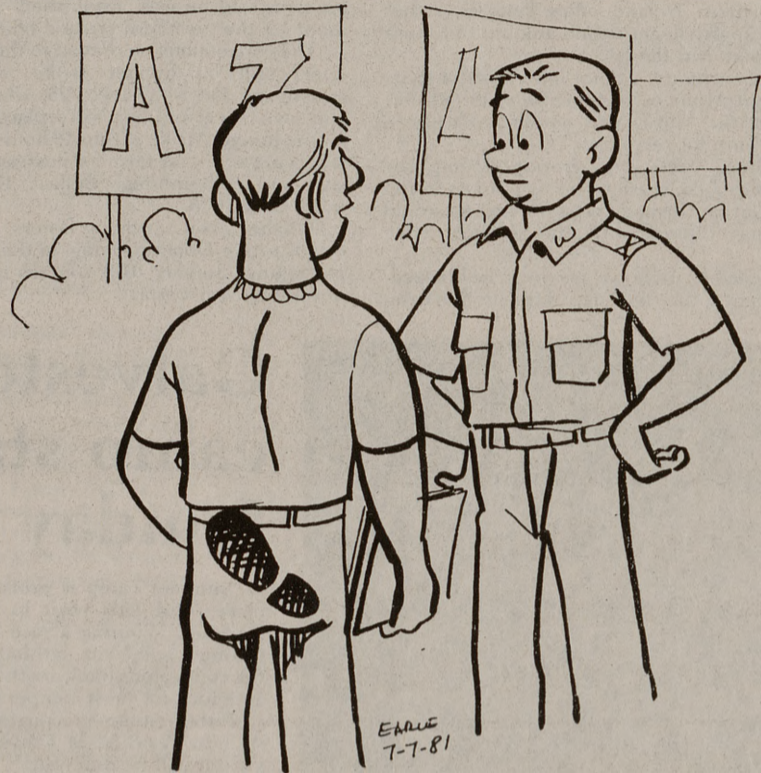


## Slouch By Jim Earle



"One thing that impressed me about registration this time was how they kept the line moving."

## Is time-and-a-half after 10 rounds next?

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Now that baseball players are on strike, many Americans are wondering where labor unrest will break out next.

A definitive answer is hard to come by, but any day now you may be picking up a newspaper and reading dispatchs such as these:

LONDON — Professional boxers under contract to the All-English Lawn Pugilism and Quoits Club went on strike today to press a long string of grievances against matchmakers.

Sir Reginald Tiddlehood, legal adviser and chief negotiator for the boxers, said the chief issue was the union's demand for an end to arbitrary weight classifications.

Most promoters, Tiddlehood said, refuse to book matches between heavyweights and fighters weighing less than 13 stone.

"This stricture discriminates against larger boxers by depriving them of opportunities to compete for purses in, say, the middleweight division," he pointed out.

"We want open boxing matches in which titleholders take on all comers, regardless of size."

Matchmakers oppose the change on grounds it would enable a few heavyweights to dominate the sport and force many smaller boxers to quit the ring and go into politics.

Also ranking high on the union's list of demands is a proposed change in the Mar-

quis of Queensberry rules providing for three-minute rounds with one-minute rest periods.

"We want to change the format to one-minute rounds with three-minute rest periods," Tiddlehood said. "Our studies indicate this would prolong the career of the average boxer by 6.2 years."

Another demand, thus far rejected by matchmakers, would extend the 10-second count by referees before a knockout is recorded.

"We feel boxers should be given a more time to recover from a knockdown," Tiddlehood said. "Two hours seems about right, but we are always willing to compromise."

WASHINGTON — All 100 members of the U.S. Senate went on strike today following their fifth refusal in as many years to vote themselves a pay raise.

The vote that precipitated the walkout was a 79-21 rejection of a House-passed bill that would have raised the base pay of members of Congress by 6.2 percent.

Picket lines were set up outside the main entrance to the Senate chamber and at the doors of the major standing committees.

"Senators have been without a pay raise longer than any other major deliberative body in the world," said Sen. Hubert Goodfringe, chairman of the Fraternal Order of Solons, Lawgivers and Filibusterers.

"It is now apparent that the only way we can ever work up enough nerve to raise our own pay is to force ourselves to do it by going on strike against ourselves."

## Reagan foreign policy nebulous

By HELEN THOMAS  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — In his first six months in office, President Reagan has defined the direction of his domestic policy, bringing with him views he has held since he changed his politics from Democrat to Republican.

But his foreign policy remains nebulous in the eyes of many observers and Reagan is touchy about the criticism.

At a political dinner in honor of Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson earlier in the week, Reagan said the press has been "overly concerned because I haven't made a 'major foreign policy address.'"

"Their automatic assumption," he said, "is that until I do, we don't have a foreign policy."

In defense of his conduct of foreign affairs, Reagan said he did not believe it is necessary to spell out in detail and in advance a formula that will guide his every move in international relations.

"Basically good foreign policy is the use of good common sense in dealing with friends and potential adversaries," he said. "We know where we're going and think it might be counterproductive to make a speech about it."

But aside from a buildup in the military establishment and his anti-communist thrust, Reagan appears to be playing it by ear, and with luck.

In the Middle East, like so many of his predecessors, he dispatched a troubleshooter to help put out a fire in Lebanon. And veteran diplomat Philip Habib managed to dampen some tensions with shuttle diplomacy. But clearly it is a Band-Aid, and has no relation to a permanent solution for peace in the Middle East.

In the beginning, the administration waffled on whether it would support the Camp David accords initiated by President Jimmy Carter. But for lack of its own concrete remedies for that tinderbox region, Reagan has embraced a continuation of the process.

In Africa, the administration has alienated the front line countries which had become more friendly to the United States. The African leaders no longer are convinced that the United States will continue to support majority rule in view of the closer ties Reagan is establishing with South Africa.

During a recent trip to Asia, Secretary of State Alexander Haig seemed to be tearing a page out of the '60s and '70s in terms of Pacific power and Vietnam.

In Europe, Reagan has established a more forceful image and he gets along fine with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, but attempts to lecture Francois Mitterand after the socialist French president took four communists

into the government hardly sat well at the Elysee Palace.

There are tests ahead in the near future. Reagan will attend his first major international meeting with the heads of Western industrialized nations in a month in Ottawa. It will be the first face meeting between Reagan and the West and the spotlight will be on him.

As for the East-West tensions, doubts that Reagan has taken a stance against the Russians, a rhetoric reminiscent of the Cold War as personified by John Foster Dulles, the age of coexistence was ushered in by Dwight Eisenhower and Nikita Khrushchev.

Moreover, Reagan is still plagued by friction within his own ranks. White House seems to have been given free rein by the State Department, there is a coordination with White House and State.

Reagan gets his daily morning briefing from national and international affairs adviser Richard Allen, who has been rising recently. The president relies on White House counsel, Robert Meese to guide foreign policy, although past experience has been in the enforcement field.

And until Reagan himself shows interest in top of foreign policy, American foreigners will remain confused on the subject.



## Wisdom from high school graduation

By PATRICIA McCORMACK  
United Press International

Pelted by words from the brightest of their lot, 3.1 million in the nation's high school class of 1981 made it to the "real world" in recent weeks.

Floral and musical touches helped them emerge to "face the unknown."

So did a certain amount of devilry. Smoke bombs, on occasion.

A reading of selected speeches delivered in gymnasiums, auditoriums, and on athletic fields showed the most popular valedictorian theme was the move to the "real world."

Next: looking back while looking ahead. A lot of quoting. The Bible, presidents, parents, poets.

Among the latter, William Shakespeare rated hit status. His "to thine own self be true" — a natural nugget for seniors breaking out — fell on lots of ears.

Right behind in popularity were some of Robert Frost's words worked into more than a few speeches.

Some speakers preferred homemade poetry.

Anne Frechette, 18, of Lake Region Union High School in Orleans, Vt., modeled hers on "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Excerpts:

"Twas the night before graduation and all thru the school,

The seniors are cheering, no more of the rules."

At other high school graduation scenes old familiar lines — most likely uttered over the decades and due to be uttered for decades to come — struck these notes:

— Importance of education cannot be overstated.

— Now is our chance to improve the great work of mankind.

— Education serves the user for the rest of his life.

— Education is the cornerstone of life.

— Today marks the end of one chapter in our lives and the beginning of a new one.

— It is not for us to say "goodbye" but rather to say hello. "Hello, World!"

— In parting I'll say two small

Thank you.

And just to keep teachers, school makers of school supplies, builders of schools and all else who live off education, their place, there were words from Holzman at Wilson High, Long Beach, Calif.

"Why is attending school important?"

"The simple truth is, it may not be a guarantee of anything, but school, just school, is useless."

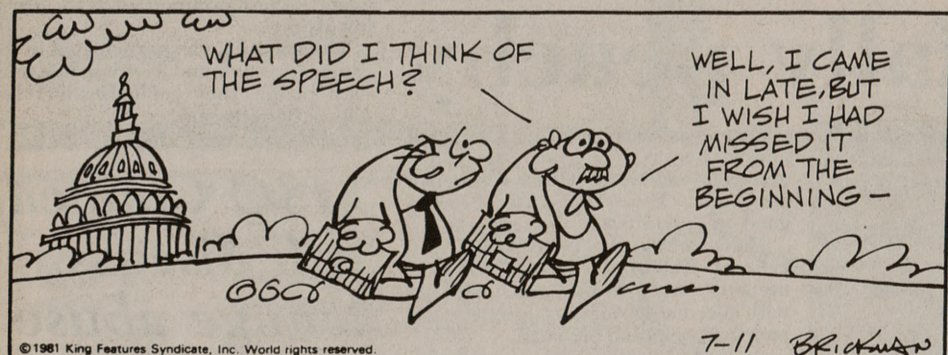
"Without the addition of inquisitive minds, education is nothing."

The writer is at a loss to explain the meaning of this commencement "education remains forever."

Like death and taxes?

### the small society

by Brickman



### Warped



By Scott McCullar

### THE BATTALION

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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 too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, but will make every effort to maintain the intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the name and phone number of the writer.

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

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