



Shape up immediately, America

by Art Buchwald

"All right, for those of you who just got back from wherever you went, the vacation is over. For those of you who couldn't afford to go away, your vacation is over, too.

"This will be your fall and winter schedule: There will be TV football on Monday and Thursday nights and Saturday and Sunday afternoons right up until '60 Minutes,' which will be shown in its entirety at the completion of the games. The World Series will be available on alternate evenings. You are advised to consult the local paper for the time in your area.

"Women will be expected to shape up this fall by following either the Jane Fonda exercise method, or some other approved aerobic plan. I want strong, healthy bodies with tight muscles, flat tummies, thin thighs and no flabby buttocks sticking out.

"Because of cuts in funds, school semesters will be shorter and school vacations longer. Teachers will once again be underpaid but they will be expected to do their jobs even if it means doubling up on their classes. No praying in school until we pass a constitutional amendment.

"Public services will be cut back as Reaganomics trickles down to the people. Sacrifices must be made to get the country's economic house in order, particular-

ly in the urban areas where people are hurting the most. No more federal bailouts can be expected for cities or states that find themselves in financial trouble, except for the three-week period before the November elections. I don't want people on fixed incomes complaining because their money doesn't go as far as it used to. By fighting the cuts, they only are prolonging the recession that was caused by the big spenders in Congress. I expect people to tighten their belts, whether they do it because they can't afford to buy food or go on the Pritikin diet.

"Because of the herpes epidemic, promiscuous sex is out, and I will not permit anyone who engages in it to serve in the armed forces.

"In spite of what I promised you last spring, there is still mortgage money available for housing, and I want everyone to stay where they are until the interest rates go down another three or four points, which will be unlikely in the foreseeable future.

"Heating and gas bills will go up, as well as telephone rates for local calls. So if you're between a rock and a hard place, you will have to choose between keeping warm, having hot water or calling someone you love.

"New automobiles of every size and shape will be plentiful, and I expect everyone to go out and look at them, even if

they can't afford to buy one. They have informed me they cannot finance cars for the rest of this year until their loans paid back by Poland and Mexico.

"The good news is that the fashions have just come out and most of the clothes look as if they have been dug out of the closet. So anything you wear will be in fashion, and no one will be able to tell if it is something just made by a designer or a garment you bought at Goodwill Industries.

"The bad news is that medical costs are going up, and if you get sick this winter you are advised to only go to your doctor for a second opinion.

"Thanks to the National Rifle Association and America's dairy farmers, there are enough guns and butter to go around for everyone. Not everybody can afford butter, but you can always buy a gun to hold up someone who is eating it.

"We have a wonderful fall and winter prepared for all of you. There will be Columbus Day sales, Thanksgiving sales, not to mention 'going out of business' sales, which will take place every day in your favorite shopping mall.

"We want to make 1982 the best year ever, and we can't do it if you dwell on the bad things that have happened so far. Remember, no matter how bad things get, we all have the Rose Bowl to look forward to January 1.

How it sometimes works with voters

by Arnold Sawislak

WASHINGTON — There is a new survey out that says the American people believe special interest groups have more influence on members of Congress than they do. The American people probably are right, but more needs be said about it.

The poll, by Audits & Surveys Inc., found that 38 percent of 1,216 Americans thought "special interest groups" had the most influence, 20 percent each thought the president or other members of Congress had the main clout and only 11 percent thought "the voters back home" were most influential.

It seems likely, on the basis of personal observation, that groups with specific goals and people in Washington to represent them probably do have the most impact on Capitol Hill.

The problem with the survey is not with the results but with the statement of the question.

The use of the phrases "special interest groups" and "the voters back home" suggests that the bad guys are beating the good guys; that the greedy somebodies are victimizing the defenseless everybodies.

Well, to mangle a familiar phrase, one man's special interest is another man's just cause.

For a number of people in this country, the National Rifle Association is not "the gun nut" lobby responsible for putting a Saturday Night Special into the hands of every cuckoo with \$50 to spend, but an organization that is trying to preserve the traditional and constitutional American "right to bear arms."

For a number of others, Ralph Nader's Public Citizen organization is not a bunch of bleeding hearts trying to saddle hard-pressed

business with onerous and costly regulations, but a crusading organization trying to keep unscrupulous operators from cheating the public or endangering its health with hazardous products.

With the phrase, "the voters back home," the suggestion is that ordinary citizens are all but left out of the legislative process in Washington.

But if any of those citizens also are union members, veterans, bird lovers, bankers, tire (or practically any other merchandise) dealers, doctors, teachers, truck drivers, farmers, welfare mothers, feminists, manufacturers or any of several hundred other descriptions, they have "special interests" speaking in their names in Washington.

It is true that some of these groups are more skillful than others in getting the attention of congressmen.

A case in point is the labormanagement area, where the unions pioneered the idea. It was not long before groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations picked up on the idea and brought local businessmen to town to do the same thing.

This has done wonders for the hotel business in Washington, but there have been cases where the competing special interests have drowned each other out. The same effect has been observed in the special interest tactic of trying to inundate members of Congress with mail, telegrams and phone calls and even hold out the carrot of campaign contributions through political action committees.

That is when members of Congress have been known to weigh the merits of the issue, including what "the voters back home" would prefer. Sometimes it really works that way.



THE PESO MUST BE DOWN AGAIN... IT'S ANOTHER BATCH OF MEXICAN BANKERS..

the small society

by Brickman



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Letters: Kyle Field not memorial

Editor:

With all due respect to A&M traditions, I wish to inquire as to the origins of the "hats off" status of Kyle Field. I have always considered the Memorial Student Center to be the Aggie memorial "... dedicated to those men of A&M who gave their lives in defense of our country ..." taken from plaque in the north entrance of the MSC.

An examination of the plaques at Kyle Field reveals that the stadium was named in honor of Edwin J. Kyle (class of 1899), built to the memory of Charles B. Moran (coach, 1909 - 1914) and in appreciation of James Sullivan. The stadium was built in 1927 and 1929 and expanded in 1967 and again in 1980. None of the plaques indicate that Kyle Field is a memorial to our fellow fallen Aggies. I always considered that status to be reserved for our Memorial Student Center.

Please explain to me why certain Aggies, who obviously have not bothered to examine the plaques at Kyle Field, continue to perpetrate the myth about Kyle Field being a memorial to the Aggie war dead. I submit the proposition that to establish Kyle Field as a memorial to Aggies who gave their lives in war and who already have a memorial, is in effect stealing the honor due to Charles Moran to whom Kyle Field was actually built as a memorial.

I conclude by suggesting that for one to remove his/her hat in Kyle Field makes as much sense as removing one's hat while walking along a street that has been named in memory of someone (e.g. Nagle, Houston, etc ...).

Diana L. Cogan '81

Willingness helps

Aggie friendliness

Editor:

This letter is directed at what we hope is the small minority of Aggies who believe that traditions should be forced upon others. This is the usual, vocal group of individuals who publicly criticize and chastize Aggies who choose not to do yells at football games or who leave the ballgames early.

A true tradition should be maintained by the willing; however, those who decline to participate should be tolerated with dignity, not verbally abused by the remarks we have so often heard at Aggie games. Such remarks can only be made out of one's own insecurity and frustration. It must be realized that any spectator at a college athletic event has the right to act in any manner he pleases as long as he does not offend others or interfere in their enjoyment of the event.

A mute Aggie fan or an absent Aggie fan is certainly preferable to an obnoxious and rude one, into which category these self-proclaimed "good-Ag" upholders of tradition fall. Students' degrees of interest and support of Aggie athletics as well as traditions may differ widely, but everybody who pays the price of admission has equal worth.

Jay Fuller '83
Steve Zukis '83

Editor:

In the Sept. 8 issue of the Battalion, a letter to the editor from a graduate student complained about the "asinine tradition" that exists here at Texas A&M. Well, I may be just a freshman and still learning about the traditions, but from what I've seen these past two weeks these traditions are as much a part of Texas A&M as the academic program.

Thanks to the Aggie tradition of friendliness and saying "Howdy" I have been made to feel at home. I am from a suburb of Philadelphia. Before Aug. 25, I knew nothing about Texas let alone College Station. These traditions have helped me to adjust to a new school and a new way of life.

The Aggie traditions are an education in themselves. They teach the kind of hospitality, comradery, and friendliness that should be admired.

The graduate student stated that it is impossible to enjoy a football game on a student ticket because "the foolish traditions" interfere with the game. Well, if someone wants to peacefully enjoy a football game, he can go watch Penn State play. If he wants an education, especially on how to be a good sport and meet some great people, he should watch Texas A&M play on the student side. Texas A&M -- Love it or Leave it.

Mary Ellen Craft
Class of '86

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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 and 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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