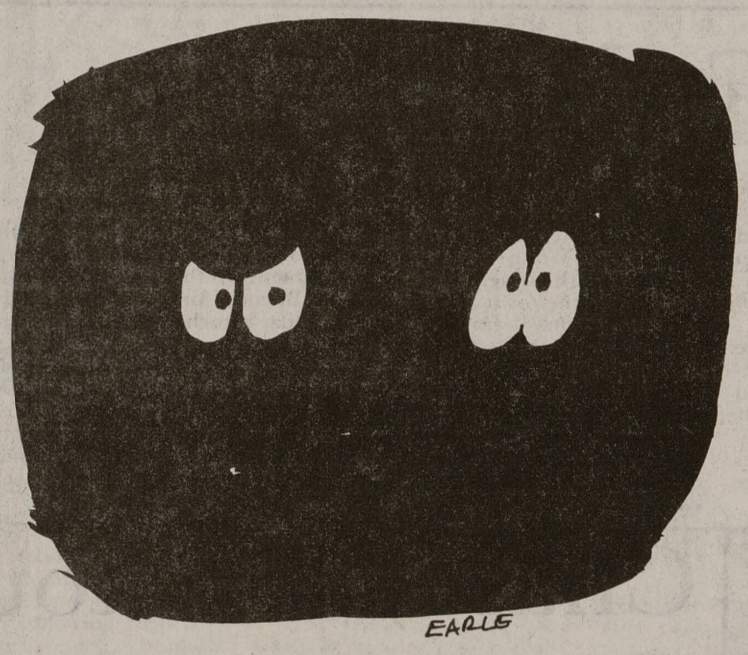
Slouch By Jim Earle



"Will you promise to not try any more indoor barbecuing?"

"I love a parade" for anti-nuke group

by Art Buchwald

"Do you know what the trouble with the anti-nuke war movement is?" David Emge asked me.

"I have no idea," I said.

"They lack discipline."

"How so?"

"Well, for one thing, when they're parading down an avenue, they never keep in step. They straggle along, as if they're all marching to a different drummer. Do you know why they march like that?"

I said I didn't.

"Because they don't have any drummers. You can't have a decent parade if you don't have a band playing martial music for you."

"But they have guitars."

"No one can keep in step to guitar music. I'll tell you what else is wrong with their demonstrations. They don't have uniforms. Everyone wears anything he damn pleases. When people come out for a parade, they want to see a plethora of uniforms."

"Probably the reason they don't wear uniforms," I suggested, "Is they have to sit on the ground a lot. If they wore uniforms, they'd get them all dirty."

"That's not good enough," said David. "Nobody enjoys watching scruffy people in a parade."

"What kind of uniforms would you suggest?"

"Real sharp military ones with shiny boots, snappy headgear, brass buttons and lots of gold on the epaulets."

"But if it's an anti-war parade, wouldn't uniforms make the participants look militaristic?"

"So what? The main purpose of a demonstration is to win over people to your cause. What better way than to put on a good show with bands, uniforms, flags flying and thousands of people on the sidewalks cheering them on?"

"I'll admit your idea has merit, but what you're describing is against everything the anti-nuclear war people stand for."

"It's the end results that count. Once you've got the people in a pariotic fervor, they'll go along with anything you suggest. Right now, no one comes out for an anti-nuclear parade because there is nothing to see. What attracts people to a parade is they never know what's coming next."

"You're not suggesting the protestors also pass by with missiles, are you?"

"Why not? They could have mockups of nuclear weapons, and drive them past, pointing them toward the sky. Kids love that."

"The next thing I know, you're going to suggest a flyby with airplanes."

"That's not bad. All you need is two jets with colored smoke coming out of their tails."

"I can't put my finger on it, David, but there is something crazy about your whole idea."

"I may not know anything about nuclear war, but I do know what makes a good parade," he assured me.

"But, there's more to an anti-nuke rally than a parade. There are speeches, and protest songs, and praying," I said.

"Right. But without a good parade, all the people are doing is talking to the converted. The ones you want to reach won't follow your parade if you don't give them a decent show. And the only way you're going to do that is by slapping your rifles sharply when you pass the reviewing stand."

"You're suggesting the anti-nuclear protestors carry rifles?"

"With naked bayonets attached, gleaming off the sun. If you do it right, you'll have everyone on the sidelines waving an American flag, from the first color guard that goes by to the last tank bringing up the rear."

"It would be a different anti-nuclear protest," I admitted.

"And a peaceful one, because the police would never arrest a person in uniform."

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.

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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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The "Dragonflies" — mostly malcontents who dragged fee

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — If you got the impression this year's budget battle became a bit buggy at times, take that as a sign your perceptive faculties were in good working order.

The next time there is a budget stalemate in Congress, it may be necessary to call in the Orkin man.

Factions influencing all or part of the 1982 House proceedings included:

The "Boll Weevils" — Mostly Southern Democrats who generally supported President Reagan's position.

The "Gypsy Moths" — Mostly Northern Republicans who favored changes in the administration's budget.

The "Yellow Jackets" — Mostly liberals and conservatives who voted "present" on crucial ballots, thus causing lights on the electronic scoreboard to flash yellow rather than red or green.

The "Honey Bees" — A bipartisan faction that sought to sweeten revenue receipts.

There was even talk of calling one faction the "Tsetse Flies" because the somnolent effect they had on their colleagues was nearly as powerful as sleeping sickness.

As conspicuous as they were, however, the bug caucuses by no means preempted the field. At last count, there were between 150,000 and 200,000 different kinds of insects in the United States, give or take Japanese beetles.

Any new factions that may be formed before the next stalemate should be able to find appropriate nicknames.

Here are a few bugs future budget factions might wish to latch onto as symbolic of their philosophies:

The "Medflies" — Mostly Westerners who favor a federal tax revolt in the pattern of California's famous Proposition 13.

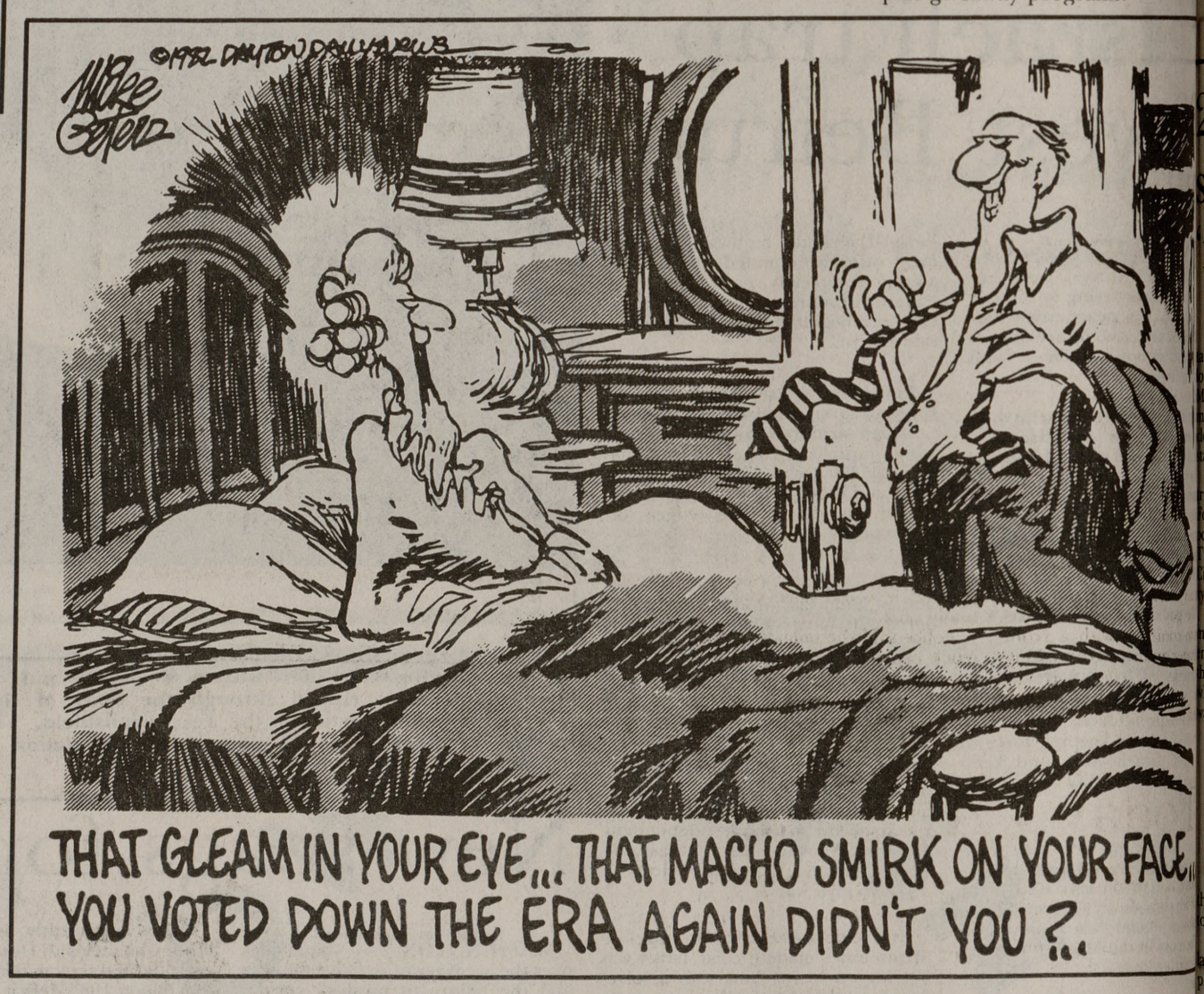
The "Fire Ants" — Fire ants, now found in nine Southern states, are n for building nesting mounds enough to wreck farm machinery comes in contact with them. If that reminds you of what happened to a dozen or so of this year's budget promises, you can see a bright futur this faction.

The "Grasshoppers" — Mostly westerners who keep hopping from budget plan to another rather than their own compromise proposals.

The "Termites" — Mostly North terners who undermine budget promises with masticatory amendm

The "Fireflies" — Mostly border equivocators who keep changing votes before the total is announced, causing the lights on the scoreboa keep flashing after the balloting app finished.

The "Butterflies" — Mostly Farm urbanites who flit about with am ments to add more butter to dairy plus giveaway programs.



Letters: Reagan and school prayer

Editor:

President Ronald Reagan has proposed a constitutional amendment which would be worded in this way: "Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or by any state to participate in prayer."

There are several things wrong with this amendment. First, there has NEVER been a law which prohibits a school child from bowing his head over his desk and saying a prayer whenever he so chooses. Prayers are also said prior to many public events such as athletic games, meetings of Congress and state legislatures. This amendment seeks to dissolve prohibition where no prohibition exists, so it is simply unnecessary.

The only issue involved is governmental organization of group prayer in public schools. Since school attendance is mandatory, the issue of voluntarism is meaningless. Few young children would risk embarrassment by not conforming to peer pressure. Also, group prayer implies some kind of structure and organization. But, who is to decide its content? Since many religions are represented in the school system, the prayer must be representative of (but not violating) the beliefs of Catholics, Southern Baptists, Methodists, Jews, Mormons, Muslims, etc. ad nauseum. A true impossibility.

The most important point is that this amendment violates the principle that is the basis of every American's freedom: the separation of church and state. Schools are a tax supported institution and should not be used to espouse religious dogma. It is a clear contradiction of the First Amendment which states that there shall be no law respecting an establishment of religion. Faith in some creator is a matter of personal opinion, not governmental policy.

The Bible-thumping fundamentalists have often attempted to violate our freedom by legislating their dogmatic beliefs into law. Only by keeping religion at an individual and not a governmental level can we hope to preserve the greatness of this nation, where its citizens have the freedom to believe as they so choose.

James W. Lane
3900 Old College Road

Who saw smashed car?

Editor:

I was very upset last Thursday when I arrived at my car after work and found a smashed backend. At 8 that morning, I had parked my bronzed Mazda GLC in the angle spaces across from Zachary on Spence Street. On my left was an old, light blue, medium sized car with a dull finish parked with its rear end jutting towards my space. This individual obviously backed right into my car; blue paint was also found in the damage.

I believe someone saw the wreck occur between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please be kind enough to give me a call at 845-2621 if you have any information about the accident. I would also appreciate all Aggies keeping their eyes open for this blue car with its own rear damage and to jot d the license number of any suspect v cle. All information will be kept fidential and a reward is being offe

It is an extremely cowardly act to someone else's property and not have honor or maturity to face up to it. I involved party will own up to this dent, it will be resolved and forgotten the future, please be big enough to a note on the car.

Thank you.

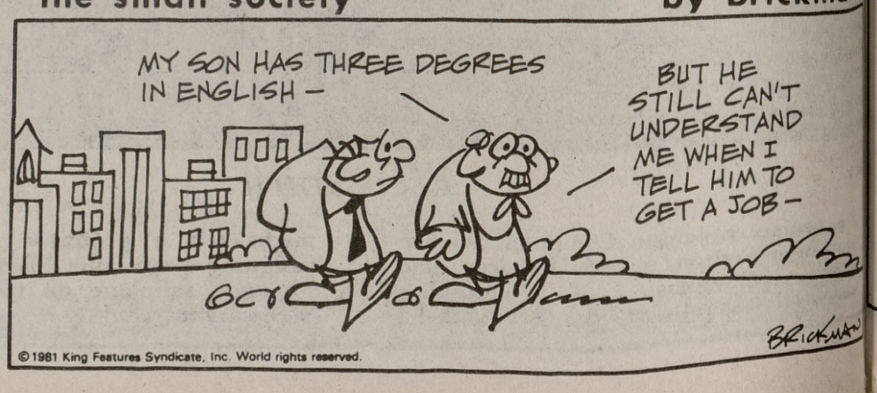
Catherine Holl
Secretary/Theater

Israeli solution

Editor:

The state of Israel is showing us "Final Solution" in Lebanon. If this what God asks of His "chosen peop then perhaps we need a new God. T one seems to enjoy holocausts.

Chad P. McH
Luther Str

Martin C. Ki
Highland Str

the small society **by Brickman**