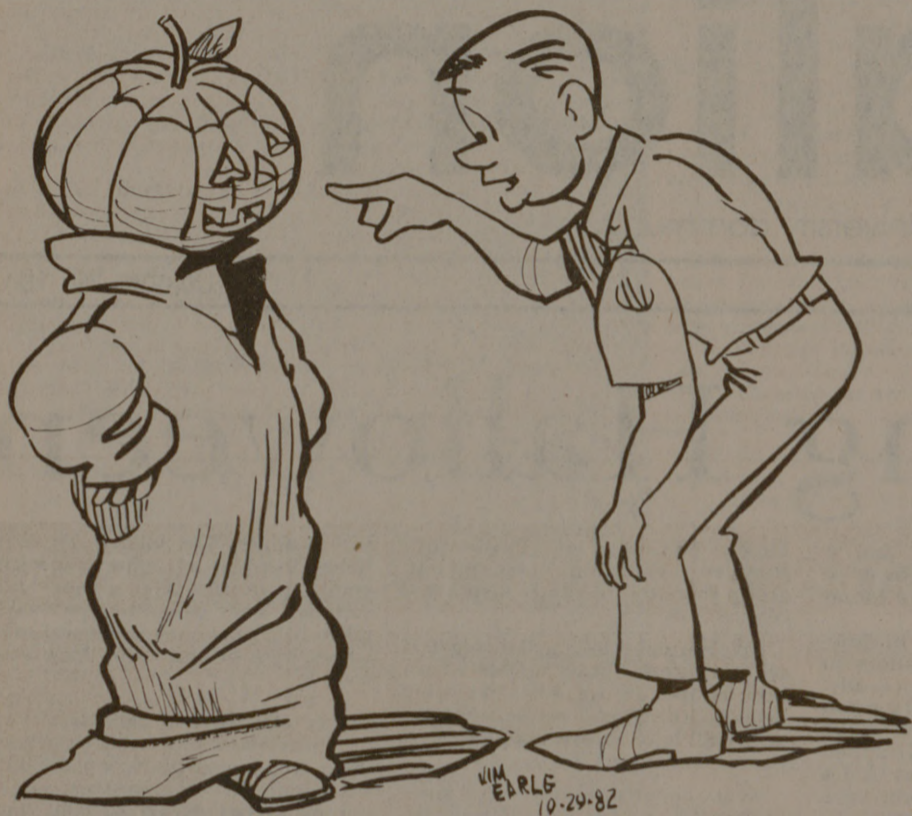


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"How do you keep the candle lit?"

The ghost speaks for himself

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — Calvin Hoffman, author of "The Murder of the Man Who Was Shakespeare," claims new evidence uncovered in England supports his thesis that Shakespeare's plays actually were written by Christopher Marlowe.

I'm not enough of a student of Elizabethan drama to evaluate Hoffman's suspicions. On a pop quiz, I would have identified Christopher Marlowe as a fictional private eye created by Raymond Chandler.

It occurred to me, however, that expert testimony on the subject could be found in the disputed works themselves. Here is how an interrogation of the Immortal Bard might read:

Q. Come now, Mr. Shakespeare, 'fess up. Did you really write those plays yourself?

A. "An ill-favoured thing, sir, but mine own. I call the gods to witness."

Q. What about the claim that Marlowe was the author?

A. "This is a very false gallop of verses. Falser than vows made in wine. Stands not within the prospect of belief. What imports the nomination of this gentleman?"

Q. Well, Hoffman says it has been discovered that Marlowe was still alive five years after his reputed murder in 1583. That would at least physically place him in the time frame of some of the later manuscripts.

A. "But this denoted a foregone conclusion. Give me the ocular proof."

Q. Hoffman also wants to reopen the tomb of Marlowe's patron, Sir Thomas Walsingham, to locate a box that might contain conclusive evidence of Marlowe's authorship.

A. "That takes the reason prisoner. Poor

Tom's a-cold. So may he rest. Vex not his ghost."

Q. Is there any connection at all between you and Marlowe?

A. "They say we are almost as like as eggs. He does it with better grace, but I do it more naturally."

Q. What about Francis Bacon, Edmund Spenser and all those other English authors who have been mentioned as your ghostwriters?

A. "Mechanic slaves with greasy aprons, rules and hammers. Cudgel thy brains no more about it. Nothing will come to nothing."

Q. Yeah, but where will it all end?

A. "Things at worse will cease, or else climb upward to what they were before."

Q. I didn't ask for a stock market prediction, sir. I wanted to know what your personal reaction would be.

A. "I am tied to the stake, and I must stand the course."

Q. I wasn't asking you about Reaganomics, either. Is there anything else you wish to say in rebuttal?

A. "Little shall I grace my cause in speing for myself. Reputation is an idle and most false imposition; often got without merit, and lost without deserving. He that filches from me my good name robs me of that which not enriches him, and makes me poor indeed."

Q. That certainly is one way of looking at it. Shall I put you down as insisting you wrote the plays?

A. "No hinge nor loop to hang a doubt on."

Q. Thank you, Mr. Shakespeare. Your witness, Mr. Hoffman.

A. "Bid me discourse, I will enchant thine ear."

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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.

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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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Editorial Policy

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Big spenders squash Dream

by Art Buchwald

"Okay, Sir, here is your quiz for the next stop. The people are mad as hell out there because they have an 18 percent unemployment rate. Where does your heart go?"

"Out to them. As long as one person in this country is jobless, I will not be satisfied."

"Good. Who is to blame for the high unemployment rate?"

"There is enough blame to go around for everybody. But we are at least doing something about it, unlike those big spenders in Congress who got us into this mess in the first place."

"Where is the recession?"

"It's bottomed out, and we are recovery-bound, thanks to lower interest rates, lower inflation and confidence by the people on Wall Street who are willing to back our programs by investing in the great American free enterprise system."

"What must we avoid to get people back to work again?"

"A quick fix, which may temporarily put people back to work, but will never solve the severe economic problems that I inherited from an irresponsible opposition party that has been on a drunken spending binge for four decades."

"Why did they spend this money?"

"Because it wasn't theirs. It was the American taxpayers'."

"What do you believe in more than

anything else?"

"The American dream."

"And how can we achieve the American dream?"

"By staying on the course which I have set, and by passing a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a balanced budget which will permit us to live within our means."

"Who is preventing us from having a balanced budget?"

"A small group of selfish men in Congress who are willing to sell our birthright to satisfy the greedy pressure groups who feel the federal government must solve all their problems."

"What will put people back to work?"

"My tax program which encourages business to invest in new plants, expand production and give the consumer more money in his pocket to spend on goods."

"What have you done to address the double-digit unemployment rate?"

"I have just signed a job-training bill which will make it possible for a million people to learn new trades and skills to prepare them for the prosperity which is just over the horizon."

"What will they have to do until they find a job?"

"Show patience and forbearance. I can't turn around overnight what the opposition has done in the past 40 years to put the country in the shape it is in today."

"How much of the unemployment in

the country are you willing to blame for?"

"When I came into office it was 10.1 percent. Now it's 10.1 percent. I'm going to take the blame for a 9.6 percent increase. Can I read a letter from a 9-year-old in Madison, Wisconsin?"

"Sure, go ahead."

"Dear Mr. President:

"My father doesn't have a job. Neither does my mother. But I am one of those who matches the beat of doom and gloom. I know your fault that the dark cloud of unemployment lies over the land. Please let Congress spend any more money on wasteful programs that will only add to the unemployment problem."

"Signed, Donny Schmiddapp."

"And what do you say to Donny?"

"I say, Donny, I hear you are old enough to vote."

"Well, that takes care of the unemployment issue. One more question: we'll let you take a nap. What day is it today?"

"Party politics, as usual. And I all, I did not come here to further gage the future of the American people, just to buy a short-term political victory, by sweeping our problems under the rug."



IT'S IN THE MAIL...

Letters: Corps foundation of A&M

Editor:

In response to Bill Robinson's article referring to the "immaturity of the Corps", perhaps "Mr. Mature and Committed" would be interested in a few additional facts — not biased opinion.

The Corps scholastic average is higher than the overall Texas A&M University average. The Corps is the foundation of our University, upholding honor, integrity and pride. In addition to being the mainstay of many respected traditions — Bonfire, Ross Volunteers, Silver Taps — most cadets are actively involved in every phase of campus life from student government to hospitality.

In my opinion, the Corps turns boys into responsible, well-mannered, well-disciplined gentlemen, which Bill Robinson obviously is not. It is said that achievers need to set their own goals, so in the future Mr. Robinson, rather than setting our goals for us so we can ultimately become the "Cambridge of the South", perhaps you should be so kind as to let each set their own goals. After all, why can't Cambridge someday be the "Texas A&M of the East"?

Angie Scuggs '85

Hiding behind rhetoric

Editor:

I have a question for Mr. Bill Robinson: Mr. Robinson, your indictments against the Corps are very explicit in your October 26 article. What I'm interested in is exactly what action you deem necessary to correct the situation. Your calls for change are both obscure and easy to hide behind. I would be interested in listening to your suggestions, not your vague rhetoric.

Frank Knickerbocker
306 Redmund

In defense of art

Editor:

Today, there exists a battle wherein a basic and critical issue is being brought to the forefront of newsmaking proportions. This issue is whether or not an author, artist, student of originality or other such creator has the right of determination for his/her work.

Peripheral elements in the battle are such issues as integrity, special interest bodies, academic purity and the interface of all of these elements.

The battle I have reference to is that of Maya Ying Lin, a student of Architecture at a noted American University who's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. was selected for construction. This student has been suddenly thrust into the mainstream of reality wherein she must consider and come to grips with the peripheral elements, plus others, which I have mentioned above.

Her ethnic origins have been men-

tioned, by some small thinking without mention of the fact that the people of that same origin were in the conflict for which the Memorial was being constructed.

A courageous defender of the concept, Ms. Lin has presented her philosophy and, at least publicly, has not upon the fact that her design was upon standard, accepted and professional competition guidelines, although far too few, have publicly defended her right of authorship termination but yet are ready to promise her stand and legitimacy.

In the interest of the issues we perceive to be present in this we invite your investigation of the problems, as students and educators, take a position in support of the elements.

John E. Assistant Professor
Department of Environmental

Berry's World by Jim Berry



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"Your ignorance is a big turn-off, but your arrogance is utterly fascinating!"