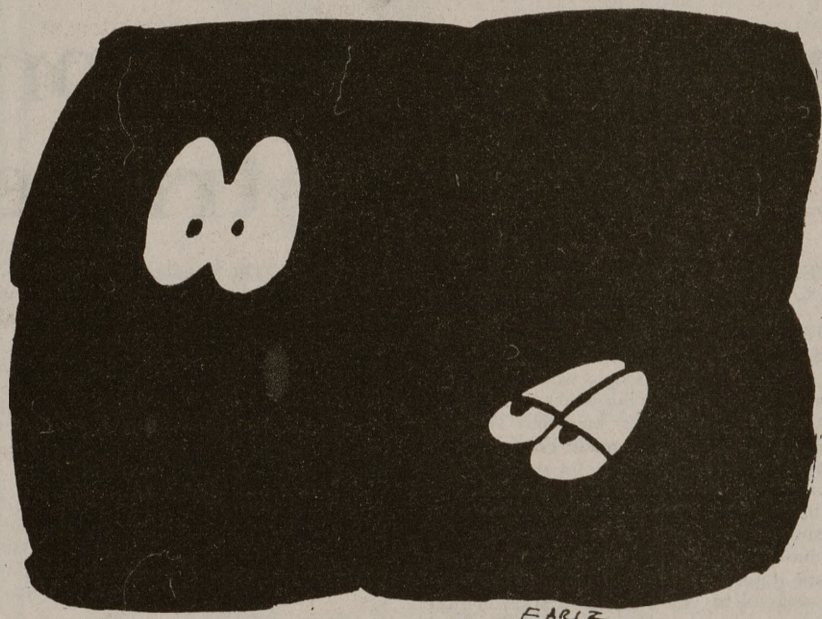


## Slouch By Jim Earle



"I've got it! I change my Chemistry lab to Tuesday, drop History, change my Math course, and get out of the corps, I can have Friday afternoons free!"

## Californians have all the political fun

By DAVID S. BRODER

LOS ANGELES — Lucky California gets all the breaks. It has the President of the United States and Ed Meese. It has the Dodgers and Fernando Valenzuela. It has more Medflies and more congressmen than any other state. As if that were not enough, it has shaping up what may well be the two most intriguing political races of 1982 in its Senate and gubernatorial contests.

The Senate seat belongs to everyone's favorite semanticist, Sen. S. I. Hayakawa (R). He is acting like a candidate for reelection at age 75. But he lags in all the polls. So there is a widespread suspicion that one day soon, the Republican moneybags will either prevail on their friend, President Reagan, to arrange a nice appointment for Hayakawa or, if necessary, pressure him out of the race.

For the aspirant on the other side is two-term Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown, Jr. (D) who has been a pain for the businessmen to put up with in Sacramento and would not add to their gaiety if he joined Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) in an all-Democratic Senate delegation.

Brown is suffering a post-Medfly depression in the polls, but he is still well out in front of two possible challengers for the nomination, former Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy of San Francisco and the young mayor of Fresno, Dan Whitehurst.

Hayakawa's evident weakness has drawn three younger Republican challengers, any one of whom, the current polls say, could defeat the Medfly-bitten Brown. From right to left (the proper order for Republicans) they are Rep. Barry M. Goldwater, Jr., of Los Angeles, San Diego Mayor Pete Wilson, and Rep. Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey, Jr., of Portola Valley.

Goldwater has been the favorite in the race. The notion of creating a father-son team of Senators Goldwater has obvious appeal to a conservative Republican electorate, but young Goldwater has not overcome the skepticism of some of the money men who worry whether he is nimble enough to handle the artful dodger, Brown.

Goldwater's possible vulnerability lured Wilson last week from the governor's race (which he tried unsuccessfully in 1978) to the Senate contest. He has been a highly capable, creative mayor in San Diego. But he suffers from his moderateness, and from a peculiar conceit on the part of other Californians that civilization stops just south of Disneyland and that anyone who claims to

be from San Deigo is probably a spaceman. McCloskey is (dare one say it?) a progressive Republican — and a cocky ex-Marine to boot. Not only was he conspicuously slow to recognize the potential virtues of a Reagan presidency, he was far too early in his repudiation of that other California President, Richard Nixon — campaigning quixotically against his renomination in 1972 when that was distinctly unfashionable.

Maureen Reagan, the President's daughter, is also sort of in the Senate race, but her candidacy has drawn little enthusiasm, especially in the White House. Matching Goldwater, Wilson or McCloskey against Brown would be a terrific contest. But however appealing, the Senate race is almost certain to be overshadowed by the gubernatorial battle.

The Republican nomination contest pits Lt. Gov. Mike Curb against Attorney General George Deukmajian. Curb was a highly successful Hollywood musician and record producer who has performed the essentially redundant office of lieutenant governor with a naivete that few of his predecessors ever achieved. He is to the lieutenant governorship what Alexander P. Throttlebottom was to the vice presidency.

For months, it looked as if the Republicans would reward both Curb and the Peter Principle by making him their gubernatorial nominee. But, of late, his margin over Deukmajian, a former assemblyman and skilled politician, has been diminishing. Last week, Curb went shopping for a new campaign manager, a signal he knows he is in a real race.

But the almost-certain Democratic nominee, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, is far enough ahead of either Curb or Deukmajian in the early polls to be considered the favorite to succeed Brown. Bradley has never run a statewide race and California has never elected a black to higher office than lieutenant governor.

But the one-time Los Angeles cop has a presence and force of character that have made him unbeatable in this city. The symbolism minorities and liberals find in his candidacy is matched by the assurance conservatives feel in the way he has handled the relatively few powers he enjoys under Los Angeles' weak-mayor system.

The notion that Reagan's home state could become the first since Reconstruction with a black governor is mind-boggling. But California, of course, is used to having everything.

## Reagan holding his ground

By HELEN THOMAS  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is standing firm on his decision to fire 11,400 air traffic controllers for going on strike in defiance of federal law. He refuses to have any further dealings with them or their union.

"As far as President Reagan is concerned, the strike is over and we're rebuilding the (air traffic control) system," said James Baker, the White House's chief of staff.

Baker said Reagan is satisfied he made the right decision in discharging the controllers and rejects complaints that he was out to bust their union, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization.

At a recent fund-raising reception in Orange County, Calif., Reagan — responding to the union-busting charge — noted that he had been a six-term president of the Screen Actor Guild.

Simultaneously in Washington, the federal government was proceeding with efforts to decertify PATCO on the grounds that it ordered the unlawful strike, on Aug. 3 after contract talks broke down.

From time to time, there has been speculation negotiations between PATCO and the government might be reopened. But each time the White House has been quick to deflate such talk, saying there is no way it would resume negotiations.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes has been questioned by reporters about the controllers situation in comparison with other recent events.

One reporter asked Speakes how Reagan could hail the Polish workers solidarity movement, which has included strikes, and at the same time fire the American traffic controllers.

He was also asked how Reagan could pardon two FBI officials convicted of felonies and yet offer no breaks for fired controllers.

Speakes declined comment on both counts.

But Baker explained Reagan is "concerned that the message might be lost on other unions" if he permitted the strikers to return to their jobs.

He also said that if it had not been for the strike, the government would not have

learned it had 6,000 more controllers needed. When the walkout began, there were 17,400 controllers.

As a result of the strike, commercial domestic air travel has been reduced by about 25 percent. Control towers are manned by about 10,000 persons — non-strikers, supervisory personnel and military controllers.

Baker said his own first-hand cockpit interviews with pilots when he was found agreement among those controls that the "skies are safe."

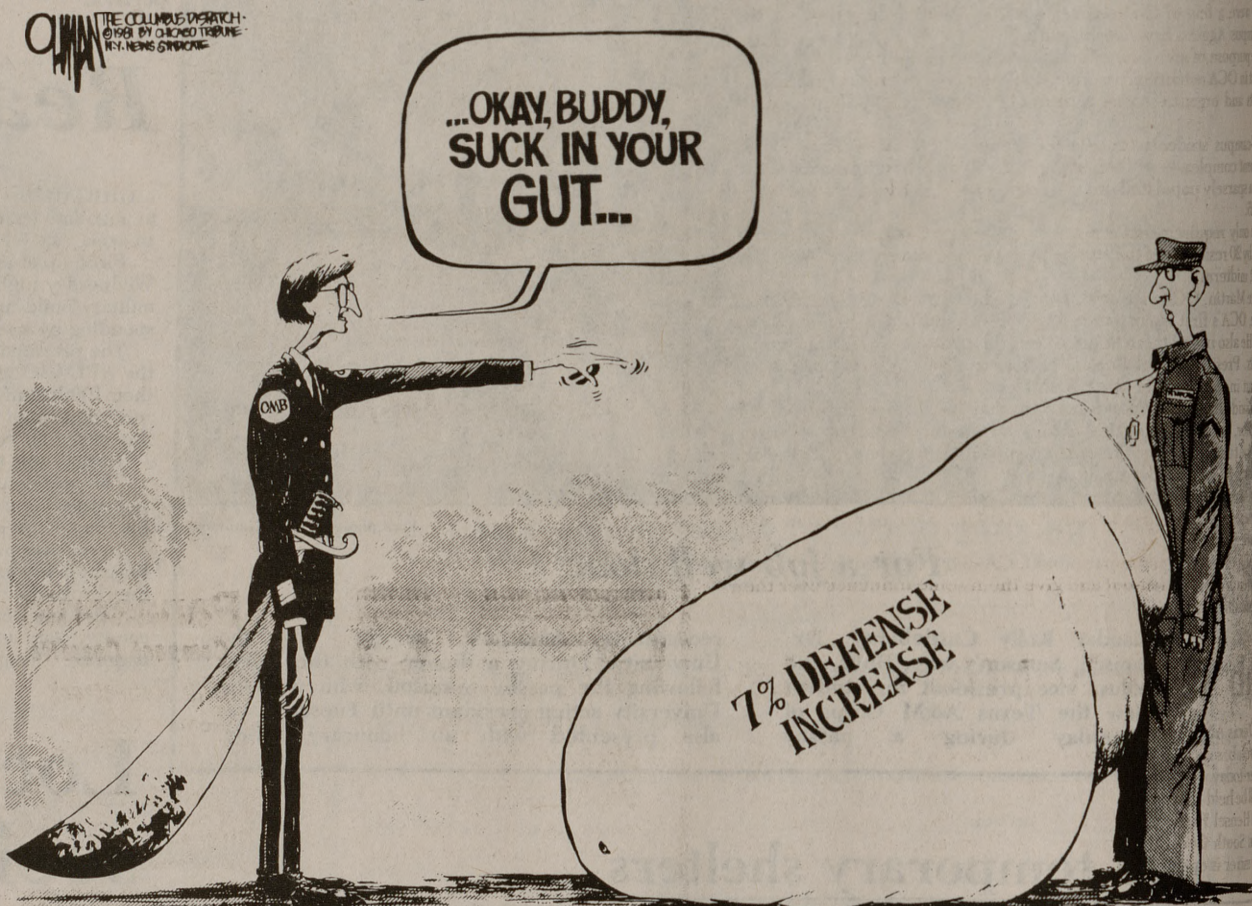
He also said pilots have shown a pathy for the controllers.

As to whether Reagan will ever get somewhere down the road, change of mind, Baker said before that happened more time would have to go by.

"He is extremely firm on this and he feels he has done the right thing."

He said that White House polls indicate the sentiment of the American people is 75 percent in favor of Reagan's position.

Other public polls show support for Reagan, but not to that extent and indicate that the public would like Reagan to start talking to the controllers again.



## It's your turn

## Amplified preachers draw criticism

**Editor:**  
Having attended Texas A&M University for two years now, I have come to know and revile a particular group of junior evangelists who, in the past, have been content to rail and rave their opinions on Christianity to whosoever happened to be within shouting distance of the fountain in front of Rudder Tower.

Now, unfortunately, these young people have joined the rest of us in the twentieth century by employing a public address system with which to beleaguer ears from as far away as the Coke Building.

It is too much!  
I detested their squeaky, pre-pubescent voices before and I am coming to despise them even more now that they're amplified. Yet, as much as I despise their voices, I find their preaching, railing and regaling even more lamentable.

What, I ask, makes them think I care to hear about their personal denominational beliefs? Why must I hasten past the fountain to escape their noise and noisome opinions?

Where? In what heathen country do they imagine themselves that they must be public missionaries?

How come I can't enjoy eating my meager fare by the fountain anymore? Hmm?

Believe it or not, I too am a Christian. Raised in a Christian home to respect the opinions of others and to keep my own primarily to myself. On the subject of religion, however, my disinterest in the opinions of others is second only to my distaste at having them thrust at me.

I realize that we live in a democracy which guarantees the right of the individual to speak his or her mind unmolested, but isn't it my right to not have to listen?

Since I must share this beautiful campus with these people, and, since they share their pious performances in front of me, M.S.C. from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., it means I have of exercising my right to listen are to either skip lunch or be off campus.

I don't feel this is fair to me or to those who may believe as I do that the presence of these people and their P.A. is obnoxious and I call upon University officials to remove them.

Is it unreasonable that the University evangelists be required to change their schedule or the location such that we can all enjoy and exercise our respective rights?

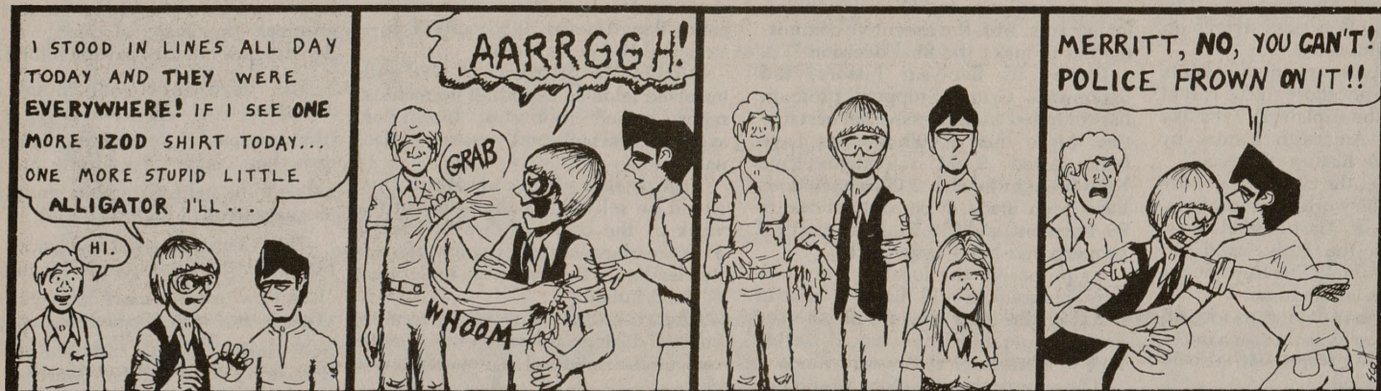
**Editor's note:** Nicoli is a graduate student assistant in the physics department.

### Corrections

In the story on recognition of Greeks (Section F, Aug. 31 Battalion) John Cox and Mark Sippel were incorrectly identified as members of Chi Omega. Cox and Sippel are members of Sigma Chi. The Battalion regrets the error.

## By Scott McCullar

### Warped



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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses within the Department of Communications.

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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. Editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, but will make every effort to maintain the original 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 Editor, Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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