

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Do you notice that I look like the back of a chair in my ID picture? I was tying my shoe laces."

THANKS TO JEANETTE HEWIGAN

EARLE

Trailblazing the gullibility gap

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Although some hikers I know report the Appalachian Trail seemed less crowded than usual this summer, statistics kept by the National Park Service won't support a conclusion that the backpacking population is declining.

The explanation may be that backpackers merely have become less conspicuous. If so, I think I know the reason. It has to do with a loss of mystique.

It used to be that people who had never done any mountain hiking were awed by tales of tramping over such eminences as New Hampshire's Presidential Range, Colorado's Pawnee Pass and Virginia's Old Rag.

Indeed, their level of credulity was such that the temptation to romanticize a bit was at times nearly irresistible.

And then nine handicapped people had to go and spoil it all by making it to the top of Mount Ranier.

That achievement, while undoubtedly an inspiration to the incapacitated, has made it

a hundredfold more difficult for hikers who are sound of limb to elicit gasps of astonishment.

I myself have noticed a big difference when narrating, with strategic embellishments, my own adventures in the high country.

This summer, for example, I challenged some peaks that had only been conquered by 9,376 Girl Scouts and little old ladies in tennis shoes. Heretofore, my neighbor Phizbeam would have been an appreciative audience for a travelogue. But when I recently undertook to give him a vicarious thrill, he was uncharacteristically quizzical.

"Our destination was the 14,495-foot summit of Mount Whitney, highest point in the United States outside of Alaska," I told Phizbeam. "We set up base camp at a motel and approached the peak from the difficult and treacherous Whitney Portal trailhead."

"I didn't know motel elevators could go that high," Phizbeam commented.

One thing you learn on the trail is never backtrack or become disheartened. So I

pressed gamely on. "Would you believe we found snow at the higher elevations even in midsummer?" I said.

"Hmmm," hmmmmed Phizbeam. "Was there any danger of the snow melting over?"

I could see I was in deep trouble. Finally, by that time, Phizbeam would have been hanging on my every word. I determined to tough it out.

"It was virgin territory for everyone the party and we were thankful that previous wilderness experience had taught how to follow trail blazes and orient ourselves on topographical maps." "Well," said Phizbeam, "if you had ten lost I'm sure the floorwalker could give you directions."

There were many exciting episodes that could have related, but I could see that vs. nature stories would be wasted on Phizbeam. And more's the pity.

Until the lame and the halt started quering Mount Ranier, he would be anything.

Cool hand, objectivity needed to teach course

By LeROY POPE
United Press International

NEW YORK — The teaching of free enterprise ideas on university campuses can be delicate and controversial but three veterans at Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y., think they have found the right formula.

The problem is just how far you can go with advocacy propagating without arousing the concern and even the opposition of the academic faculty and students.

This happened last May at the University of Southern California when the Institute for Private Enterprise, funded by industrialist Justin Dart, a former chairman of USC's trustees, was asked by the University's new president, Dr. James Zumberge, to move from the campus.

Zumberge told UPI he did this because he felt Dart wanted the university to take an aggressive advocacy stance that was not academically proper. He said there had been mild protests by students and faculty against the institute. The prestigious economist, Dr. Arthur Laffer, author of the Laffer curve theory, is connected with the Institute. He remains on the USC faculty.

Dean James Bender says no such opposition has developed to the establishment of the Friends of Enterprise Education at Adelphi back in 1978 and to its continuing campaign to acquire a building and create a center for the study of free enterprise ideas.

Bender, who is 77, is helped by two other enthusiasts, whom he calls "kids," 83-year-old William G. Bell, a retired vice president of Celanese Corp., and 72-year-old Peter Schmitt, a retired president of Westinghouse International. Bell has conducted 51 Sunday seminars, which have netted \$51,000 for the program and Schmitt has run a series of award dinners that have raised \$175,000.

The seminars deal with a huge variety of subjects. The first set for the current academic year on Oct. 25 will deal, for example, with the economics of breeding and marketing thoroughbred race horses and will be conducted by Dr. James Hill, the veterinarian who made racetrack history by buying Seattle Slew as a one-year-old colt.

Bender told UPI the way to teach free enterprise on the campus is to play a cool hand, to emphasize objective study instead of aggressive advocacy and always to stress the overriding principle that free enterprise is the one social and political system that guarantees human rights.

He said the movement of business people to establish professorships and campus centers to foster free enterprise ideas now is about 20 years old. It has been most successful in the south and west but he expects it to make more headway in the east because of the impetus to free enterprise philosophy supplied by the Reagan administration.

The Friends of Enterprise Education at Adelphi have created a \$500,000 professorship of money and banking presently held by Dr. Sidney Robbins. They are trying to raise at least \$50,000 for the proposed center.

The center's purposes will be to provide a consulting service for industry on enterprise education for employees, to operate a press to publish educational materials, to establish a library, to conduct an expanded program of seminars on economics, banking, personal careers and other matters, to do research on ways of getting the federal and state governments more favorably responsive to free enterprise ideas and ultimately to establish a speakers' bureau and a small business institute to help people go into business.



It's your turn

Inconvenience is price of safety

Editor:

Normally, I do not take to replying to commentary I read in newspapers, whether it is in The Battalion or any other newspaper. However, I am becoming increasingly compelled to remark on the trend of many Reader's Forum letters published in the paper. In particular, the letter of Mr. Rimes (Monday, Sept. 21) is a case in point. It seems more and more students like Mr. Rimes are not completely understanding of the total impact of the situation that they have made comments about. Mr. Rimes remarked that he and several of his peers do not feel parked bikes, motorized or otherwise, pose any danger, or in his words "no drastic problem." He must not notice the bikes around the library or other major traffic buildings, such as the Memorial Student Center. Either that or he is one of the individuals that park their vehicle in random fashion at the door-fronts of these buildings. If there were a genuine emergency where there was a need for a quick and safe exit from these buildings, the

escaping individuals would be in grave danger. Notice also, Mr. Rimes, the number of unused parking racks for bicycles around these same buildings where the above conditions exist. Many are relatively empty. It seems that most people's desire to do things that are most convenient to them is more important than what is safe for others as well as themselves.

Let's tackle some basic safety and health problems on campus first, or at least concurrently, while we strive to solve our philosophical and social problems, whatever they may be. When it comes to recognition of basic safety problems, the Student Senate should not need the blessings of the populous to act. Sometimes people do not know what is best for them, you have to just do it, without any thanks or appreciation.

I have said enough on that, I hope.

Larry A. Bowles '80
1300 Milner, CS

Editor's note: Bowles is a staff member at Texas A&M University.

Faith in people restore

Editor:

Most of the editorials of late have dealt with vandalism and such. I would like to change that.

Last Friday, (Sept. 18) I did a project my special education class, which was to stay in a wheel chair for a whole day. Well, to say it was a hardship. Although the day was over I had sore arms, back, shoulders, it was well worth it. I have experienced such helpfulness and friendliness before. I had expected stares and rejection, but instead received all the help I could possibly have wanted. I'd like to thank all the students who helped me on campus. I'd especially like to thank "com" and friend, who saw me struggling the way home, got out of the car, pushed me home approximately 1000 feet blocks. Thank you Ags for restoring faith in people.

Jenny Lynn Thurman
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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.

LETTERS POLICY

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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