

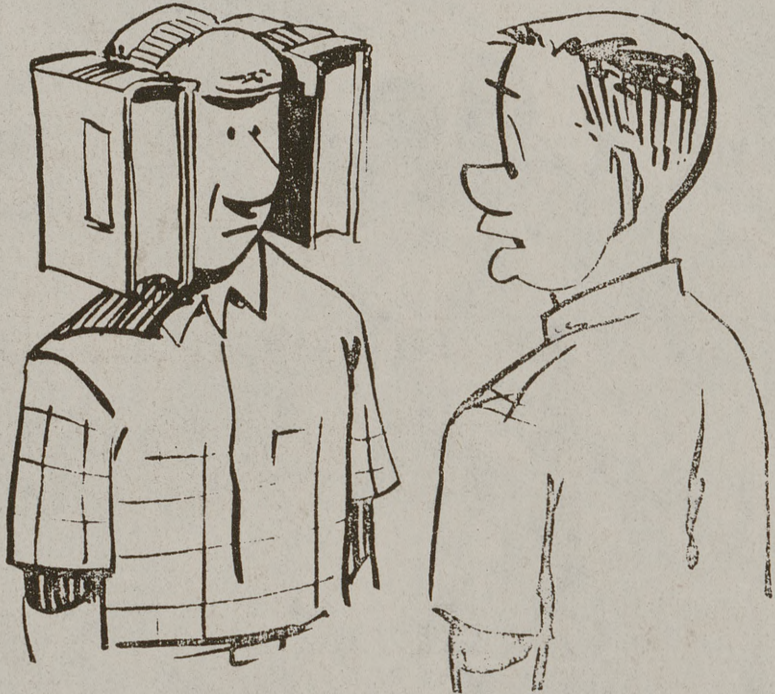
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
MAY 13, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Do you really think it's helping you get ready for finals?"

Wall Street betting against GOP plan

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — Fifty-two years after the Wall Street crash signaled the approaching end of the last lengthy era of Republican rule, the hard-eyed money guys are emerging again as the spoilers of the GOP's dreams. The vote of no-confidence in Ronald Reagan's economic program reflected in the nervous bond market and the run-up in interest rates clouds what would otherwise be halcyon days for the President and his party.

When the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives approved the Reagan-endorsed budget resolution for fiscal 1982 in preference to that recommended by its own Budget Committee, it signaled the President's dominance of public opinion and the political arena. Over and over, defecting Democrats explained their vote by saying their constituents want to "give Reagan's program a chance."

A series of polls showed the Republican Party had supplanted the Democrats as the party voters believed most likely to make the country prosperous. And largely a result of that belief, the polls showed Republicans making significant strides toward erasing the Democrats' half-century-old status as the political home of most Americans.

An April Gallup Poll showed Republicans with a 13-point lead over the Democrats as the "party of prosperity," reversing the 14-point advantage the Democrats had held in that measure as recently as 1978. An April poll by CBS News and the New York Times showed that the number of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents was only 8 percent smaller than the number of self-identified Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents. As recently as 15 months ago, the same poll had shown the Democrats with a 20-point lead.

What all this suggests is that a long-term political realignment that could make the Republican Party once again the majority party in American — a possibility that seemed no more than a gleam in the eye of some conservative dreamers last summer — is within the range of achievement today.

But — and it is a huge "but" — all this rests on the Reagan economic program achieving its advertised results of reducing inflation and stimulating job-creating in-

vestment. That program, keyed to a gradual but sustained effort to slow the rate of federal spending and the growth of the money supply, while making deep cumulative cuts in tax-rates for the next three years, has been portrayed by its critics as a high-risk gamble ever since it was first unveiled.

While the public and Congress were heeding Reagan's optimistic words in his speech five days later, Wall Street was listening to bond market slumped and nervousness pervaded the markets.

On the morning of the day Reagan won his budget fight in the House, the Wall Street Journal — the most powerful journalistic advocate of Reagan's economic program — led the paper with a story reporting that the "real chaos in the financial markets" was explainable even in the eyes of some administration officials only as "a lack of confidence in the President's program."

Budget director David Stockman told the Washington Post he was revising his own optimistic predictions that interest rates would soon come down. And Treasury Secretary Donald Regan conceded that rising interest rates would swell the federal deficit to the \$60-billion range.

The situation is an ominous one for the administration, because the whole Reagan economic program rests ultimately on an act of faith. The prospect of budget and tax reductions is supposed to trigger an unprecedented surge of investment. Without that surge, the promised gains in productivity and jobs will not occur, and the Treasury will not see the revenues that are supposed to balance the budget at permanently lower tax rates.

Most of the men who have served in the presidency since economics proclaimed itself a science have learned to be skeptical of their economic advisers. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who is in so many ways a model for Reagan, took a wholly pragmatic view, experimenting with a variety of programs of cure the Depression that fit no consistent economic theory.

Never in the modern era have a President and a party be as much on a single economic theory as Ronald Reagan and the Republicans have bet on the belief that supply-side economics is right.

The fact that much of Wall Street is betting against them is awfully disquieting news.

Teaching, not title matters

Several letters to the editor and a few articles have been published in The Battalion over the last few months about some people that won't be working here anymore. They are, or were, teachers, whatever their official title may be — instructor, lecturer, assistant, associate or full professor.

Those that probably come to mind first are those who did not receive tenure for one reason or another. Some were never eligible for tenure; their stated job — those given titles of "lecturer" and "instructor" — was to teach.

Unfortunately, like most people, I read complaints from students about someone who was a great prof getting canned and I'd say, "Well, that's life."

But — one of them was a prof I had, once upon a time. And lo, this particular prof was good. No, great. Not eligible for tenure, this "lecturer" has published more than some Ph.D. types, and had a far more effective style of teaching than many others. Not just in my opinion. People that had taken the course before — from this prof — came of their own free will to our class and told us how much we would learn and how much fun we would have.

And they were right. But that doesn't matter. This prof will not be teaching here in the fall, but the other lecturer in the department is being kept on. I wonder what the difference is.

What's that you say? What about the teacher evaluations all these oh-so-impressed students must have filled out? If they were so glowingly wonderful, how come this teacher isn't being retained?

Surprise — those evaluations go right to the teacher in question, to be used for whatever they want to use them for. Not to the

Flush center

By Terry Duran

department head, not to a committee. The instructor being evaluated.

Ever hear of the phrase, "exercise in futility"?

Most people's purpose in coming to this University was to get some form of education, and they pay fairly considerable sums for the privilege. Not nearly as much as it's worth, I grant you, but it still takes quite a bite out of the ol' wallet.

Do we want to pay for something less than the best we can get? The time is apparently approaching when this University's stated policy will be to hire and retain full-time researchers who also happen to be part-time teachers. How good a teacher? That won't really matter, because they're pulling in that grant money and doing that frontier, front-line, ahead-of-the-art research.

What is the purpose of this University, anyway? To do research, or to educate the people that come here and pay money to better themselves?

The head of the math department has been quoted thusly: "Texas A&M is a university, not a teacher's college."

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a "university" as: "An institution for higher learning with teaching and research facilities comprising a graduate school and professional schools that award master's degrees and doctorates and an undergraduate

division that awards bachelor's degrees. The word "research" is mentioned only once, you'll notice. The rest of the title is on learning, and rewards learning.

The same dictionary defines a "college" as one with "a special curriculum for training teachers."

Somebody's blowing smoke in the No less respected a personage as Rod O'Connor told The Battalion in the past eight years that I've been in the College of Science I can see the teaching and time spent with students.

The problem, however, is not the College of Science. It's spread out the University, the feeling that a of Mumbo-Jumbo degree on the whole than being able to make that jumbo understandable to students.

Student Body President Ken has already targeted academics as one of the major areas of emphasis for the coming year, along with making sure that the voice of the student body is heard.

When you come back in the fall, go to the Student Center, the Office on the second floor of the Student Center and tell somebody up there that you care enough to stand up and be counted. Kathy Bartholomew is the senate's vice president for academic affairs. Talk to her, talk to your living area and your academic college senators. They won't settle for a second education.

Texas A&M is one of the best universities in the nation, one where people do something. Let's keep it that way.

It's your turn

Imitation 'preppies' are irritating

Editor:

This letter is in protest to the current "preppy" contest in a local store and to the "preppy" fad plaguing Texas A&M.

1. The corruption of the word "preppy". A native Yankee, I transferred from St. Lawrence University last June. Previously I had rarely heard the term "preppy". "Prep" was an adjective describing a prestigious, private, Northeastern secondary school, i.e. Deerfield, Exeter.

2. "Preppy" and "Prep" are not synonymous. Not soon after I arrived at Texas A&M I was tagged an "S.B." for wearing an old Lacoste shirt. I was shocked to learn its meaning and implications. Being Greek does not imply "preppiness" and vice versa.

3. Clothes do not make a "prep". The "preppies" you try so hard to imitate are a breed of well-established families. They are secure and not subject to fad fashion. Practical and conservative has been "in" for years. They do not buy new Dockside for campus since they were intended for one reason — sailing. Starched Polo shirts are also nouveau riche — very "unpreppy".

4. "Preppy" as a way of life. Many are born into this and it cannot be imitated correctly. You can't want to be called "Skippy," you just acquire it as a childhood nickname. You also do not wake up and say "I think I'll dress 'preppy' today". If you have to try to be "preppy" — you aren't. It is not an affected (assumed or simulated to impress others) style.

So far, I have met only one true "preppy" student at A&M — a Lawrenceville grad. He has no qualms about who he is and doesn't imitate anyone but himself.

I believe many people here have an identity crisis and feel they project a certain image just by dressing in the latest "pre-

ppy" style. Don't worry, we can spot you pseudo-preps a mile away.

This "preppy" fad and contest are as bogus as an Urban cowboy on Nantucket claiming he's been a cowboy all of his life.

One question — how many of you would get irate upon meeting a Brooklynite sporting a disco-roude suit and speaking in a very continued Texas accent? Just thinking about it.

Elizabeth G. Lochte

Review gives plot away

Editor:

Here is a word of advice to anyone planning on seeing "Friday the 13th — Part II": if it isn't already too late, do not read Scot Meyer's review of the movie unless you plan on missing the first 30 minutes. I am referring to the review which appeared in the April 7th Focus supplement to The Battalion.

Nothing is more irritating than having a suspenseful scene of a horror movie revealed by someone who has already had the pleasure (or the displeasure) of viewing it. I was anxiously looking forward to experiencing the second part of "Friday the 13th." Then I read Meyer's review while innocently browsing through Thursday's Focus. Now, the first scene of the movie, which sounded great on paper, is ruined in my

eyes. After reading the review, I know exact actions which take place in the scene, the first murdered victim, and what the approximate time intervals at which subsequent murders will occur.

Perhaps I am "sick in the head" enjoying horror movies, or maybe I am able because of upcoming finals, but I think this is a maddening problem. In the future, please try to refrain from blabbing about the explicit details of movie plots. It is a change to reviewing the classics which is already common knowledge.

Tricia Bernier

Correction

Two errors were made in an article in the May 7 issue of The Battalion about the International Women's Conference to be held at Texas A&M University June 8 and 9.

The four women who are going to the conference were referred to as "diplomats." They are not official diplomats.

Several organizations were listed in the article as helping with the conference: Women's Studies Association of the Southwest, American Association of University Women, Undergraduate Women's Association at Texas A&M and the Texas A&M Women's Network are not yet formally connected with the conference in any way.

The Battalion regrets the errors.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



THE BATTALION

USPS 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.

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

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