

Slouch By Jim Earle



"This course in how to study is taking too much time and is hurting the grades in my other courses."

Impoundment is new spending issue

By STEVE GERSTEL
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The day before members of Congress reassembled after an unusually long five-week holiday, Capitol Hill's GOP chieftains journeyed to the White House.

Senate leader Howard Baker and the House's Robert Michel knew beforehand that the main topic of conversation with President Reagan at the Oval Office would be the growing budget deficit — and what to do about it.

Although signals existed when Congress shut down in early August, it was only during the long interlude that the enormity of the problem became vividly clear to the administration.

Earlier projections were not holding up. The federal budget deficit for fiscal 1982 and years beyond was growing.

The Herculean effort by Congress to prune the budget had not been enough. More was needed.

For Baker and Michel, especially Michel, who had piloted Reagan's economic package through the congressional shoals, the prospect of going back to ask for more must have been agonizing. But there was no other choice.

One approach that came under consideration during the deliberations was a resolution giving Reagan temporary, limited powers to impound money already appropriated by Congress.

One suggestion would be to give Reagan the power for one year to prune 10 percent of any program or project — entitlements expemted.

The appeal is understandable.

The impoundment approach would give the administration the power to cut where and what it wanted; Congress would be spared the political agony of once more slicing social programs on a line-by-line basis.

After the meeting, Michel and Baker strode from the White House to tell assembled reporters that a resolution allowing

impoundment was an option to be considered.

Sources close to the GOP leadership said that the decision to go public was Michel's, not Baker's. That might have been a bad mistake.

Baker and Michel are astute politicians who have always been known to touch base before launching a balloon. This time they didn't.

As a result, the idea of an impoundment resolution has failed to elicit vocal support among Republicans and the reaction among Democrats has been uniformly hostile.

The reasons are ample.

In 1974, Congress adopted a resolution specifically forbidding a president from impounding appropriated money after the Senate and House decided that President Richard Nixon was grievously abusing his privileges. They have not regretted that decision.

Baker dismisses the concern, insisting that a resolution giving Reagan only limited impoundment powers can eliminate the possibility of abuse. Democrats are far from convinced.

Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), for one, is so opposed to the idea of an impoundment resolution that he has threatened to lead a filibuster if it becomes necessary.

Hollings, however, makes one exception. He would not object to giving Reagan the power to impound the recently adopted tax cut for individuals.

At the beginning of August, Congress hoped that the budget's gargantuan appetite for budget deficits might have been satisfied and that Congress could turn to other pressing legislation in the coming months.

That optimistic prospect has now been eliminated. The second six months of Reagan's first year could be a replay of the first.

This time, however, the showdown could come not on dollar figures and line items but on a resolution permitting impoundment.

Former pageant contestant replies to Battalion editorial

After reading the editorial in Monday's Battalion on the Miss America Pageant, I felt it was my duty as a former contestant in the Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant to clear up some misconceptions.

The writer of the editorial first showed concern over the number of judges used during the pageant. "How can a small group of judges choose the most beautiful, talented, poised, etc., woman in the United States?"

In the Miss America Pageant System there are approximately 2,000 preliminary pageants, each using a panel of approximately 5 judges, a total of 10,000 judges at the local level. At the state level there are approximately 250 judges, (50x5), and at the Miss America Pageant, there are eight more. Thus, in deciding on a new Miss America, the opinions of at least 10,258 judges were used.

The writer also questioned the validity of the "latest addition," a scholarship to the

Reader's Forum

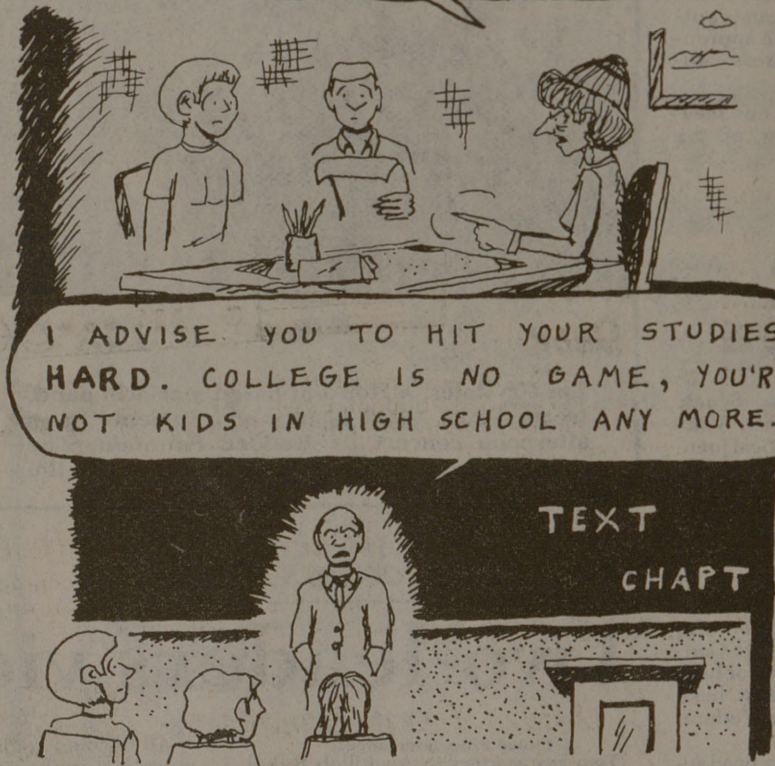
Pageant. The "latest" addition was established in 1945, and represents over \$2,000,000.00 in scholarships each year, the largest scholastic award program for women in the world. The motive of these scholarships, as in any other scholarship program, is to encourage the chosen Miss America to continue her studies, and is definitely not established on physical beauty.

With that in mind, I would like to point out the scoring system in the Miss Texas A&M Pageant. 50% is judged on talent, while the remaining 50% in interview, evening gown and swimsuit competition.

Therefore, approximately 80% of the pageant emphasis is strictly on the interview, the major basis for the scholarship. The misconception is the fact that the Miss America Pageant begins with preliminary events held in order to determine 10 finalists. The very crucial and important interview portion of the judging is the preliminaries and is not held. Thus, as the writer misunderstood, "son's mental capacity" is not "judged" 30-second rear view," but, in fact, is judged prior to the nationally televised event.

In view of everything, I would personally invite the writer to participate in the screening of the Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant, for I strongly believe that my experience is the basis for understanding the motives behind such events as the America Scholarship Pageant.

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It's your turn

New check cashing policy criticized

Editor:

Hey Bill! (Bill Hensel, MSC manager) Glad to see you're on our side. Of course I'm referring to the check cashing policies (Battalion article, Monday, September 14). With more and more students arriving on campus each year, it only makes sense that you should cut down on the hours that this service is available so that we may be better served. I mean logically: If the lines are longer, give them less time and things will run more smoothly, right? Instead of having to wait 10 minutes in a line that stretches across the lounge area, it could easily be 15 or 20 minutes in a line that reaches the post office. Now there will be more people and time for me to "chat" with while I wait for my precious 25 dollars.

Also, Bill, it obviously follows that with rising costs, inflationary trends, etc., that \$25 is much better than \$35. Now I can fill my car with gas ... that's it.

I've been here for awhile and am finally starting to get the hang of "Aggieland" management.

Bruce E. Kalapach '79

Vandals go home

Editor:

Regarding Tuesday's front page photograph of the vandalism to the new Academic and Agency building: Why can't the ignorant slobs who wrote the message realize that what they said totally contradicted itself? First of all, Armageddon is inevitable — the Bible says it will happen and there is nothing we can do about it. Secondly, by

disarming ourselves, major conflict Armageddon, will only come sooner. Confidence of the domineering hungry East grows. Maybe, just maybe, can weaken this confidence and put this conflict by re-arming, not disarming. One-sided disarmament will not work.

To the vandals: Quit worrying about inevitable and deal with matters you something about — like learning the spell and how not to show us on

the small society

by Brickman

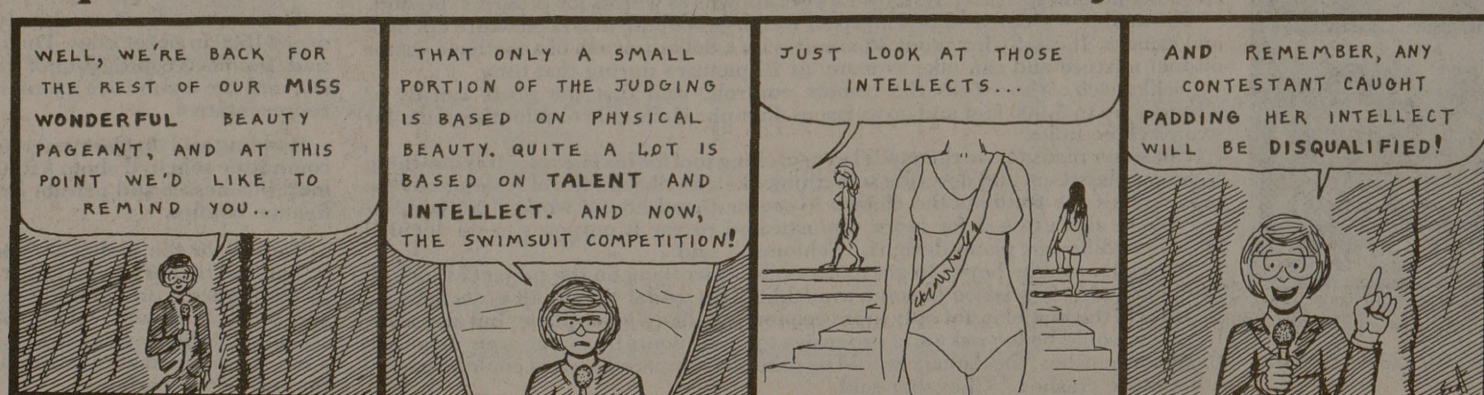


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Warped

By Scott McCullar



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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.
Questions or comments concerning any editorial 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. Editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the author's 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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