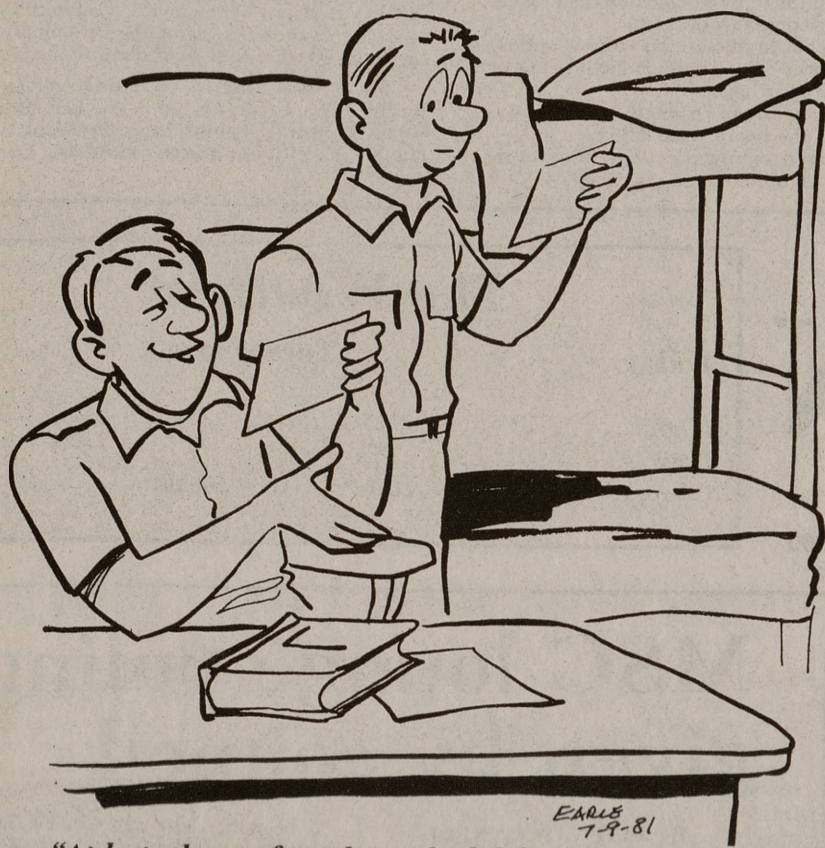


## Slouch By Jim Earle



EARLE 7-9-81

"At last, the perfect class schedule! No morning classes, no afternoon classes and no Friday classes! How long will it take me to graduate if I take only one hour per semester?"

## All is not merry in old England

By DAVID S. BRODER

LONDON — Not only is there a royal wedding in the offing, with all the anticipatory paint-up and spruce-up activity, but the sun shone for four days running on the Wimbledon windup, the Henley Regatta and the cricket test match between England and Australia at Lords.

But appearances are deceiving. The bright sun, fresh paint and high spirits cloak a grim economic situation and a strained, tense political passage. Unemployment reached its postwar high last month and is climbing toward the 3 million mark—a rate of joblessness 50 percent higher than that in the United States. The inflation rate, success, is nudging upwards again—as are local levies and consumer taxes.

The cutbacks in social-program spending, which so far have been felt mainly by the poor, are beginning to hit the middle class as well. The government announced last week it would eliminate scholarships for 12,000 university students, thereby jeopardizing some 3,000 teaching jobs in the next three years.

All this is souring the mood among the Conservatives, and there are increasingly harsh and public complaints that Thatcher's "doctrinaire" monetarist policies are paving the path to political repudiation. Former Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath told a conference of British business leaders last week that his successor's "incomprehensible policies" were not only hurting the economy but breeding bitter social unrest.

"Of course if you have half a million young people hanging around on the streets all day, you will have a major increase in juvenile crime," Heath said. "It is inevitable."

There are widespread predictions of a cabinet shuffle this summer or fall, with Sir Geoffrey Howe leaving the chancellor of the exchequer post where he has been defending Thatcher's economies. But there is no sign the change of personnel would signal a change of policy.

Meantime, the fragmented opposition is preoccupied with its own problems. Labor is facing a late September showdown battle for the deputy leadership between its left-wing ideological leader, Tony Benn, and his right-wing antagonist, Denis Healey. The tide in Labor is to the left, but Benn (who has worked himself into a nervous disorder that is, at least temporarily, confining him to his home) is so prickly a figure that he may not prevail.

But even Healey concedes that a victory this fall would be but the first step in a long and painful effort to uproot far-left control of the constituency Labor parties, which are more impoverished and politically impotent than they have been for years.

The drama that has caught the press and public imagination the effort of a new center coalition to be born. The Social Democratic Party launched in March by four ex-Labor ministers disgusted by leftist domination of their old party, and supported now by 14 members of Parliament, is attempting to work out a political deal with the Liberal Party, which has been struggling to represent moderate opinion.

Roy Jenkins, the former deputy leader of the Labor Party, is standing for the SDP with Liberal endorsement in the first by-election later this month. But it is being fought in Warrington, a Labor stronghold, where he is given little chance of winning.

The SDP—whose leaders also include former Labor Foreign Secretary David Owen—and the Liberals represent a source of capable, moderate leadership. Their shared belief in a constitutional change to proportional representation in Parliament is supported by many outside their ranks, as a practical step to reduce the polarization of British politics and facilitate more moderate economic and social policies.

But that is a distant hope. So for now, the British are taking what consolation they can find in the weather—and, of course, the wedding.

## O'Connor: perfect nominee?

By STEVE GERSTEL  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — In naming Sandra O'Connor to the Supreme Court, President Reagan displayed a remarkable political adroitness.

So perfect was the selection, that, literally within hours of the appointment, O'Connor was assured confirmation by the Senate.

The possibility of a hitch exists, as it always does in the nomination of a person to a lifetime seat on the nation's highest court.

The routine FBI check is not completed. The American Bar Association still has to ready its recommendations. And the Senate Judiciary Committee must hold hearings.

But unless something totally unforeseen develops, O'Connor will move into that all-male bastion when the Supreme Court convenes on the first Monday in October, fortified by an overwhelming vote of approval by the Senate.

More than a week after Reagan announced his choice, no voice in the Senate has been raised against O'Connor and many have strongly endorsed her.

How did Reagan hit on a nominee so politically perfect as his first nomination for the court—a "hard-line" conservative that

had some liberal Democrats in rhapsody. One ingredient, undoubtedly, is that Reagan finally broke the barrier that has denied a woman a seat on the Supreme Court since its inception.

In doing so, Reagan redeemed a major campaign promise in which he said that "one of the first" nominations to the court would be a woman. He named one the first opportunity he had.

To those voters sensitive to sex discrimination, the appointment must be a milestone. Many presidents have been active in support of equal opportunity for women—only Reagan has named one to the Supreme Court.

That, in itself, was certain to help still opposition and, actually, drew high praise from liberal Democrats such as Edward Kennedy and Howard Metzenbaum.

And male senators, no matter how dedicated to equality among the sexes, just are not capable at a hearing of roughing up a woman as they are a man.

The second major ingredient is that Reagan managed to so badly isolate the fringe right, that the Moral Majority and its fellow travelers became nonfactors in the confirmation proceedings.

There was the usual weeping and wailing, the outraged cries of double-cross and

the threats of political revenge. Fringe right, O'Connor just was perfect on abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Yet, despite the vaunted politics of Moral Majority and the outrage that has not seeped into the chamber.

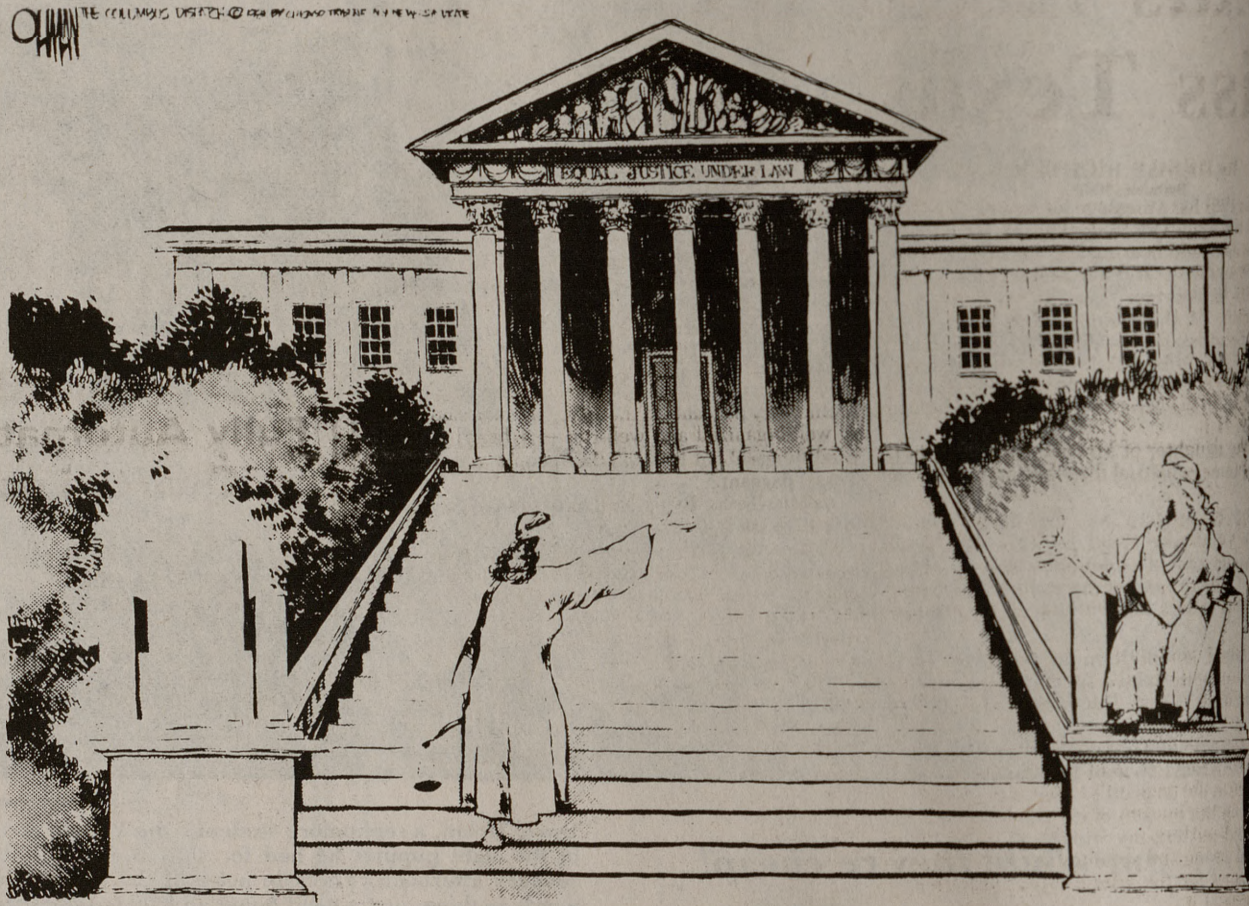
No one senator—not Helms, not East, not Hatch—has the refrain. Some are holding back for the hearings to decide, but they yet said they would vote against the judge.

And others, good solid conservatives like Alan Simpson of Wyoming, have of their way to attack the concept "one issue" litmus test.

There is some speculation that realizing that O'Connor would not fire for her public abortion stands, frustrated the muted response from conservatives.

And if he did enlist help, he found an eager volunteer in salty old Barry Goldwater of Arizona.

Goldwater held a news conference made two speeches extolling O'Connor, in the process, said, "Every Christian should kick Falwell right in the ass."



It's your turn

## Ask the people not the "experts"

Editor:

I noticed with surprise the short article in The Battalion of July 1, where the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the United States Steel Foundation lauded the innovative use of movable wall dividers in the new married student apartments. Although I have never lived in these apartments, I have talked with people who have, and found no one who actually liked them. If a light is on in one room, it is on in the whole apartment, due to the large open spaces at the top of the dividers. If a radio is on in one room, it is on in the whole apartment, so don't think you can go to another room to study. Presently, these apartments are half full, and that is mainly due to lack of vacancies in other apartments. I can't see how that saves money.

All told, it looks like another case of the

"experts" congratulating their colleagues for something they themselves never use. When will the people be involved in the evaluation process?

Guy Hallman  
301 Ball #1093

### Cartoonist not loved

Editor:

Doug what's-his-name from a year or so ago was bad enough, and I know that most of us who ritualistically skim The Battalion were relieved when he finally graduated, thus ending daily doses of the continuing adventures of that stupid dinosaur, but this new guy is just too much. Not only has the lower left-hand corner of page two become known

as a constant source of irritation, it also become somewhat of an embarrassment. Simply by the laws of probability, in a group of 30,000 people, there could be at least one who knows the correct way to hold a newspaper. In other words, does Scott McCullar know how you people manage to do such a high degree of mediocrity in a work from year to year, but it is a difficult task. Granted Mr. McCullar probably a very talented person, but unfortunately none respects includes a talent for drawing. Therefore, it might be beneficial to the newspaper and its readers to either fire him with one less comic strip or to have one who might be able to do a better job. C. Galt

### THE BATTALION

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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 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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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.

### Warped

WE MUST EXPLORE, WE HAVE A DESTINY, A QUEST, TO SEARCH THE VAST UNKNOWN, TO CROSS IT, FOR KNOWLEDGE AND PROFIT SAKE. IT WILL TAKE MONEY, TO GO AND RETURN, IN GOOD SHIPS WITH MEN OF COURAGE, TO ENTER AND CROSS THE VOID.

THERE WILL BE ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF TIME INVOLVED IN TRAVEL, THERE IS THE FEAR OF LEAVING OUR SAFE HOMES AND ENTERING THAT DARK BODY OF THE UNKNOWN, WITH ITS GREAT EMPTINESS AND STRANGE FORMS OF LIFE.

WE MUST OVERCOME THE ELEMENTS, AND DEPEND ON THE SHIPS WE RIDE IN AND THE SUPPLIES WE CARRY WITH US TO LIVE. WE ARE DRIVEN, BY CHALLENGE, GREED, ADVENTURE AND PATRIOTISM. TO BE HUMAN, WE MUST FACE AND CONQUER THE FINAL FRONTIER.

THE FACE OF WHICH REALLY CHANGES. SIGNED:

Christopher Columbus

By Scott McCullar