

Describing the elephant in '82

by Arnold Sawislak
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The 1982 elections are focusing on the economy, but the politicians involved are putting on a pretty good imitation of the four blind men describing an elephant.

"It's like a hose," says the man who grasps the trunk. "A tree," says the man who touches a leg. "No, a mountain," says the man who is next to the side of the animal. "You're all wrong," says the fellow holding the tail. "This thing is a rope."

So it is with the politicians this year. The Democrats are looking at the unemployment figures, the business failures and industries like housing and auto manufacturing. "A disaster," they say.

But President Reagan and his people see something else. Inflation slowed, interest rates coming down, stock prices soaring. "It's working," they say of the Reagan economic program.

The Democrats say it is time for pump-priming; for the government to spend some money on job-creating programs, such as public works. The Republicans say it is only a matter of time before private enterprise will wake up and make all

the jobs the people need. Stay the course, they say.

The question is, to which group of politicians will the voters listen?

Obviously, people who have lost their jobs aren't too impressed by a slower rate of inflation and certainly not by a boom in the stock market.

But unemployment, even using estimates that include people who have given up job hunting or have been cut to part time, represents only about two of every 10 potential workers.

That's high, but if the Democrats got votes only from the jobless, the Republicans wouldn't have much to worry about. That probably is even true if you add in the people who actually have been hurt by the Reagan budget cuts of 1981-82.

On the other side of the coin, inflation has slowed, not ended, and there are very few essential products or services whose prices are significantly lower now than two years ago. It is the optimistic American indeed who think \$1.15 gasoline or 14 per cent mortgage rates are outstanding bargains.

Furthermore, the tax cuts Reagan and his supporters trumpeted to the skies last summer probably don't seem to be that

much in the average weekly or bi-weekly paycheck. People might see a big increase in the total when they file their returns next spring — months past the elections.

And even if the election hinges on voters' perception of the nation's economic health, there is another complication that could fuzzle the voters' perceptions. And even if the election hinges on voters' perception of the nation's economic health, there is another complication that could fuzzle the voters' perceptions. And even if the election hinges on voters' perception of the nation's economic health, there is another complication that could fuzzle the voters' perceptions.

The candidates know this and do it. Few Republicans seeking reelection are pleading to be sent to Washington to help Reagan. Most are simply highlighting economic problems on the Democratic side and hoping that will be accepted.

On the other side, most Democrats well aware of the national polls that Reagan's personal popularity still are not knocking the president out. They are citing unemployment and energy failures, but generally blaming less "supplisiders" or the entire Republican Party for them.

Ways to replace missing NFL sports

by Art Buchwald

A bunch of the sports executives at Zenith Network were sitting around the conference table trying to come up with some programming to replace the NFL football games. It was the eighth week of the strike and they had tried everything from lacrosse to ladies' mud wrestling, but for some reason they just couldn't attract the audiences to warrant the \$250,000 a minute they were charging for the time.

"I think I've got it," said Dexter. "The Girl's Latin School of Boston is playing Our Lady of Victory's field hockey team on Sunday. It's a grudge match that goes back 50 years. With proper promos I think we could get people to tune in."

"Who knows anything about women's field hockey?"

"Five minutes later -- "Howard we're thinking of putting on the Girl's Latin - Our Lady of Victory field hockey match this Sunday, to keep the crowd that likes pro football. Could you handle the color?"

Howard smirked. "That is a silly question. Girl's Latin of Zoston has a lifetime record of 345 wins against 165 losses. Under the famed, but very under-rated Mary McGrotry, they had four undefeated years, a record that has never been surpassed in the New England Regional Conference.

"Which brings me to a story about Francie Barnard. Francie, as you know, had been offered a scholarship to Georgetown Visitation, and Dumbarton Oaks. Her mother had played for Visitation in 1956 and made All-American. But Carry had developed a knee injury on a skateboard and doctors told her she would never play field hockey again. She went to an orthopedic specialist named Alice McKelvie who put in an artificial knee. Alice McKelvie was a friend of Nik-

ki Harris and told her Francie could play. Nikki arranged for a full scholarship for Francie and that is why Francie is now playing for Girls Latin instead of Georgetown Visitation.

"Our Lady of Victory had its greatest years under Sister Mary Therese Bottecelli, between 1941 and '53. Sister Mary used to smash a player's wrist with a hockey stick every time the player hit the ball over the crossbars. In 1965 Victory's Mother Superior, Dorothy Tuberty, decided to de-emphasize field hockey after Eunice Shriver bought her daughter Maria a Mustang convertible for scoring three goals against Madeira.

"Fortunately the alumni rebelled, as field hockey was the only reason most parents sent their daughters to Our Lady of Victory, and now they are back in the big time. If I may interject a personal note, I remember the afternoon on October 6, 1971, when Mary Healy in the classic contest with Potomac Normal..."

"That's enough, Howard, you've convinced us."

"Well are you going to go with the Girl's Latin game next week or not?" Howard asked.

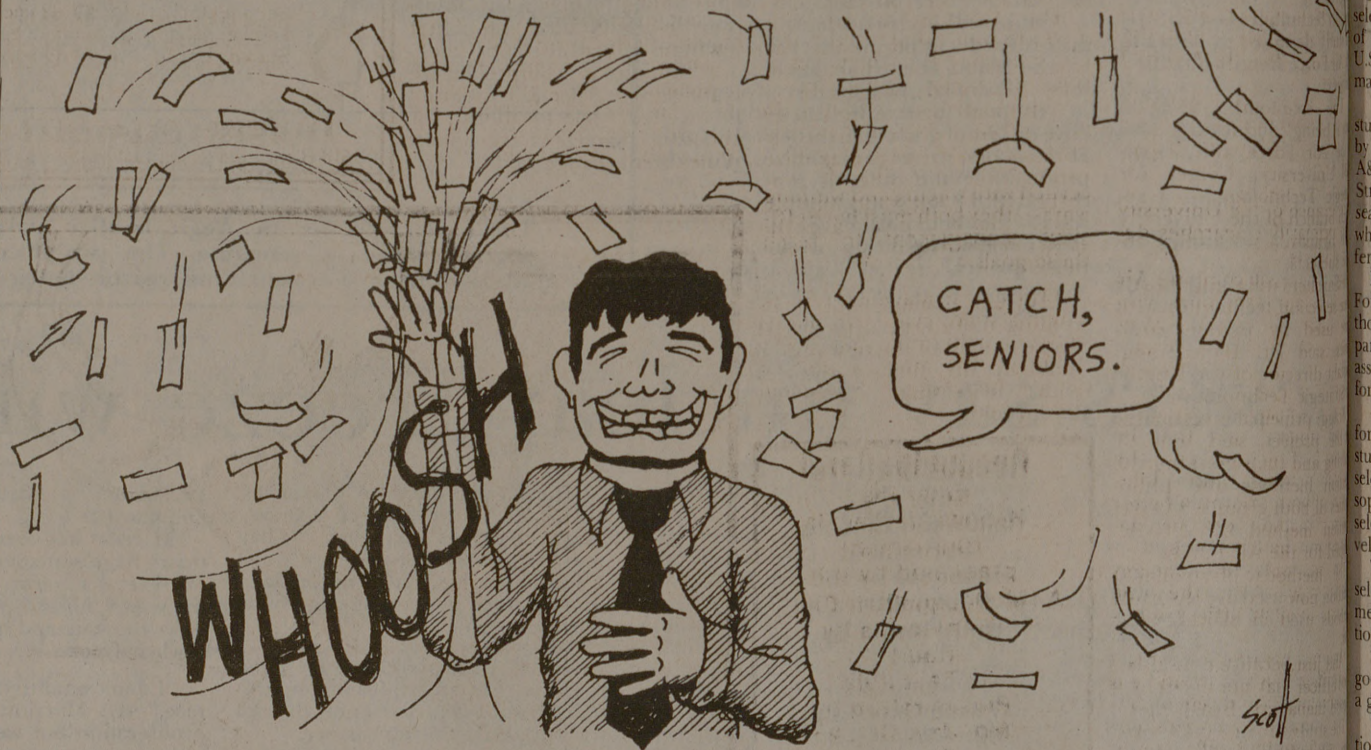
"Either that or a horseshoe pitching match between the Flatbush Odd Fellows Home and the Sun City Bulldogs."

"I'll never forget watching the Flatbush Odd Fellows defeat the Calgary Nursing Home in an overtime, in that memorable series in Anchorage, Alaska, on Jan. 4, 1947. Flatbush had a one armed thrower named Skippy Danzinger and Skippy had left his favorite horseshoe on the train. So he saw this Canadian Mounted Policeman and he..."

"Okay, Howard, we'll get back to you as soon as we make our decision."

"I'm sorry, gentlemen, but I have to tell it the way it is."

BATTALION INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING DISCOVERS THE SECRET METHOD THAT MAKES THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOTBALL TICKETS COMPLETELY RANDOM



Letters: It's all in the job title

Editor:

Have you ever had the pleasure of visiting the infamous dwelling of our Student Government? It's located on the second floor of the MSC in room 216, suites C and D. If by chance you actually accomplish the task of getting into the room, and believe me, it is a major feat to fight your way through the mass of unidentified student government members who stand around aimlessly, I hope you'll anxiously wait for the arrival of our all-great student body president.

He even signed his name and "casually" mentioned his title in his recent editorial about student testing procedures to let everyone know who he is and who he stands for. Hm-m-m, it kind of know about most of my peers, but I sure was shocked to be made aware of my opinions about testing procedures. So on my ignorant behalf, "Thank-you, P.P."

Good ole P.P. even put the license plate of "Ag Prez" on his car just so everyone would know what clout he holds. He must not have much clout because I've repeatedly heard him say that everyone is against him when voting on certain issues in the Student Senate. Kind of tells you something, doesn't it P.P.? This is the same "Ag Prez" that has stood up several Aggie Mother's Club meetings these past months. "Good bull," wouldn't you say?

This boy has his political techniques down pat. Back to the drawing board with the political science major prez! And

I'm sure with these excellent political methods, he accomplishes miracles for the student body in his negotiations with the administration.

Along with taking privileges by pushing his title around, Mr. Texas A&M student body president has hinted to me that the completion of his school work takes priority over any other students' on this campus. People should relinquish paper, pens, time and typewriters to him anytime he beckons.

Remember he is THE Student Body President and no matter what you or anyone else is doing, time must come to a standstill whenever Mr. Important speaks. No, we're not dealing with a massive-egoed, power-hungry president here.

Possibly I might dim P.P.'s light a little by reminding him that I think he was not the best qualified candidate back when he was elected. I think I've heard P.P. described as "the worst of two bad choices."

I'd say it's definitely time for impeachment! Mr. Nixon was expendable and so are you for that matter.

Spunky A. Sheppard '83
Student Body Student

Thanks, Father Bill

Editor:

We have come to know a unique individual, Father Bill Brooks, whose Aggie

spirit and enthusiasm has influenced over the past two to three years. He for his vocation and Texas A&M University has proven an inspiration to students, both past and present.

During his four and one-half year Associate Pastor and Campus Minister St. Mary's Catholic Church, he has succeeded in unifying the thousands of Catholic students with the College Station faith community.

Father Bill has been involved many campus activities while at Texas A&M. Students of various denominations are familiar with his genuine concern for all individuals. We have fortunate enough to be associated with Fr. Bill not only as Catholic students also as staff members of Fish Camp. We realize that many lives have been touched through his willingness to be of himself, and the Catholic Parish of Luling, will be blessed to receive such an extraordinary person. Fr. Bill's presence at Texas A&M University will be greatly missed yet his loving spirit will always remain with us.

Thank you Father Bill, and may your blessing always be with you.

Barbara A. Brunner
Brenda M. Svrcek

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 10 other signatures.

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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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