

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"As an adult, I am not obligated to have my midsemester grades sent home; it's an invasion of my privacy; it's an infringement on my individual rights! But Mother has made a good point: no grades, no money."

Giving Dick Richards the loaded pistol

by Arnold Sawislak

WASHINGTON — According to folklore, when an officer of the German general staff made an unpardonable mistake, his colleagues let him know what he should do next by leaving a loaded pistol on his desk.

In political terms, that is what happened to Richard Richards when he went to see President Reagan Oct. 1.

The chairman of the Republican National Committee, who was elected to his post in 1981 at Reagan's behest, was offered a job in the government. That did not mean Reagan really had a new assignment for Richards; it meant he wanted him out as GOP national chairman.

Richards probably wasn't surprised by the offer, which he declined. He had been the target of steady sniper fire from the White House for most of the 18 months he has served in the chairmanship. But in every other time when rumors were floated that Richards was to be dumped, the president or someone publicly speaking for him had denied it was going to happen.

This time, it was Reagan himself who made clear to Richards he wanted a new party chairman. So Richards, like a good soldier, used the Luger.

He announced the next Monday that he would not seek another term as chairman. He went to great pains to declare his loyalty to Reagan, but made clear his opinion that he had been laid low by "clerks" at the White House.

Just what caused all this? To be sure, Richards made his share of goofs while chairman of the national committee, such as hinting that Reagan would not seek re-election in 1984.

But his slips were no more embarrassing than others committed by a number of Reaganites, such as Counselor Ed Meese's public admission that he decided not to awaken Reagan when

U.S. planes went into combat with Libyan aircraft, or political director Ed Rollins' comment that he had "twisted the arm" of Sen. Roger Jepsen, R-Iowa, on the AWACs vote in 1981.

There is another explanation for this. It has to do with power.

As GOP chairman, Richards had a multimillion dollar budget, a big professional staff and the world's most sophisticated political computer operation. Although he publicly deferred to the White House staff, in fact he only had to keep Reagan and the members of the national committee happy.

Meanwhile, in a building across the alley from the White House, political activists like Lyn Nofziger and Rollins sat with very little to do and very little to do it with.

True, they had direct input into the president's political agenda, but they had to go through Richards for a lot of the work and money to carry out specific projects.

Being the personal agents of the president, who is the head of the party, it would not be surprising if the White House political staff felt somewhat hobbled by the situation. This has happened before, in Democratic as well as Republican administrations, and it usually ends up with the departure of the national committee chairman.

Once, however, the national chairman prevailed. During the waning days of the Nixon presidency, the White House staff was sending a constant stream of orders to the national committee staff on how to support the president.

The breaking point came when the White House sent over a statement with orders to the chairman to issue in his own name. This chairman decided that it was time to separate the party from the sinking presidency and refused. George Bush still talks about that with some pride.

Berry's World

by Jim Berry



"Now, repeat after me, 'I believe that recovery is taking place... I believe that recovery is taking place...'"

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Tylenol victims all pill-poppers

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

WASHINGTON — No one will ever know how many Americans took Extra-Strength Tylenol last Thursday evening, only to hear Dan Rather announce that the pain reliever had just killed several Chicagoans.

Yet the poisoned-Tylenol murders have given many of us pause. They were not only cowardly, but also a reminder of how Americans pop pills like candy. Indeed, had some of the Chicago victims not fallen prey to this all-too-common habit, they might have escaped their tragic fate.

Take, for example, the case of Stanley Janus, 25, and his 19-year-old wife, Theresa. They'd just returned from the deathbed of Stanley's brother, Adam, 27, another Tylenol victim, when sorrow prompted them to look for an anti-depressant. But did they down a shot of whiskey or sip some tea? No. Both reached for the Extra-Strength Tylenol and later died at the hospital they'd visited hours before.

Meanwhile, 12-year-old Mary Kellerman's only problem was an itchy throat, for which her father supplied Extra-Strength

Tylenol. Even commercially-minded pain-killer manufacturers don't list itchy throats, let alone depression, on product labels.

In the coming weeks, the deaths of Mary Kellerman, the Januses and three others are likely to spur public demand for factory seals on over-the-counter medicines. Since 1972, child-proof safety caps have helped to cut almost in half the number of deaths due to improperly-ingested pills. Presumably, seals would prevent pre-purchase tampering with the product.

Yet, packaging changes won't mean much to the compulsive pill-popper. Such characters will continue to indulge in the powders and potions that promise peaceful sleep or instant relief. In many ways, they are victims of a culture that lowers our threshold for pain.

Unfortunately, it sometimes takes extraordinary tragedies to make us see that weakness in ourselves.

Footnote: The October issue of Prevention Magazine reports that those with slight fevers may not want to take pain killers after all. University of Michigan researchers have found that body temperatures of up to 102 degrees Fahrenheit may help strengthen

the immune system. Aspirin, the might hinder the healing process.

Fasten Your Seat Belts. The Federal Aviation Administration has proposed several changes in safety rules aimed at lines to regulate themselves in the maintenance, equipment and... While the "regs" won't necessarily effect for at least three months, the fault of the Columbus (Ohio)-based Safety Institute says new rules will encourage airlines to forego backup air-conditioning equipment and power supplies — anything to lighten and speed gate departures.

"If the FAA makes the changes, monitors the airlines, it could be change," said Galpault in a telephone interview. "Historically, however, hasn't been too good at that sort of

Pennsylvania has become the latest to join the computer age. By 1984, graders in the Keystone State will be required to take a computer course.

THIS IS JOE... HE'S A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR



SO WE PUT HIM IN JAIL



HE DOESN'T WANT TO SHOOT.. HE DOESN'T WANT TO KILL..



WHY?



HE DOESN'T WANT TO DROP BOMBS..



HE'S A THREAT TO SOCIETY.



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Parking in lot PA40 a continuing problem

Editor:

We address this as an open letter to the Texas A&M Police Department and especially to the University Traffic Panel. What the hell is the status of the southern half of parking lot PA40? In the past three years, students with green parking permits have parked in the southern half of PA40 and have been ticketed according to the whim of the Texas A&M Police Department.

For those who are not familiar with these antics, let us give some history on the subject. In the spring semester of 1980, it was decided that the back or southern half of PA40 would be allocated for students having green parking permits. This decision process and the final decision merited three straight days of front-page Battalion coverage. As freshmen, then living in the Commons dorms, we parked in this area for the rest of the spring semester.

In the fall of 1980, we returned, and as usual, parked in this same area. After a couple of weeks, we found parking tickets on our cars for parking in an unauthorized area. The signs stating that this area was designated for green permits had been removed. Since there was no announcement of this change, in The Battalion or otherwise, we appealed these tickets and won. Many other students in the same situation, however paid the fines without trying to appeal the tickets, perhaps because they didn't know they could be appealed or thought it was too much trouble.

After another couple of weeks, the signs were replaced in PA40. Once again, it was legal for cars with green parking permits to be in that area. It stayed that way for the rest of the school year.

Flash ahead to the fall of 1981. The signs were up at the beginning of the semester, removed, cars ticketed, and the signs replaced. Sound familiar? Again, there was no warning of any kind. Two comments we heard from the Police Department were, "The signs must have been taken down," and "Look at the map in the TAMU parking guide." For the rest of the year, students with green parking permits were allowed to park in that area.

Flash ahead to the present. The same ridiculous sequence is repeated. We personally know of a guy who walked out to his car in the southern half of PA40 where his car had been legally parked, and found 7 tickets on his windshield! His supposed offense was "parking in an unauthorized area." See the pattern? Now PA40 is supposedly back to being all red and blue permits again, but wait, a TAMU police officer says it is okay for students with green permits to park there again. It seems that no one knows the status of this parking lot.

We are asking the University Police Department and the University Traffic Panel to please clarify this situation as soon as possible, and make your decision known. In other words MAKE UP YOUR MINDS! For those students who received parking tickets that they feel are unfair, we recommend that you pursue the traffic appeals process. Hopefully, the situation will be clarified soon so we students will know the regulations.

Rodney Walther '83
Paul Spencer '83

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by eight other signatures.

The Battalion

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Questions or comments concerning any matter should be directed to the editor.

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