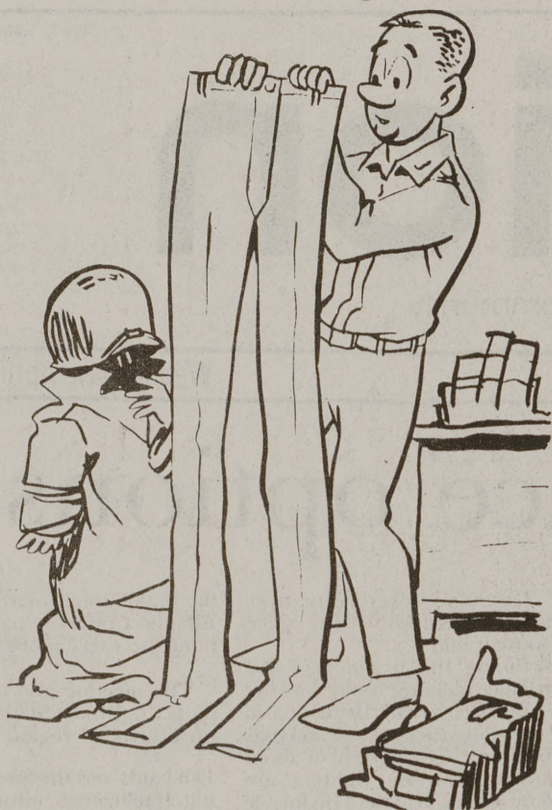


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"They got my laundry mixed up again, but if we can find this guy, we can make several coaches happy."

President versus GOP troublemakers

by Robert Shepherd

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Two Republican congressmen who will retire at the end of their current terms are causing the Reagan administration some discomfort with their wellpublicized disagreements with administration policies.

Probably the most bothersome complaints come from Rep. John Rhodes, R-Ariz., who formerly was the Republican leader in the House, a position requiring stern adherence to GOP policies.

Rep. Lincoln Marks, R-Pa., was less well-known on the national scene, but his vigorous denunciation of administration policies in a House speech March 9 received wide-spread media attention.

Hoping to aggravate the administration's embarrassment, several national unions took out large ads in The New York Times last week to reprint Marks' speech in full under the headline, "Reaganomics: Enough is Enough."

Rhodes' differences with the administration are over defense issues, while Marks' complaints are across-the-board.

Rhodes' position became known when the Washington Post reported comments in a speech he plans to deliver when Congress reconvenes after the Easter recess. He expounded on his ideas in meetings with reporters and copies of the yet-to-be-delivered speech were distributed to the press the day after the Post story appeared.

In his speech, Rhodes says he has always classified himself "as a hawk where matters of defense are concerned," and that the communist world is constantly probing to find weakness among the democratic nations.

But he says the U.S. defense posture needs constant reexamination and such reexamination "is long overdue."

Rhodes then goes on to recommend significant changes in the Reagan administration's defense policies.

Rhodes says the United States should

take its troops out of Europe, cut the MX missile program by at least 70 percent, abandon the B-1 bomber, cut the Rapid Deployment Force and change its mission to operate mainly in the Western Hemisphere, and build a strategic defensive system in space.

Rhodes' message is not directed just at the Reagan administration. Indeed, he says many of the things he proposes should be accomplished during the next 50 years.

But the policies and programs Rhodes criticizes have been either endorsed or initiated by the Reagan administration, and it can be of little comfort to have such a stalwart Republican join administration critics in that area.

Marks began his March 9 speech to the House by saying he had "voted for every major economic program that Ronald Reagan and this administration have put forth since coming to power."

He then went on to declare "the time has come to stop this massacre."

Marks condemned the administration as "a president and his cronies whose belief in Hooverism has blinded them to the wretchedness and to the suffering they are inflicting through their policies."

Marks even praised the Democratic leader, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, who "had the guts to begin to point the finger at the president and suggest that for all of the president's good humor, he, the president, is the sting that paralyzes the sensibility of a government that should be helping, not hurting, the people it serves."

Because of considerable advance billing of Marks' speech, it received extensive news coverage, and could be seen in many areas of the country over cable television.

On March 18, Marks had a return engagement, in which he told the House of the mail response to his speech. It was overwhelmingly favorable.

The Battalion

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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.

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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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An itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny, yellow polka-dot snow ski suit

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Ever come across an idea that so thoroughly agrees with your own thinking you immediately feel a sense of kinship?

My subconscious began sending up blips of consanguinity as I was reading plans by Edwin Paget, a retired speech professor, to stage a World's Fair To Change the World in Raleigh, N.C., this summer.

There will, of course, be a conventional World's Fair running simultaneously and fairly close by in Knoxville, Tenn. But I should think the chances of fair-goers ODing are fairly remote.

At Paget's fair, if it comes to fruition, the maddening throngs will look upon a fashion show unlikely to be duplicated in Knoxville. Or anywhere else for that matter.

Any garments he designs could be even more eye-catching than the costume Sally Rand wore at the 1932 Chicago World's Fair.

Paget, you see, is the creator of what he

calls "non-symmetrical designs" in clothing. Some of the ideas apparently come to him as he is running up and down Pikes Peak in Colorado, which he has done 931 times since 1919.

Nevertheless, it was the nonsymmetrical concept that aroused by sense of affinity. While reading his views on apparel, I could only nod vigorously and mutter injections of agreement.

"Why should both legs of a pair of pants be the same length?" Paget asks.

Why indeed?

I have often asked myself that question as I was taking a new pair of slacks back to the tailor for remedial alterations on the cuffs.

Paget not only envisions dressing us conforming wimps in trousers whose legs vary in length — one long, one short; under his non-symmetrical tailoring, the legs also might be different colors, patterns and fabrics.

I like it, I tell you. I like it. Here is one's big chance to shuck the shackles imposed on clothing by Bill Blass, Pierre Cardin

and the like, and let the "tee" through.

Nor is the father of nongarment wardrobes stopping at variegated legs. At the Raleigh fair, Paget introduces non-symmetrical and non-symmetrical automobiles and symmetrical furniture.

This attack of what he deems monotonous appearance of our also will feature women's dress built-in lighting "for almost any use."

I can see it all now. Along with pink golf balls and two-tone tennis shoes that have begun to appear on courts, there soon will be a match.

Golfers in knickerbockers buckled above the knee, the tennis player in double-knit alligators on one plin kangaroos on the other.

Why, non-symmetry could whole new dimension to design — skin-tight denims with the hem on the hip spelled out in lights

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Reader's Forum: View from a self-proclaimed 'zero percent'

It has been my privilege to attend this institution over the last two years of my academic career. Over this period of time I have learned a lot about my field of study, but I've also had the opportunity to learn something about the likes and dislikes of a breed of people known as "Aggies."

My most valued source of insight has been this very section of the newspaper you now read. It seems to me that there are certain problems which Aggies simply cannot overcome.

These problems are expressed in terms of recurrent themes in the Letters to the Editor section of this periodical. For some reason, which is unknown even to myself, I feel the need to express my opinion on a variety of these problems. Let me start by listing, in descending priority, the three types of people whom most often incur the wrath of "Good Ags."

These people are: bicyclists riding on the sidewalks, pedestrians getting in the way of bicyclists and all other "2 percenters." By "2 percenter" I mean any damn yankee (like me) who doesn't say "howdy" when meeting strangers in the street, doesn't believe that stepping on the football field during a game should be a capital offense (without benefit of due process), feels \$3 million is a bit much to spend on a football coach, doesn't believe students should be trampled on by "C.T.s" during running drills and worst of all couldn't care less who wins the "Texas game." Of course there are other offenses against the Aggie Spirit which would classify a person as a 2 percenter. All in all, almost everyone outside the Corps of Cadets (and some Corps members too!) fall into the category of 2 percenter according to some Good Ags' high moral standards. Everyone except me that is, as I am a self-professed zero per-

center. Being a zero percenter, I cannot indulge in the clear tones of self-righteous indignation concerning the subject of my letter that a Good Ag would. But I would like to offer some radical suggestions for solving some of the more pressing issues on this campus.

For one thing, if you're on a bicycle, try not to scare any slow-footed pedestrians by coming very close to them at high speeds. On the other hand, if you're a pedestrian and you see someone riding a bicycle in a manner which instills fear in the very marrow of your bones, don't panic. Simply get out of the way. I think this is preferable to jamming umbrellas in the spokes of speeding bicyclists (as one pedestrian suggested in this column) or breaking the necks of pedestrians who dismount a bicyclist in any abrupt manner (as one bicyclist suggested in this column.)

Perhaps the best way to deal with two percenters is to ignore them. If someone doesn't say "howdy" to you don't be upset, just go on your way. If you see a bunch of cadets running toward you in formation, why not move to avoid trou-

ble? If you're a bunch of cadets in formation why not alter your formation now and then to avoid killing some born pedestrian? And finally, if you ever need to draw a lethal weapon, a bunch of cheerleaders again must be sure you know how to use it to avoid an embarrassing defeat. Either or just let them live.

I know these suggestions are different than most that have been offered by better "Ags" than I. But if people would just exercise courtesy toward each other as they spurt superficial howdys, 99 percent of the conflicts which are debated in this column would never arise. Aggies pride themselves on being friendly, so if you really are friendly (as I am) toward one another in the first place, don't think any traditions will be diminished or that the Aggie Spirit will be diminished in any way. Of course, we'd be faced with a new problem: will we write letters to the editor?

Thomas M. 913

the small society

by Brickm



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