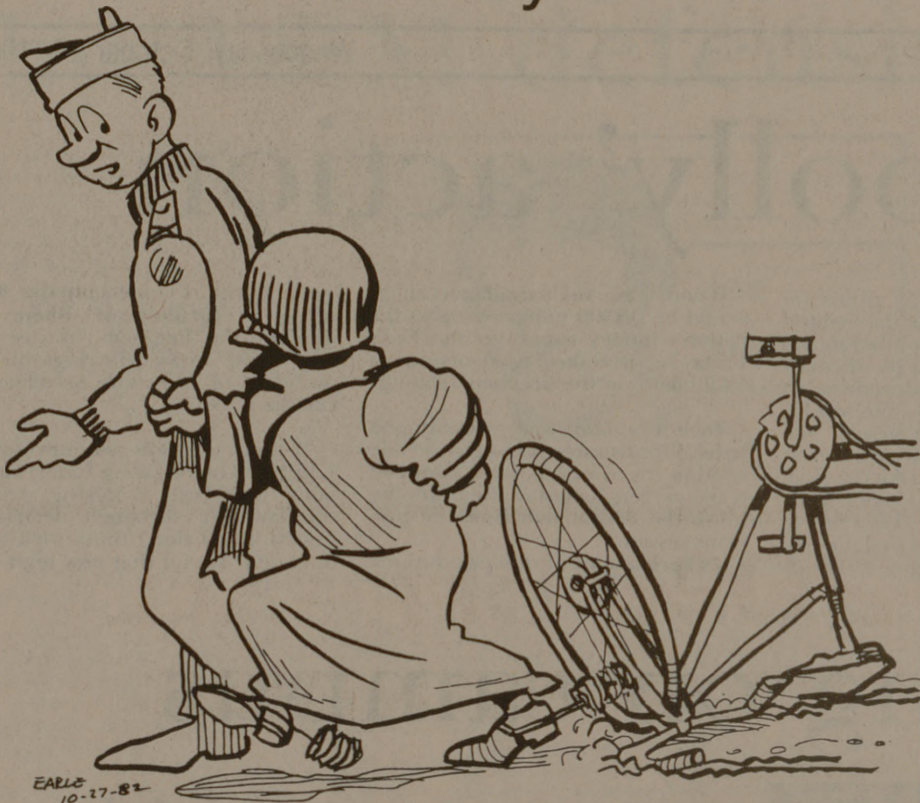


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I thought that by now you would have realized that your spurs were hung up."

NFL strike results: the new-found rich

by Art Buchwald

I saw Mathews the other day driving a new Porsche, and the thought occurred to me that he was doing very well. Two days later I heard he was taking his wife to St. Moritz for Christmas, and buying a home in Hilton Head. Then the thought occurred to me Mathews was in on some scam, because just a year ago he was having trouble paying his electric bill.

Finally when I ran into him looking at fur coats in Neiman Marcus I decided to confront him on his new-found wealth.

"Okay, Mathews, you can level with me. Where's the money coming from?"

Mathews laughed, "You really want to know? It's coming from the NFL football strike."

"What does that mean?"

"There are no games being played, so I haven't been able to place any bets with bookie. Last year I lost my shirt, my pants and the farm to him. This year the money is all mine. I'm having a ball. I was able to send my kid to MIT with what I would have lost on the New England Patriots this year."

"You mean to say that all your new-found wealth is money that you had set aside to bet on the NFL football games?"

"That's where it comes from. This is the first year I've been able to wake up on Monday mornings without a cold sweat. I know I don't have to meet my bookie for lunch and turn over the family jewels."

"But isn't your wife suspicious of you suddenly throwing all this money around?"

"You bet she is. She figures I'm stealing from the company. Everytime I give her some cash she won't spend it because she thinks she's going to have to hire a criminal lawyer."

"Why don't you tell her the truth?"

"Because I promised her seven years ago I'd stop betting on NFL games with my bookie. She'll know I lied to her if I told her where the bonanza was coming from this year. The fur coat I'm buying would have gone for the point spread I

would have had to take on the St. Louis Cardinals."

"She doesn't know how lucky she is that the players and owners can't come to terms."

"You see those two guys over there in trench coats? They're from the FBI and they've been tailing me ever since the NFL strike went into effect. They're certain I'm heisting banks, because last year at this time I couldn't even pay my Diner's Club bill. The narc agents have tapped my phone because they're sure I'm dealing in cocaine, and the IRS has audited me three times since Ed Garvey called the players out. I'm in fat city."

"I didn't know you were such a heavy better."

"Look there are millions of guys like me all over America, who can no longer put down a bet on a Dallas Cowboy game. Since they don't have to give their money to the bookies, they don't know what to do with their dough. I at least have enough sense to enjoy it while the strike is on."

"Can't you bet on other sports events?"

"I supposed I could, but I don't get the same thrill as when I can get 14 points on the Jets when they're playing in Buffalo. Do you know in 1979 I had three winners on a Sunday, and would have broken even if Philadelphia hadn't kicked a field goal in the last 10 seconds? I couldn't sleep all night. Now I don't have to worry if they score touchdowns in the last quarter."

"I wish I had bet on NFL games in the past, I said. 'I'd be a rich man this fall.'"

"Those are the breaks," Mathews said modestly. "Some guys just luck into an NFL strike, and become rich overnight."

Mathews told the salesgirl to gift wrap the fur coat in a box and we left the store. On the sidewalk was a down and out man selling lead pencils. Mathews took out a bill and dropped it into the tin cup.

"Are you nuts?" I said. "You gave him a hundred dollar note."

"I know the guy," he told me. "That was my bookie."

Group shouldn't take blame

A few complaints were made in a column on this page of The Battalion on Tuesday about the conduct of the Corps of Cadets at Saturday's Texas A&M-Rice game.

On top of everything else, Tuesday's column attempted to connect these incidents at the game with the very foundations of Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M System.

Some parts of Tuesday's column made strong attacks on the Corps, but did not base these attacks on anything. No attempts were made to back the attacks, and no solutions or corrections for the issues were offered. The vague rhetoric didn't help help the column at all.

Are these complaints about Corps conduct at the game well-founded?

So many negative things are heard about the Corps — but how many of them are actually true?

First, there were complaints about a Texas A&M yell leader pushing over the Rice Owl mascot. Head Yell Leader Tom Joseph apparently was being harassed by the owl. The owl was trying to push into the yell leader huddle and wouldn't go away.

I must admit, this doesn't excuse the push-and-shove tactics. It isn't necessary to push another school's mascot around. We should have risen above this intrusion — and we partially failed. The mascot may have been attempting the whole thing in fun.



diana sultenfuss

Also, remarks have been made about the freshmen cadets stealing pom-poms and a megaphone. Some may quote the Aggie Code of Honor and say the Corps fish who took the Rice cheerleaders' megaphone and pom-poms need a lesson on what it means to be an Aggie.

I have to agree; I cringed when the fish cadets ran out of the stadium. This little prank didn't seem necessary. But all has been returned. And a prank seems a small reason to quote the Code of Honor.

Why complain anyway? These sorts of pranks have gone on at many other universities — and sometimes at far worse expense. Some students at other schools become so frenzied that they tear down the goalposts. It seems to me that a returnable megaphone and pom-poms are a much cheaper price to pay.

I admire the columnist's desire for excellence at Texas A&M. I believe that

almost everyone at this University has such a desire. However, I don't connect a few "incidents" at a football game with the entire list of goals of our University and System. I agree starting from the bottom is the best place — but to be taking it a little bit too far.

It seems illogical to call the Corps a "small but visible group" that threatens the image and progress of the institution. The Corps was the very beginning of this institution — it was from the start to commission of the military. The Corps of Cadets does not bear the responsibility for the pre-eminence and a world reputation.

The Corps is not perfect by any means but it is fair to say they are a major efficiency in this institution of higher learning? How can this be backed? Can a grade-point ratio be above other students?

The Corps of Cadets represents 20 percent of the student body (20,000 out of 36,000 students), yet each the major voice on campus. The votes in the student body election spring semester, and they select the Corps attends games, yell and Silver Taps. When the time comes to work on bonfire, there are many cadets working as non-cadets.

Texas A&M needs the Corps to be fair to place the blame for the act few upon the shoulders of the group.



Letter: Possibility of nuclear war

Editor:

This letter is a response to Kevin Peter's letter which was in last Friday's Battalion. He wrote a very long and emotional letter in which he advocated the nuclear freeze concept.

I don't know, however, if Mr. Peter read my letter which was published in the Sept. 9 issue. In that letter, I wrote: "I recognize the good intentions of many of the people advocating a nuclear freeze. However, their reasoning is tragically flawed in that arms control is only advantageous as long as it locks an aggressor nation into inferiority."

If a nuclear freeze were to be negotiated, the USSR would be left in a superior strategic position. We, the United States and the rest of the free world, would be able to do only two things. One, we would be required to have a "launch on warning policy". Or, two, we would have to accept the damage that the Soviets would inflict with their superior nuclear forces.

Mr. Peter also mentioned the "inevitability of nuclear war". I must remind him that the United States of America deterred a nuclear war for 37 years. How have we done this? We did it from a position of strength. There won't be a nuclear war as long as the dictators in the Kremlin know that they can't win a war against the United States.

So what must the American people do? We mustn't go around signing petitions which will guarantee Soviet superiority. We should push for the realization of an alternative to MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction). We must think instead about Mutually Assured Survival. Dr. Edward Teller talked about this concept while he was here at A&M two weeks ago. This means the development of a comprehensive civil defense plan and the perfection of defensive strategic weapons.

If we do this, we wouldn't have to act like snivelling wimps and therefore sur-

render to the Soviets. If you don't accept the leftist propaganda, which has formed the nuclear freeze idea, tell your congressman and your senators! They need to know that the real Americans in this

country won't let themselves be mailed by the threat of communist aggression.

Murray E. Moore

Berry's World by Jim Berry



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"I'll bet he's a stock broker! Right?"

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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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