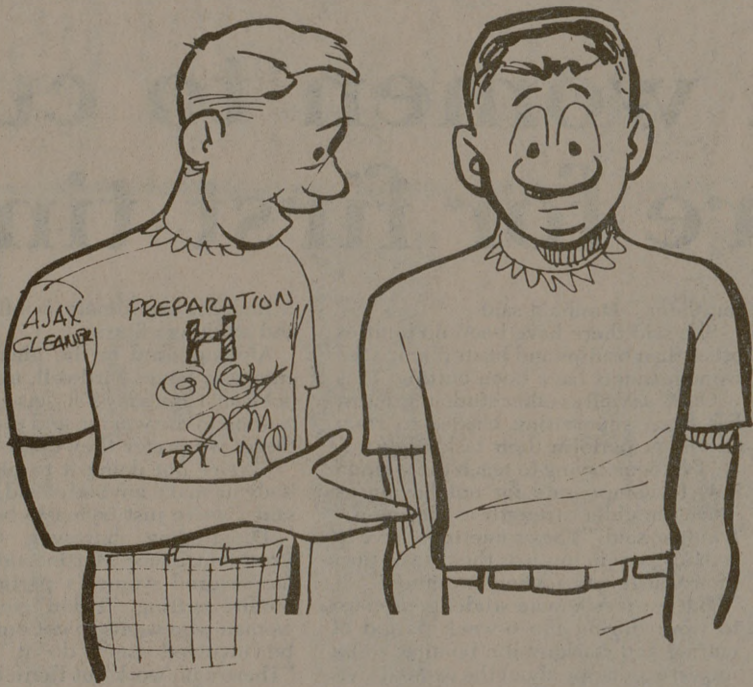


Slouch By Jim Earle



"What a terrific idea! An all-white T-shirt!"

Reader responds to editorial

Editor:

Mr. Al-Khwaiter seems to lack a ground basis which will justify his noble intention to familiarize the American public with the "root causes" of the Arab-Israel conflict (Battalion, Sept. 30).

The state of Israel was established in 1948. Not as an immediate solution, but rather as an accomplishment of the bible prophecies and the dreams of Jews all over the world during nearly 2,000 years of exile. Oppression of Jews has not been exclusive to Europe. To mention only the short period before the state of Israel was established, Jews were slain in Damascus in 1948, in Iraq in 1941, in Lybia in 1945, in Egypt in 1946 and 1948, and in Yemen in 1947 and 1948. Sabri Jiris, a PLO official wrote in 1975: "This is hardly the place to describe how the Jews of Arab states were driven out of their ancient homes, how they

Reader's Forum

were shamefully deported after their property had been commandeered or taken over at the lowest possible valuation."

This is why over 55 percent of the immigration to Israel since 1948 has been from arab countries, not European.

As for "taking away the peasant's land", 8.6 percent of the land area now known as

Israel was owned by Jews before 1948, 70 percent by arabs who lived there, 30 percent by arabs who lived in other countries. More than 70 percent of the land was owned by the British government of the day and it passed to the ownership of Israel as a guest to check this!

The United Nations 1947 "Partition solution" offered both the Jews and their own separate states. Israel accepted the resolution in spite of its geographical boundaries. The Palestine Arabs rejected it in the pursuit of their own state.

It is today's fashion to play the oppressed minority but this issue seems to deserve a deeper look. Maybe this is why the American public has a different picture of the state of Israel than that of Mr. Al-Khwaiter.

Roni and Peretz

Credibility problem is threat to Reagan

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — The fiscal year is one of those bits of jargon that thrives in its own natural habitat, the corporate report or the agency budget, but is never quite at home in a living-room discussion or barroom bull-session.

But in Washington this week, the talk is that the new fiscal year, fiscal 1982, will be a year like no other. That, of course, is because the first round of Ronald Reagan's budget and tax cuts were effective on Oct. 1, and the effects, both good and ill, can then begin to be measured.

As a journalist, I am in a weak position to tramp on anyone's enthusiasm for something new. Novelty, real or simulated, is the lifeblood of our business. But what strikes me as we all prepare to enter this new fiscal year and maybe this new era is the enduring importance of one of the oldest and most basic political rules of them all.

That rule is: Keep your commitments. Jimmy Carter fell victim to disregarding it, as much as he fell victim to inflation, the OPEC oil squeeze and the messed-up Iranian hostage situation.

The rap on Carter, from politicians who knew him before he came to Washington, was that his handshake was sometimes something less than an ironclad guarantee. He started getting in trouble in this capital when politicians of his own Democratic Party learned, to their chagrin, that he was capable of changing his mind about tax rebates, water projects and national health programs, sometimes without bothering to inform them. By the time he was reneging on things like the neutron bomb deployment and the Iowa debate challenge, the game was up for him.

Reagan and his administration — composed of more experienced and tested politicians — had every reason to profit from Carter's unhappy example. But, increasingly, they too seem to be falling into the same trap, with the same results. And that is more worrisome for the long run than the financial quavers that usher in the new fiscal year.

The elderly in this country, to take one example, understood Reagan to say pretty plainly in his campaign that whatever the financial problems in the Social Security system, he was not going to tamper with the commitments that had been made or the benefits that had been promised. They believed that because he had said in October 1980, that the "over-riding goal" of any Social Security reform must be that "the be-

nefits of those now receiving — or looking forward to receiving — Social Security must be protected.

But twice he has tested that faith by amending the understanding. Twice he has proposed delays or reductions in prospective benefits. Twice he has stirred a hornet's nest of criticism. And twice he has backed off.

More broadly, the President said that there would be certain social "safety-net" programs for the "truly needy" that would be "exempt from cuts." But now his budget director, David A. Stockman, says "we can never promise" such exemption for any program.

Stockman also explained last weekend that the commitments he and others, speaking for the President, made to Republicans in Congress in order to secure their votes for last summer's keystone budget and tax bills were not really commitments either.

At a luncheon with reporters, he said, "People develop expectations... (but) we never made any commitments." Well, that just won't wash with the Republicans who were involved, and who understood that assurances had been given about the funding of dozens of programs vital to their districts.

What happens when one politician begins to doubt another's word is a swift and sickening destruction of the mutual commitments that are essential to success. Without that mutual trust, government itself becomes impossible and the course of policy unpredictable.

People inside an administration get confusing signals from the top and are no longer certain what is the real policy line. The country saw that last week in the contradictory statements from Cabinet officers and White House aides on school lunch programs and the future of revenue-sharing.

Then the congressmen who have been willing to put their necks on the line for the President retreat to their customary caution, and the chief executive finds himself without the allies he needs to win the battles on Capitol Hill. Something very like that is happening to Reagan on the new round of budget cuts.

It is not too late to halt the damage. But it is none too early to focus on the risks of reviving the credibility problem that ultimately crippled Jimmy Carter. This threat is a lot more serious to the Reagan administration's future than another month of high interest rates.



"...RIGHT, MR. PRESIDENT..... WE'LL TURN OFF THE SIGN....."

It's your turn

United Way needs more support

Editor:

This letter is in regard to the apparent lack of support demonstrated by Texas A&M University faculty, staff and students to this year's United Way Campaign.

Surely one or more of the 19 agencies funded by the Brazos County United Way touches most of you in some way.

Faculty and staff — think about the scouting, educational and recreational programs your children are involved in.

And students, think of the various job opportunities and volunteer positions provided by these agencies.

To date, only 25 percent of Texas A&M's campus goal of \$56,000 has been reached.

This year's Brazos County campaign ends Oct. 2, but it's never too late to give. Your contributions are the only way the United Way can work for all of us.

Sherry Evans

Cleaner 'grode' stories

Editor:

I had been avoiding yell practices because I was embarrassed by the "grody" Aggie jokes I remember from last year. Recently, I heard from friends that the yell leaders have decided to clean up their stories. So I went to this last midnight yell and much to my surprise and delight, the stories were much cleaner.

But now a new rumor has deflated my

renewed excitement — some say the absence of crudeness was due to the presence of the PM magazine anchors. Please clarify this matter — are we finally changing one of our less honorable traditions, or are we hanging onto the form of humor?

At any rate, for those of us who embarrassed to be seen by fellow Ags, especially guys, and visitors when sexual jokes are told, I'd like to give our thanks to the yell leaders for the change for one of our most exciting yell practices.

Michele Du Mond

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360 MEMBER

- Editor: Angelique Copeland
- Managing Editor: Marcy Boyce
- City Editor: Jane G. Brust
- Asst. City Editor: Kathy O'Connell
- Photo Editor: Greg Gammon
- Sports Editor: Ritchie Priddy
- Focus Editor: Cathy Saathoff
- Asst. Focus Editor: Debbie Nelson
- News Editors: Jennifer Aflerbach, Bernie Fette, Belinda McCoy, Diana Sultenfuss
- Staff Writers: Frank L. Christlieb, Randy Clements, Gaye Denley, Terry Duran, Nancy Floeck, Phyllis Henderson, Colette Hutchings, Denise Richter, Rick Stolle, Nancy Weatherley
- Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist: Richard DeLeon Jr.
- Photographers: Brian Tate, Becky Swanson, Dave Einsel

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial 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. 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.

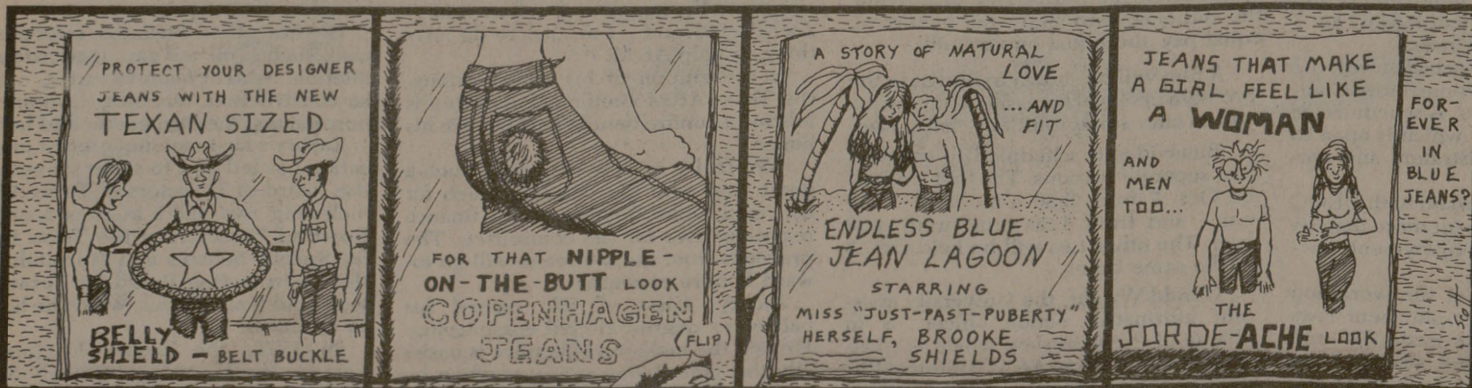
Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's spring semester, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising is furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Warped



By Scott McCullar