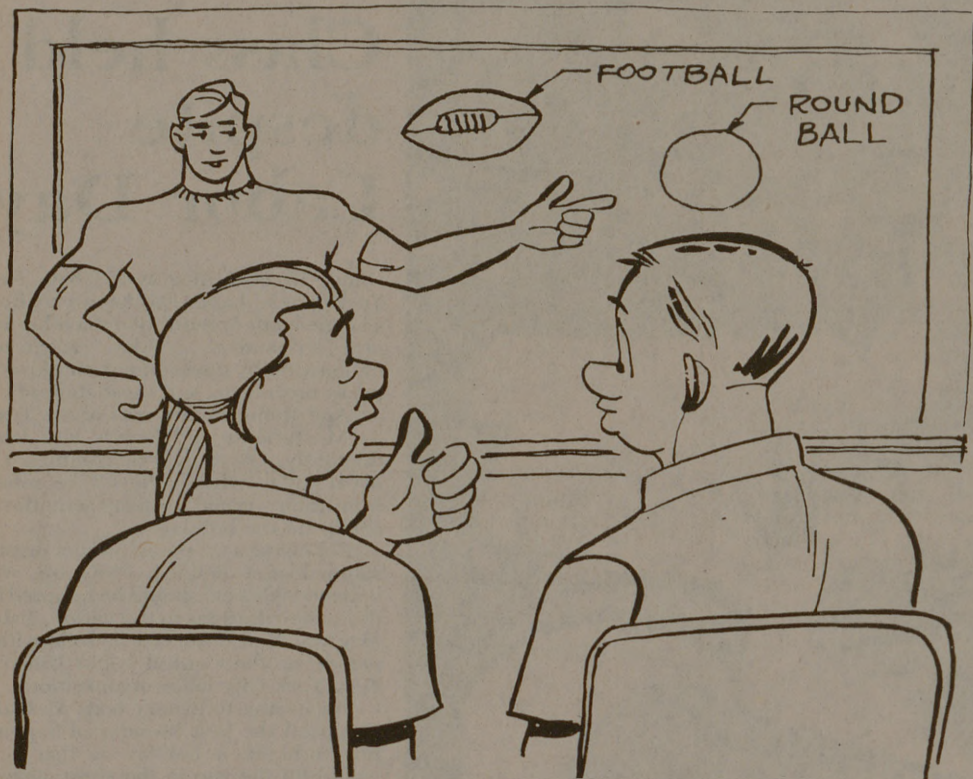


## Slouch By Jim Earle



"Did he say this is Physical Education? This isn't Physics 201?"

## Organized labor is in a slump on Labor Day

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — The condition of organized labor on this Labor Day weekend can be simply described. It is in, out and down.

Trade union leaders have gained more influence inside the structure of the Democratic Party than they have enjoyed for a decade. But they have lost access to the administration and leverage with Congress. As for the workers themselves, they continue to be hammered by inflation and other economic ills.

Long before the air traffic controllers' union made the mistake of challenging Ronald Reagan, organized labor had made the decision to join the political opposition to his administration. The breach that has opened between the government and the unions is far too wide for Reagan to bridge with a speech or two.

Part of it goes back to Lane Kirkland's succeeding George Meany as president of the AFL-CIO in November of 1979. Meany was reared in the Samuel Gompers tradition of shunning permanent political alliances. But Kirkland is a partisan Democrat. He is strongly reinforced in that inclination, not only by the international union presidents who stayed involved in the party during the troubles of the 1970's, but by the recent decision of Democratic activist Douglas Fraser and his United Auto Workers to rejoin the federation.

Now there is a move to make union leaders — along with governors and members of Congress — automatic delegates to the 1984 convention. That would help restore to labor the veto power over Democratic presidential nominees it enjoyed up through 1968.

But labor has paid a price for its increased partisanship, in the form of a growing alienation from the people in power. Kirkland has complained that he has less access to the White House than his predecessor enjoyed, not just with Carter and other Democratic presidents, but with Republicans Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford.

The recent choice of Malcolm R. Lovell Jr. as undersecretary of labor was supposed to be a gesture to the union leaders, who griped that neither Secretary of Labor

Raymond J. Donovan nor any member of the senior White House staff consulted with them. Lovell is well-respected by unionists from his days in the auto industry, but the typical attitude was expressed by a UAW official who asked, "Who the hell believes an undersecretary swings any weight?"

More vexing to the labor leaders is their loss of clout in Congress. The AFL-CIO boldly announced it was forming a coalition to fight Reagan's budget cuts and press for a wage-tilted, not business-oriented, tax cut. But members of Congress, who gave Reagan what he wanted, said there was little evidence in their mail that grass-roots workers were backing their union leaders' stands.

Stung by the charge that labor is a political paper tiger, Kirkland has ordered a mass protest march in Washington on Sept. 19 against the Reagan economic policies. Ultimately, however, the real test of labor's ability to mobilize against Reagan will come, not in the size of the one-day protest but in the pocketbook judgments of working families.

Reagan made big inroads in blue-collar precincts last November, in large part because those workers had suffered economically from Jimmy Carter's policies. Measured in constant, uninflated dollars, the real weekly earnings after taxes of the typical factory worker with three dependents declined 9.7 percent from January 1977 to January 1981 — from \$164.33 to \$148.38 (in 1977 dollars).

In the first six months of the Reagan administration, they declined another 1.1 percent to \$146.74. That means that wages have not kept pace with inflation so far in the Reagan era either; if the same decline continues, workers would end up losing about as badly in Reagan's term as they did in Carter's — and it would be no trick for Kirkland to rally them against the Republicans.

But scheduled tax cuts will increase take-home pay. And if Reagan can keep the rate of inflation moving downward, he may be able to fatten the real wage packet. That would lead to happier Labor Days, not just for labor but for the Republican Party as well.

## It's your turn Religious 'hard sell' draws criticism

Editor:

Recently, a man came to my door; I could tell he was a salesman right away. Dressed in his checkered suit, striped tie and pink pants, he said "sonny you need a 'zeno-matic', the all-in-one household tool that can't do anything. Can't slice, can't dice, can't even make julian fries, whatever they are!"

Instinctively, I slammed the door. But still I could hear his muffled voice from the other side of the door rattling on about the virtue of his product. I was tempted to dump some water on him.

A hard sell is a turn-off! Recently, a man was outside the MSC speaking of God and how I should live my life so I could be saved.

I shut the door on him. Hard sell. There was another reason than just his hard sell though. I believe in God, I go to church and I pray, but I do not believe in the religious "recruiting" of people even to my beliefs.

If I want a sermon, I'll go to church; if I want advice on what to do with my life, I'll get help, and if God is the answer, great!

What happened outside the MSC is like a story I once heard. It happened about fifty years ago. There was this man and he knew just what everyone should do with their life and the people of this man's country believed him and followed him. The man: Adolf Hitler, the country: Germany circa 1933. But was he right? He thought so, so did a majority of his countrymen.

But was he right?

No, of course not. By deciding on how other people should live (if at all), he had infringed upon their rights. Now obviously what went on at the MSC is totally different! Or is it?

It was noise pollution in the sense that it was violating the right to silence of many of the people at the MSC. They can't just "tune him out" nor can they close their door to muffle him out.

Religion is good. But it has its place. And, just like everything else in life, it has to stay there. Maybe it shouldn't be confined to a small windowless cell buried somewhere in the recesses of a dungeon but neither should it be allowed to run rampant.

Michael Lane  
Dunn Hall

### Speakers defended

Editor:

As fellow students who have spoken publicly at Rudder Fountain we would like to respond to the letter by V.M. Nicoli (The Battalion, September 3). We feel this song by Keith Green appropriately reflects our convictions:

Do you see, do you see, all the people sinking down?

Don't you care, don't you care, are you going to let them down?

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — As is well-known in convivial circles, your basic solitary drinker is well on the road to becoming a problem drinker, if not already there.

Now, at last, a group in East Chicago, Ind., is trying to do something about this deplorable social ill.

Calling itself Anti-Alcoholics Anonymous (AAA), the organization undertakes to provide drinking companions for members who feel tempted to take a solo snort or two.

Although I applaud such good work, and am grateful to an AAA spokesman, Joseph Costanza, for bringing it to my attention, I hope the group will not restrict itself to this one field.

There is a parallel, if not a related, problem that has been getting a great deal of attention lately and that virtually cries out for remedial action of the type outlined by Costanza.

How can you be so numb not to care if they come?

You close your eyes and pretend the job's done.

Bless me Lord! Bless me Lord! You know it's all I ever hear,

no one aches, no one hurts, no one even sheds one tear,

but He cries, He weeps, He bleeds and He cares for your needs,

and you just lay back and keep soaking it in!

Oh can't you see its such sin!

Cause He brings people to your door and you turn them away

as you smile and say "God bless you, be at peace"; and

all heaven just weeps, cause Jesus came to your door,

you've left him out on the street.

Open up! Open up, and give yourself away,

You see the needs, you hear the cries, so how can you delay?

God's calling and your the one, but like Jonah you run!

He's told you to speak, but you keep holding it in.

Oh, can't you see it's such sin!

The world is sleeping in the dark, that the Church just can't fight,

because it's asleep in the light,

How can you be so dead, when you've been so well fed!

Jesus rose from the grave, and you, you can't even get out of bed!

Oh, Jesus rose from the dead, com'on get out of your bed!

How can be so numb not to care if they come,

you close your eyes and pretend the job's done.

Don't close your eyes, don't pretend the job's done.

Come away! Come Away! Come away with me my love!

Come away from this mess, come away with me my love ...

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

This is the revolutionary message of Jesus Christ. He wanted this message to be taken to all people. We ourselves fail often, nevertheless, we are striving to see God's desire fulfilled.

Mark A. Gonzalez '83  
706 Cherry

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by two other signatures.

### Audience annoying

Editor:

This year the MSC Film Committee has really come through. The choices include such noteworthy films as Polanski's "Macbeth" and Antonioni's "Blow-Up," and a fine selection from the Australian cinema ("Breaker Morant" and "The Chant of Jim-

I refer to what is apparently a widespread lack of verbal communication between lovers.

In a survey I recently heard being discussed on a television talk show, taciturnity during intimate moments was ranked right up near the top of the heap of grievances borne by parties of the first part against parties of the second part.

The inarticulation problem also was touched upon by Dr. Wardell Pomeroy, co-author of the Kinsey Reports, in a recent article in Forum magazine.

Judging from the "dead silence" accompanying bedroom activities, Pomeroy wrote, many people "get more obvious enjoyment out of 'Mork and Mindy.'"

That comparison strikes me as rather unfair.

Most situation comedies have "laugh tracks" that indicate to the home audiences the appropriate response. But lovers have no such guidance.

mie Blacksmith," for example) — the of films Bryan-College Station residents not used to seeing locally.

Unfortunately, one thing seems to have remained the same this year. Aggravations. Last night, I attended the screening of a film in the International Film Series, sawa's "Kagemusha." The movie was breathtaking; indeed, it was exciting enough to compete with the group of dentists (seated in the top left section of theater) who apparently found the quite humorous. Some may try to excuse their behavior by pointing out that the dentists perhaps did not fully understand the film, but the several Oriental children (small children) who attended also did not understand it, I feel sure, yet the models of good behavior. So much for justification.

May I offer a suggestion to those who do not care for international films? Why check the film schedule to see what's going on? Foreign films are shown Wednesday night; perhaps you might find something else more entertaining. People attend these films because they would like to watch them.

Pamela R. Mar...  
2300 Broad...

### Lot change applauded

Editor:

This is an open letter of thanks to a clear-thinking individual (whoever she may be) who is responsible for removing the "blocks" from Lot Seven.

Anyone who parks in Lot Seven is cut into two separate lots. The majority of people were then forced to leave Lot Seven via Spence Street which, under normal circumstances, is backed up at 5:00. I am also aware of the additional ten minutes of time and sweat it took just to leave each evening.

I know many people, including myself, complained and were told that nothing could be done about this problem. The blocks were in to stay. I more or less resigned myself to the fact that it would be a lot longer to get home every night. I am my shock (not to mention joy) when I learned that the deed had been done. Not only have the blocks been removed but a pedestrian crosswalk has been stalled.

I am pleased to find that the Administration is so flexible and willing to compromise. By putting in a crosswalk, people have a safe way of crossing the parking lot, and those who park in the lot have easy access out. Taking the blocks out of Lot Seven is the best thing that has happened to the "real" sidewalk was put in front of McDonald!

Elizabeth L. Taylor  
Secretary, College of Liberal Arts

## When you need three's company

By DICK WEST

United Press International

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Although I applaud such good work, and am grateful to an AAA spokesman, Joseph Costanza, for bringing it to my attention, I hope the group will not restrict itself to this one field.

There is a parallel, if not a related, problem that has been getting a great deal of attention lately and that virtually cries out for remedial action of the type outlined by Costanza.

Uncertain as to what they are expected to say at a given moment, and not wishing to say the wrong thing, they simply clamor. Which is the safest way out. Here is what the East Chicago organization comes up with.

Perhaps Constanza's group could be requested, supply parties of the third part to strike up conversations with inarticulate couples that have trouble verbalizing. I challenge, I suppose, would be even more rigorous than supplying drinking companions.

A drinking companion is, after all, a drinking companion even if he is stupidly morose into a stirrup cup and uttering a word, only shaking his head occasionally.

On the other hand, keeping a bedside conversation going between two young adults would take real talent.

Nevertheless, given enough spirit, loosen the tongue, I'm sure Constanza's company could handle it.

### By Scott McCullar

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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 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.

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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, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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**Warped**