

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
MAY 7, 1981

Slouch By Jim Earle



"This is the time of the year when it's fun to send out 'Report to me immediately' notes to graduating seniors!"

Victory seen in 'energy war'

By EDWARD ROBY
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The energy crisis, which President Jimmy Carter likened to war and his energy czar, James Schlesinger, found so "intractable," seems to have vanished in the first 100 days of the Reagan presidency.

Total U.S. energy consumption has sunk to pre-1977 levels, although the economy continues to notch surprising growth.

Spring gasoline lines have failed to appear and demand has tumbled to 1970 levels, despite Middle East upheavals that virtually eliminated Iran and Iraq, the Nos. 2 and 3 OPEC producers, from the export market.

A month-old coal strike has had negligible impact on electricity and steel production and the natural gas distribution industry now complains of federal constraints on the demand it was unable to satisfy just four years ago.

A mere 7,000 anti-nuclear demonstrators showed up in Harrisburg, Pa., on March 28 for what supposed to be a mammoth second anniversary of the Three Mile Island accident. But with electricity growth in doubt, Wall Street and the utilities are shelving ambitious plans for reactor construction.

Energy demand has also slipped in

Europe and members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are quietly notching down premiums and surcharges to maintain their sagging crude oil sales.

On the home front, three months of total oil decontrol has actually started to push gasoline prices back down, confounding the doomsayers who predicted a consumer disaster.

Major refiners are once again advertising regional gasoline bargains as corner gas stations compete fiercely for patronage.

Liberal politicians, who whipped up support for a futile court suit in February to restore government control over the petroleum market, have fallen strangely silent in the face of the new economic facts.

Price-induced energy conservation — the only kind approved by the Reagan administration — has also silenced the experts who dominated government's interventionist energy policies throughout the past decade.

The energy crisis, a vaunted boogymen so often invoked in Congress to justify massive spending programs, has deserted proponents of synthetic fuel subsidies, conservation tax credits and solar banks in their hour of need.

The absence of crisis has also sapped congressional opposition to the president's

stated intention of gradually dismantling the Energy Department as a Cabinet agency.

The agency — a lightning rod for anger over shortages and soaring prices — the Carter era — is now rarely heard from.

If the new administration has its way, the 1982 budget will lop \$2.9 billion in spending on energy projects envisioned by the Carter team.

The agency's Economic Regulatory Administration, which administered price controls that conservatives like to blame for past gasoline lines, would be reduced to a skeleton crew.

Some of the most cherished special programs — conservation, solar and fuels — would be hardest hit. Administration budget-makers argue that these alternative energy sources are already competitive without public handouts.

In a farewell speech in 1979, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger warned of a coming decade punctuated by energy shortages and economic recessions. Instead, the 1980s has produced a worldwide oil glut, strengthening dollar and an improving trade balance.

A requiem for the energy crisis might seem somewhat premature, but it certainly seems moribund.

It's your turn

'Fish Lady' gives special thanks for rewarding year

Editor: As I write this, the year draws to a close. The Class of '81 (or most of them) will be leaving their days as A&M students behind. I think my devotion to the Aggies is very well known on this campus yet allow me to speak my love, still once again.

This year has been so happy and rewarding. So many of you have done so much to make it so. A special "Thank you" to Col. James R. Woodall, the Trigon Staff and the Corps of Cadets for their love and support and the beautiful things they have done for me daily.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Medina Hometown Club who made transportation possible for some of us to the Texas A&M-Arkansas football game last fall.

The love and friendships of this year I will cherish forever. The "fish table," as we call it, has been a joy and I will give up the Class of '84 with sadness. Yet, the fish are part of our future and to help them become sophomores has been the reason for it all.

I wish to thank Ann, Joni, Gretchen, Leigh and Sandy for the beauty and charm they have brought to our days also "dp" for his support, kind words and excellent work.

Best wishes, love and God bless you every one.

Ruth Hunt
"The Fish Lady"

Award honors parents

To the AGGIES: No greater honor can children give than to nominate their mother and father as parents of the year. A greater honor is for Aggies to recommend their mom and dad as "Aggie Parents of the Year."

No words can adequately express the honor we feel. This title has caused us to examine our past. Our many shortcomings cause us to wonder why we were nominated, let alone selected. There are so many others deserving of this award.

As our children went out on dates or to participate in activities, our standard admonition to them was "remember whose children you are." Now it behooves us to "remember whose parents we are." Not only parents of Mike, '75, Bridget, '81, Matt, '82, and Lexa, '83, but for this year, we will do our best to properly represent all parents in a manner fitting their expectation. We will always have a special warmth in our

hearts for the Women Cadets Class of '81. Thank you to all who made this possible for giving us the opportunity to be the "Aggie Parents of the Year" and thanks to the leadership and administration of Texas A&M University for providing an institution to which we can confidently entrust our children.

Ernest and Virginia Jaska
"Aggie Parents of the Year"

Drivers anger student

Editor: Everyone complains about the parking situation at this fine University and I would now like to join their ranks. My approach is somewhat different in that I am not directing my works toward the administration nor the Kampus Kops but rather toward the drivers of those red-stickered cars who park in the day student slots in front of Krueger and Mosher Halls. It seems that the drivers of said vehicles enjoy going out at night but do not like parking out in the dorm parking lots and walking the distance to their rooms. The following morning, in order to avoid getting yellow papers on their cars, there is a mass exodus, at five of nine, of sleepy-eyed Aggies moving their vehicles. This approach may seem quite practical to them but they neglect to consider the inconvenience they are causing others. I am a day student and have classes that begin at eight or nine every morning. I do not think it is right that my fellow day students and myself should get to school a half hour before class and still find that we must park out on Jersey Street and then hustle across campus to barely make it to class on time because of the inconsiderate actions of those mentioned above. The parking situation at this University is tight enough without these students making it worse.

Andy Dean '81

'Preppie wear' OK

Editor: I am writing in defense of what is popularly termed "preppie wear." As you are probably astounded by what may turn out to be a pro-Izod letter, please read on for the full complaint.

I happened to be walking by Dudley's Urban Draw when a slow southern drawl interrupted my reverie. "Walk on preppie" (spit). As I lightly stepped around the care-

fully placed spittoons, I thought to myself "How could I be classified as a preppie?" Now, I do not consider myself a preparatory student even though I do own an Izod shirt — nor do I consider myself a cowboy, although I own a pair of cowboy boots. I am not in a sorority — I'm not even on dorm council. Can a basis for categorization exist for one article of clothing? I am astounded and appalled at such pettiness and injustice.

Why, what's the difference between a dung-kicker and a fake dung-kicker? One cleans out stalls and ropes cattle — the other doesn't. In many cases, however, their articles of clothing are basically the same. Both have boots with the inside half of their cowboy cut Wrangler's tucked in, both have a big silver belt buckle making it impossible to bend over and both sport a straw cowboy hat so bent at the sides and front that it looks like a Schlitz Malt Liquor bull did a tap dance on it. (I graciously admit there are exceptions.)

Now, far be it for me to pass judgment on one's taste for clothes. I am merely trying to say that clothes do not make the man, his ideals or hobbies (obviously). Furthermore, I hope I don't receive a rash of calls reiterating the fact that Highway 6 runs both ways. My boots ain't made for walking and I'm where I want to be.

Colleen Barnett

Cartoons anger reader

Editor: Enough of these ridiculous cartoons which portray Arabs as terrorists, blackmailers and war-mongers. Where do Zionists in American clothing get off, feeding the American public grossly distorted images of Arabs and encouraging Arab stereotypes that should have gone out with the middle-ages. I am specifically referring to two cartoons, relating in a biased way to the Arab nation, that appeared in the Battalion during the month of April 1981. In the first cartoon printed in your April 6, 1981 issue, the PLO, which every Arab considers Palestine's de-facto government in exile, was depicted as merely a Russian puppet, something the Russians made up to terrorize the "free world." This falsified impression only serves Zionist-Jewish interests by diverting the American public's eye from the human dilemma of the Palestinians; an entire nation of people who have been denied their most basic human rights. Over

two million Palestinians have been forced off their land since 1948, while another one and a half million live as less than second class citizens in their own country; today called Israel.

In the second cartoon which appeared in your April 28, 1981 issue, the well known stereotypical image of an Arab was displayed with the implication that the Arabs are being hurt by a world oil glut which they cannot avoid. This cartoon and others like it, strengthen the false assumptions held by a large number of Americans, that the Arabs seek to serve only their own interest in raising or lowering oil production. Very few Americans realize the sacrifices several Arab governments have made with their nation's natural resources in order to save the world from economic depression. Saudi Arabia, the best known of these countries, with its present policy of over-producing its oil fields, has a good chance of drying up its reserves long before it has a chance to develop alternate sources of income for its people.

Despite all this however, some of America's newspapers, which are influenced directly or indirectly by Zionist-Jewish interest, continue to portray the Arabs as the culprits in any oil crisis or Mid-East war. Wake up America, study the facts, there is more to the news you hear and read than meets the eye.

Nabil O. Al-Khawaiter

New Mister Rogers

Editor: Remember when Mr. Rogers would give the kiddies new words and ask, "Can you say that?" Well, it seems that there is a new Mr. Rogers in the neighborhood who wrote a Reader's Forum column which seems to ask, "Can you figure out what the heck this means?" This is, of course, in reference to Marc Rogers' column in Monday's Battalion. It seems this Mr. Rogers had no intention of making a reasonable point, but simply attempted to confuse and confound us with his seemingly endless knowledge of the English vocabulary. As for the content of his column, I believe that what he finally tried to say was that there should be a psychologist in every school to monitor the

emotional stability of the children as they grow up. Apparently, this would help prevent a child from becoming a prospective crazed killer.

I would like to say two things to Mr. Rogers. 1.) I do not know what your experience with elementary education (I have none myself) but I seriously doubt that psychologists in the school system will have any long-term effects on what a child is up to. They could help in a limited way, but just how do you propose to make a system work effectively? How would you implement it? How much would it cost? Where would the money come from? What do you do in small schools? Large schools with high incidents of violence where nothing gets through to the students. Instead of wasting space with ponderous verbosity (that's "big words," readers, should have at least attempted to answer some of these questions.

2.) Speaking of ponderous verbosity, think it insults the readers when they try to try and decipher an article such as yours. At the risk of sounding conceited, I think I had a good vocabulary, but it took almost half an hour with a dictionary to struggle through the endless twisting turnings of phrases like:

"... exacerbating this quandary..."

"... Scylla and Charybdis of logic and self-loathing...";

"... Merlin's legerdemain...";

"... what is needed to demystify the... dangerous from transient... bances... event... ubiquitous... nature..."; and "Let our Armageddon be Apocalyptic rather than an apocryphal."

I could go on and on, but this would then be as long as your article. I am not writing a lecture or a textbook speaking to 33,000 English and psychology majors (no offense to them.) It is a privilege to write in the Battalion, but people should realize you have no right to abuse that privilege. In words you can understand, I cast about in hopes of impressing you with periodicals with achetypes denoting magnitude of your linguistic capabilities (don't try to impress newspaper readers with examples of your use of your vocabulary.)

Noe Gutierrez

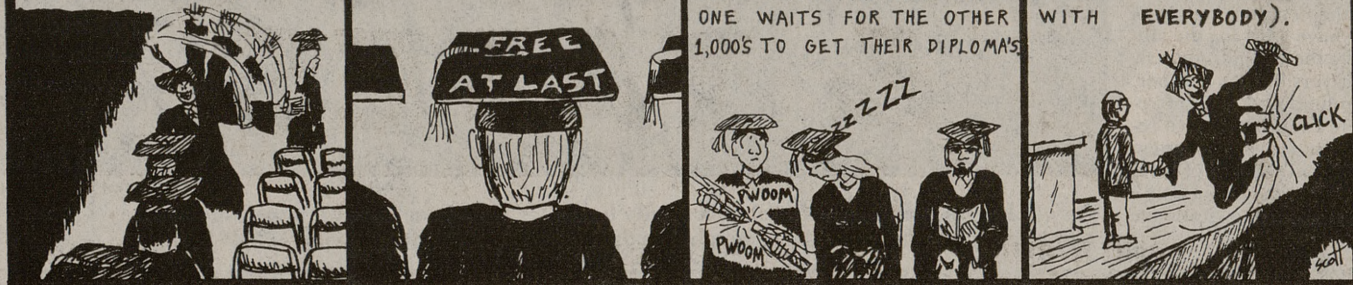
Warped

FROM THE PHOTO ALBUM OF MERRITT JENNINGS: MY FRIEND STEVE GRADUATES. HE'S THE ONE IN BLACK.

HERE STEVE IS THE VERY PICTURE OF COLLEGIATE DIGNITY AND INTELLIGENCE.

IT IS IRONIC THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF YOUR SCHOLASTIC CAREER TAKES PLACE IN A BASKETBALL STADIUM. HERE EVERYONE WAITS FOR THE OTHER 1,000'S TO GET THEIR DIPLOMAS.

STEVE RECEIVES HIS DIPLOMA WITH HIS NAME SPELLED WRONG ON IT (BY THE WAY, DR. SAMPSON SHOOK HANDS WITH EVERYBODY).



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial 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. Each letter will make every effort to maintain the accuracy of the original. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

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

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