By Jim Earle Slouch "These Pass/Fail courses are good, but what we really need

Economy dictates killing not curing

By BRIAN SILOCK

are Pass/Pass courses!"

LONDON - A recent outbreak of footand-mouth disease among livestock here in Britain has revived a perennial debate over whether the sick animals ought to be cured

Strange as it may seem, the odds favor slaughter, for a couple of economic reasons. It is cheaper than vaccination. And it keeps open several foreign export markets, not-able the United States, which bar the entry of vaccinated cattle.

The outbreak this spring was minor, affecting as it did only a single farm on the Isle of Wight, off Britain's south coast. But it sufficed to raise the question again of whether the British approach to the animal illness is correct.

Farmers here still recall the foot-andmouth epidemic of 13 years ago, when half-million head of infected cattle had to be slaughtered. The government, which provided insurance for such calamities, then paid out some \$50 million in compensation.

But despite the compensation, farmers suffered economic losses — not to mention the huge inconveniences caused by an epidemic that, through preventive m

could have been avoided.

There are 13 million cows, 30 million sheep and 8 million pigs in Britain, all of vulnerable to foot-and-mouth disease, which affects animals with cloven

Scientists, who have studied the sickness intensively since the last big outbreak, generally agree that it spreads through the air, with virus particles blown by winds across the English Channel from continental

The virus particles carry over surprisingly long distances. It is virtually certain, for example, that the few animals recently infected on the Isle of Wight owed their illnes to pigs that exhaled the virus in the French region of Brittany, 150 miles away.

Research has led to the development of a computerized early-warning system, which combines weather data with initial details on the location of the disease to print out the danger of infection on a contour map. Thus control teams can rush to isolate the relevant sites.

In the case of the small incident on the Isle of Wight this spring, scientists armed with information on winds, humidity and other metereological factors were able to forecast the exact time and place of the problem.

This capacity has reinforced the argument of those who contend that it is less expensive to fight the disease than to avert it through vaccination. It is estimated, for instance, that protecting livestock since the 1968 epidemic would have cost roughly \$800 million — or 16 times the expense of slaughter compensation paid after that out-

On the other hand, partisans of vaccination assert that the success of containing the disease on the Isle of Wight this spring was not a real test, since the outbreak was

Epidemics of foot-and-mouth disease were devasting in France a generation ago. But they have virtually been eliminated since vaccination was enforced. But the French experience has not swayed authorities here.

The British Ministry of Agriculture maintains an emergency procedure that sound like a leftover plan to sop a World War II invasion by the Nazis.

At the first confirmation of trouble, the government issues a standstill alert covering a 15-mile radius of the outbreak. Within this area, all markets are closed and no livestock may move, except to slaughter

Comic strip: love it or don't read

Editor:

In reference to C. Gauldin's letter in Tuesday's Battalion, all I can say to Mr. Gauldin is "If you don't like the comic stip, don't read it." I am tired of hearing people putting down something which displeases them when they have control over what they wish to and do not wish to read.

I also did not appreciate in the least his lumping together of Doug "what's-hisname" (his name was Graham, by the way) and Scott McCullar, the present cartoonist. Just how does he know that "most of us ... were relieved when he graduated, thus endthe continuing adventures of that stupid dinosaur"? Does he know most of the 30,000 plus students here? Maybe he means most of the humorless people he associates with, but I seriously doubt that

he will find "most of us" really disliked "Thotz" (that was the name of the dinosaur strip). At least I never heard of or read any criticism regarding that particualr strip. While it may be true that Scott doesn't illustrate his characters with convincing reality, Doug went beyond realism and drew humanoid dinosaurs - college dinosaurs, no less! I call that creativity.

I would suggest that Mr. Gauldin skim the comic sections of the Post and Chronicle, etc. and see how many characters are portrayed realistically. If people want realistically drawn characters, they should read the comic "soaps" in those papers. If someone thinks they can do better than either Doug or Scott, they should talk to the editor about it and try to convince her how much better he or she is. For now, however, I repeat my opening statement,

"If you don't like the comic street read it."

Cartoonist defender

A comment for C. Gauldin, We SEAFOOD! BU NEN! I cannor improvem such ciriteism of a good cartoonist your cartooning and humorist better. In that case, why not free A of your finer gems to The Battle A

One pertinent question, though do you hold your pencil?

Blanding a fish that Gradualted 5,000 peo 204 Highe as a food sou

north-south dialogue on the que "Tilapia has how much help the industrialized public, an can provide the poor nations. Perduction co underdeveloped countries is notal uencing factor It would be aimed at building news for the Western trading countri Reagan has had several meeti

heads of state since he was inaugura he had not participated in an inter gathering where the United States on an equal footing with its allies. Major foreign policy trends also

pected to be discussed during theth meeting, with the U.S. hard lines some concern with the European who still see merit in detente

Much of the spotlight also wil Reagan's first meeting with Mitte socialist who is already moving nationalization of some indust France, which is the antithesis oft dent's political and economic phil

Reagan on the spot at summ By HELEN THOMAS WASHINGTON — President Reagan faces his first big test in international diplomacy

this weekend when he attends the Economic Summit in Ottawa, and he may be put

on the defensive. That is not an unusual stance for the United States, whose allies look to it for leadership and at the same time resent it.

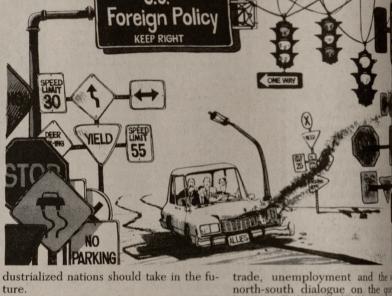
But in this case, Reagan's monetary policies may come under attack from such European leaders as French President Francois Mitterand and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Both men say high interest rates in the United States are putting the squeeze on their economies.

Mitterand and Schmidt say that Western European investors' money is gravitating to the U.S. dollar because of the 20.5 percent interest rates.

But Reagan, who is not the contentious type, apparently will insist that his policies are necessary to reduce inflation. He will also note that in several of the past summits the European leaders, not all the same cast in the seven-nation conclave, have chided the United States for not taking stronger measures to dampen inflation. He will also argue that all will benefit if his policies

Usually such summit meetings are well prepared in advance, from the agenda to at least a tentative written communique are on the table when the conference begins. This is also true of the summit to be held at Chateau Montello, the world's largest log hotel resort, in the Laurentian Hills 40 miles from Ottawa.

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau has met personally with nearly every one of the participants to achieve a harmonious and amicable gathering. And in on the economy during the six months he advance, the summit is being billed more as a "get acquainted" conclave with four new hold his own in such discussions. leaders on the scene for the first time, rather than a meeting that will produce a bouillet in 1975, the same problems have



Trudeau had hoped the summit would focus on the aid rich nations should provide the developing nations. But that subject will be the main purpose of a later summit of some 23 nations in Cancun, Mexico, in mid-October Aides said that Reagan will tell the sum-

mit that interest rates will go down when the inflation rate is lowered and that some American industries such as housing and automobiles have also taken the brunt of And Reagan has spent several days cram-

ming for the summit, which he says is his style of studying, dating back to his school days. Actually, he has been concentrating has been in office, so he should be able to

Since the first summit meeting at Rammajor agreement on the direction the in- faced the participatnts: inflation, energy,

> year in the United States - local, national. Each, like Little League

with anxious parents cheering on the

champ or jeering judges and on

Championships took place last A

Seattle, Wash. Outstanding batons

(that's what they're called) compet

resented Germany, France, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy,

- The first World Baton

when Joey or Janie loses.

private lessons. For twirlers within families with bare pocketbooks, group lessons cost Crum said American twirling teachers,

considered best worldwide, also cater to students from Europe and Japan. And

Batons used in competition cost around \$9 and are made of golf club metal and rubber. Fancy ones — spewing flame at both ends, illuminated or festooned with

schools for 15 years, dropped that to make his living as executive director of the association when twirling exploded.

- Some 500 competitions are held each

Scotland, Japan and the United Sta 1981 world baton event takes plan 21-26 in Nice, France. — Twirling, like drum and bug draws all kinds of sponsors. In Japan it's offered as a regular course, the

back the activity. Across America, ses, Police Athletic Leagues and tions catering to youths stand behis ing squads. Tennis nuts get tennis elbow

who scrub their floors too housemaid's knee, and baseball sometimes get a torn rotator cuf-So what do twirlers get -

bump on the noggin if they miss! baton ascends very rapidly from high toss?

Good health, says Dr. Gabe sports medicine expert and author Sportsmedicine Book.

"Baton twirling is an excelled train your heart," says Mirkin. "In pump blood to the arms, the let work twice as hard. This guaran baton twirling, when done pushes your heart to the required heart training: 120 beats a minute

Baton twirling requires the of evey muscle in your body to the of music — increasing your coor

Crum said advanced twirlers from three to six hours a day. Man accomplished dancers and gymna twirling maneuvers use the same ciplines.

USPS 045 360 MEMBER

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THE BATTALION

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and phone number of the writer.
Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters.
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Texas leads boom in baton battles Schools such as the University of Michi-

By PATRICIA McCORMACK

Why is the local neighborhood baton twirler practicing dawn to dusk these days? In all kinds of sweltering weather?

The twirler might be one of more than a million American youths competing with batons these days - shaping up for 23rd annual U.S. Open Baton Twirling championships at the Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Aug. 3-9.
Practice likely will reach the most fe-

vered pitch in Texas, Ohio, Indiana, California, New York and Tennessee — states said to lead the boom in baton battles.

claims reached boom status a few years

Twirling is full of fun and fitness, leads to travel and can even mean a college scholarship," he said.

Crum, executive director of the U.S.

If not headed for Indianapolis, that champ on the block may be getting ready for a local or regional baton competition, a large part of the twirling scene Jack Crum

Twirling Association in Syracuse, Ind., said there are many college "twirling" scholar-

gan, for example, use scholarships to attract baton artists extraordinaire to lead marching bands and dazzle halftime audiences. Good twirling teachers, as a result, command champagne prices — \$45 an hour for

there's some shuttling among coaches. "Ohio coaches go to California to give private and group lessons," he said.

streamers — are barred. Crum, who taught twirling in Indiana

Consider:

By Scott McCullar

Warped

