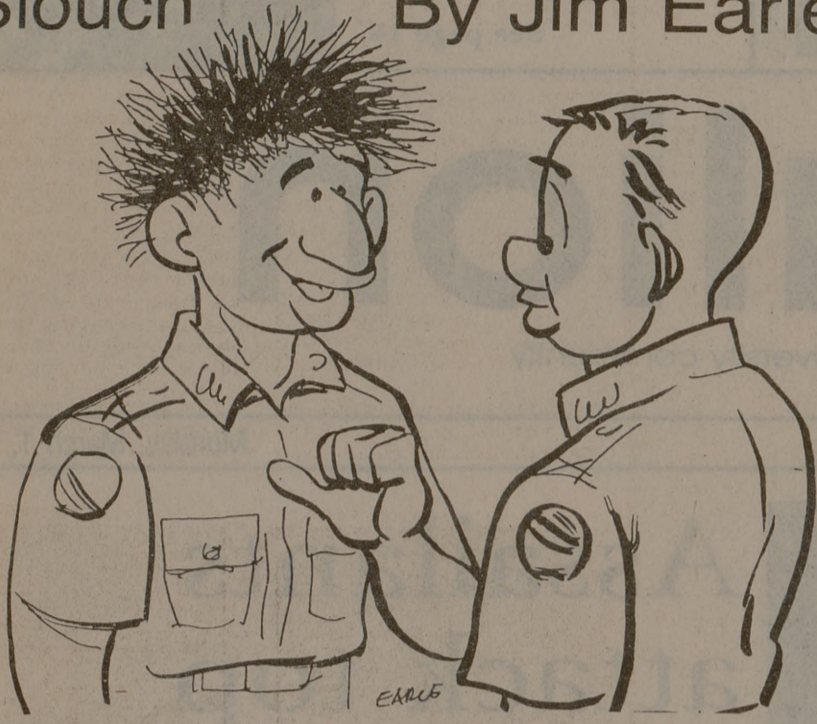


Slouch By Jim Earle



"Would you believe that I have been asked twice this semester if I would be interested in being a donor for a hair transplant?"

Ideal teacher meets expectations

While most students find it easier to criticize, rather than compliment, their instructors, I feel obligated to praise in print a particular individual who has her act together.

Surely the ideal teacher would possess those traits demonstrated by this Texas A&M faculty member.

An assistant professor, she tells her classes that she takes her teaching seriously.

She needn't say that; it's obvious. She talks to her students, not at them. And she listens to their comments and questions with an interest that wrinkles her brow.

She knows her stuff, so factual answers come easily, but her mind is not closed to students' comments.

And her students do talk to her. She literally waltzes into her classroom and radiates a smile that could solve a power outage. She vivaciously gestures through her lectures with contagious enthusiasm for the subject matter.

It's hard to complain about all the assigned reading.

She even offers brief public service



jane g. Brust

announcements — as she calls them — of campus events and deadlines of interest to students.

During the first week of classes, she requested that students fill out a brief form about themselves — name, age, classification, major, job, etc., etc.

"I like to know whom I'm teaching," she said.

Her goal for the semester, she told her students, is to improve her objectivity in grading tests — so she decided to have students put their names on the backs of their blue books. That way she could grade all the tests and not know which belongs to which student.

Before the first test she told students would be a fun test — and she was sincere.

"You're going to be able to talk about so much what you've learned. It will be fun!"

After the test she wanted a class review of it. She tossed around ideas to modify the format for test #2.

In addition, this assistant professor already has passed out a teacher evaluation. Not the department's evaluation, her own.

"I really want to know what you all are thinking about the course." So students evaluated everything from why they took the course, to what they've learned, far, back to testing fairness.

Instructors outline their class expectations in each semester's syllabus. Often unmentioned are the students' expectations of their instructors. Such expectations might include enthusiasm, sincerity, interest and knowledge.

It's nice to have at least one teacher who possesses all of the above.

Railroad upswing may be temporary

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Although railroad freight traffic was reported on the upswing this week, President Reagan's new budget for Amtrak proposes further contraction of passenger service.

One problem implicit in these figures is choochoophobia, or fear of training. Before Amtrak can become self-supporting, it must stamp out the public's unfounded anxieties about rail travel.

If I may offer myself as a case in point, I recently worked up the courage to take the train on a recent out-of-town trip. It was to be my first train ride in about 30 years, and, frankly, I was a bit jittery.

The last time I had ridden a train, I was going from Dallas to Atlanta. After locating my sleeping car accommodations, I sauntered back to the club car for a nightcap.

In Texarkana, unbeknownst to me, the train was bisected. Not until bedtime did I discover that my sleeping car was still Georgia-bound whereas my body was en route to St. Louis.

So shattering was that experience, I started looking for alternate means of transportation. When someone pointed out that the front and rear sections of airliners almost always arrive at the same destinations simultaneously — or at least have that objective in their flight plans — I switched to air travel.

As it happens, one of my colleagues is a "railroad buff." That may mean he is a dedi-

cated train fan, a sort of choo-choo groupie. Or it may mean he rides trains in the nude.

I wouldn't put either past him.

Anyway, when I mentioned my qualms about traveling by train, he was most reassuring.

Statistics show that after being taken over by Amtrak, passenger trains had become competitive with airliners with regard to both ends going to the same place, he said.

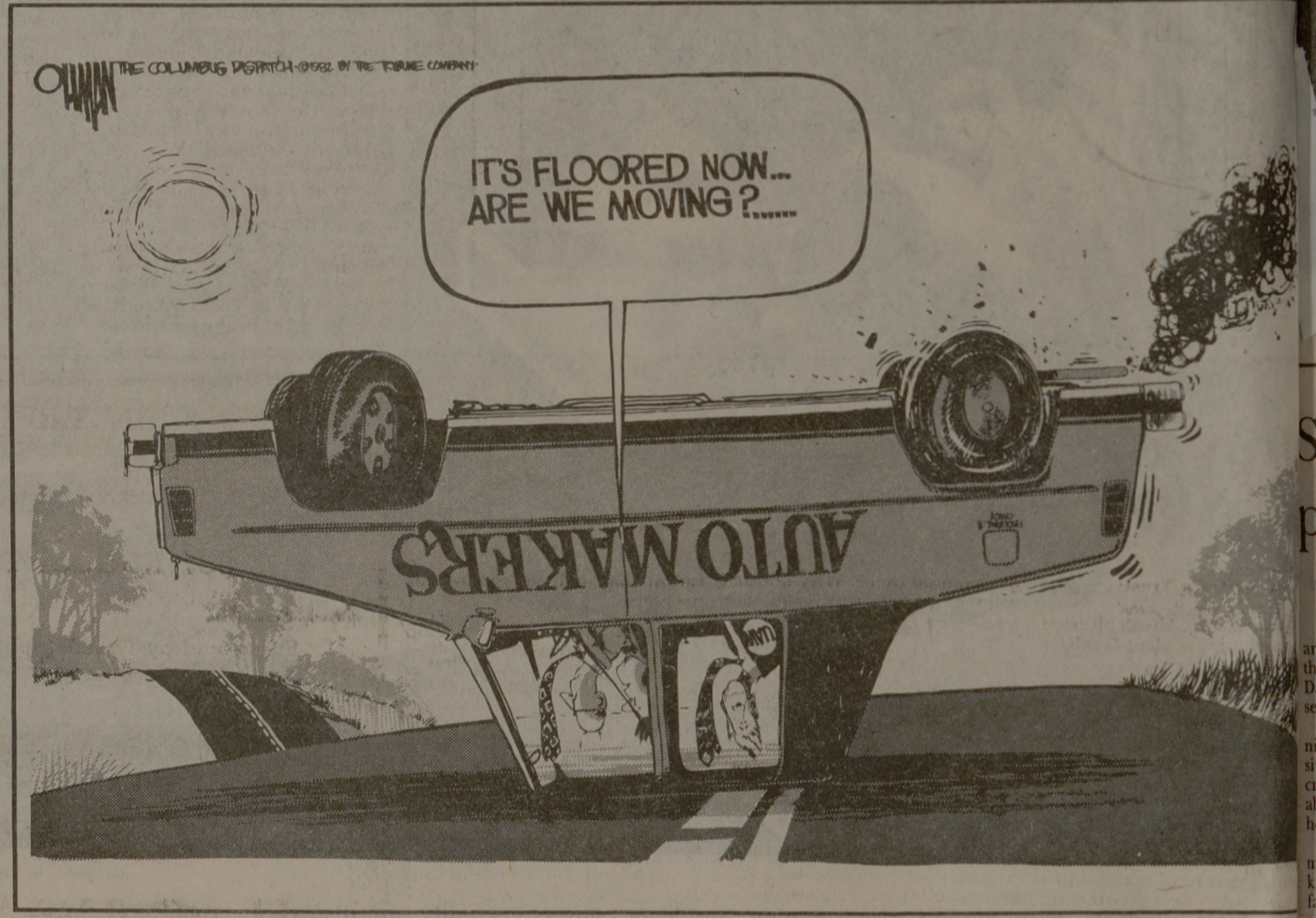
Braced by his words, I went ahead and bought a ticket. The trip was remarkably close to being as he had pictured it.

The view was indeed a lot different from a train window than it is from 30,000 feet. And, sure enough, trains go through a lot more tunnels than airplanes do.

I'll admit I was pretty tense during the first few stops. Every time the train pulled into a station, I found myself gripping the female bartender so tightly my knuckles turned white. And anytime I heard a strange noise — which was frequently — I called in panic to the conductor to make sure my car wasn't being decoupled and rerouted to Omaha.

But after a while I got my nerves under control and before the trip was over I had even developed a measure of commuter-like insouciance.

If Amtrak can continue running both ends of its trains in the same direction, I would say rail travel stands a good chance of catching on. Fear of being seated next to a railroad buff, however, may never be conquered.



Letter: Americans should prepare for attack

Editor:

It can't happen here! Is that what you think? Nuclear war, that is. It is documented history that the liberal democrats in Congress have been unilaterally disarming America now for years. An alarming fact is that the Russian communist leaders are determined to dominate and conquer the world, in spite of their lies and twisted propaganda to the contrary!

Consider the facts: The Russians have built the world's greatest war machine which is due to peak in 1982. Even though Congress approved increased military spending for America, the money won't translate immediately into fighting equipment, because such a project takes months, even years to materialize. The U.S. is expected to be at its

Soviet Russia has developed a great civil defense system (shelters, etc.) to protect their people from nuclear war. We have no real protection for Americans! The complacent, blind liberals in Congress have not seen fit to protect us from mass execution in nuclear war. This is true though unbelievable! We should all write President Reagan, our senators and congressmen, insisting an explanation of why they are ignoring our urgent need! Will you do this? I mean, do you know how to prepare for survival? There are many things we need to know and do now. Where do we buy sealed, dehydrated foods, how to purify and store water, etc. If there is no electricity or utilities, how do we prepare? How do we protect ourselves from gamma rays of fallout?

Two excellent books are available now: One deals primarily with physical survival — "Christians Will Go Through the Tribulations" by Jim McKeever. (Available at the Book Shop & Scripture Haven). The other book must be ordered from: Personal Christianity, P.O. Box 549, Baldwin Park, CA. 91706. Enclose eight dollars for the book and rush postage, "Latest Word on the Last Days" by Dr. C.S. Lovett, who is highly qualified in psychology and bible prophecy.

Bill Graham says: "God will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah if he does not judge America!"

Wake-up Americans! We need to take action now!

Elizabeth Crenshaw
1804 Sabine Court

New Federalism

Editor:

(Regarding Richard J. Gosselin's letter, 2-11-82)

The would-be common sense of New

Federalism lies in Ronald Reagan's version of a balanced budget. A balanced budget implies that debit equals credit. A balanced budget does not insinuate more or less money in the marketplace. Money supply is controlled by the Federal Reserve Board.

Inflation may be tied to production costs, of which wages and waste in management comprise a substantial portion. Wage demands are a response to the cost of living and the desire of laborers to "take charge of their lives." Waste results from poor management.

The indifference of salaried management to the human element in industry, to innovation in management philosophy, and to a conservation ethic is poor management. Employee ownership of industry, whereby employees hold a true charge in management, is a relatively untried approach to economic recovery. Archaic modes of production no longer share the perspective of the "common cogs in the Big Wheel." An educated blue-collar force needs a voice in management.

Considering waste in deficit spending, note the use of tax dollars to produce military hardware that will not be used or, in being used, will waste life. If economic strength is America's most important weapon, then America should manage its economy more efficiently by utilizing the minds as well as the hands of its employee resource.

New Federalism unwittingly seeds employee ownership. By de-centralizing legislative power for administering social programs, New Federalism fuels a thirst for local control of economic power as well. Step one is to demand local control of all tax revenue, including that for wasteful defense.

The blame for failing to exploit the weakness of New Federalism will fall on neither Democrats nor Republicans, but on the ignorance of everyone.

Jonathon Landeck
310 Laurel

Yankee, go home

Editor:

I'm a Southerner and I just read Glenn Gardner's rebuttal to someone who drew a distinction between yankee and southern manners. According to him, yankees have "culturally eradicated" manners, and don't care to be considered, or to be considerate of others. Interesting!

(This has to be the same guy who objected to the display of the Confederate flag)

Now I know how the term "Yankee Go Home" originated.

Tom Broughton
College Station

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.

Articles for Reader's Forum 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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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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Reader's Forum

weakest point in 1982, thus creating the ideal time for the Soviets to press their huge military advantage! Just recently our defense secretary admitted the Soviets have a clear-cut military superiority over the U.S. However, that statement is weak in light of what retired generals, admirals and T.V. documentaries have reported! (Unfortunately most of our news media is taking notice of this report.)

When will Russia attack the U.S.? The next couple of years have to be critical, with a nuclear attack maybe coming this year or 1983 anyway!

Do you think Russia is just going to sit around and wait for America to build-up our military strength and catch-up with them? No way!