formal testing and classroom observation. He is in the unique position of weighing both pro and con, the contributions made to the child's present disposition by teacher(s) at school, parents and siblings at home, and peers and friends in society at large. His knowledge of education and administration gives him the insight to understand, both cognitively and emotionally, the onerous burdens under which today's teachers and principals operate, while simultaneously empathizing with parents and the chasm between generations.

I contend, therefore, that we now have our disposal the means with which to attack the "after the fact" syndrome, even though its etiology is emotional rather than medical in origin. As in the medical paradigm, a doctor is still required, but this doctor's palliatives are for the psyche rather than the somato. In addition, this doctor does not have to wait till his clients feel enough discomfort to request his services as the problems become so salient within the atmosphere of the school that they themselves seek mollification. This remedy could, can and should be implemented, it can be achieved without depending upon the largess of philanthropic organizations, the involvement and investment by the federal government of prodigious sums of money. It can be accomplished by giving the emotions the credence and validity that we now allocate to the intellect. The presence of a psychologist in the schools will enable society to nip in the bud its present problems of loneliness, alienation, antisocial behavior, and functional illiteracy. Let Armageddon be an Apocalypse rather than an apocrypha. The choice is ours to make.

Mark Rogge



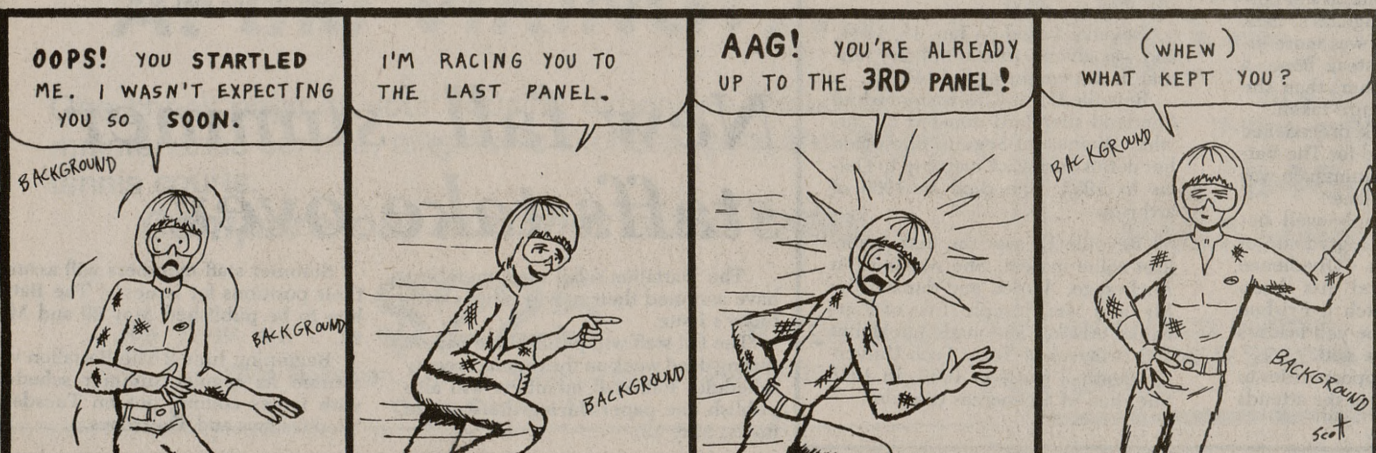
### the small society

by Brickman



### Warped

By Scott McCullar



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