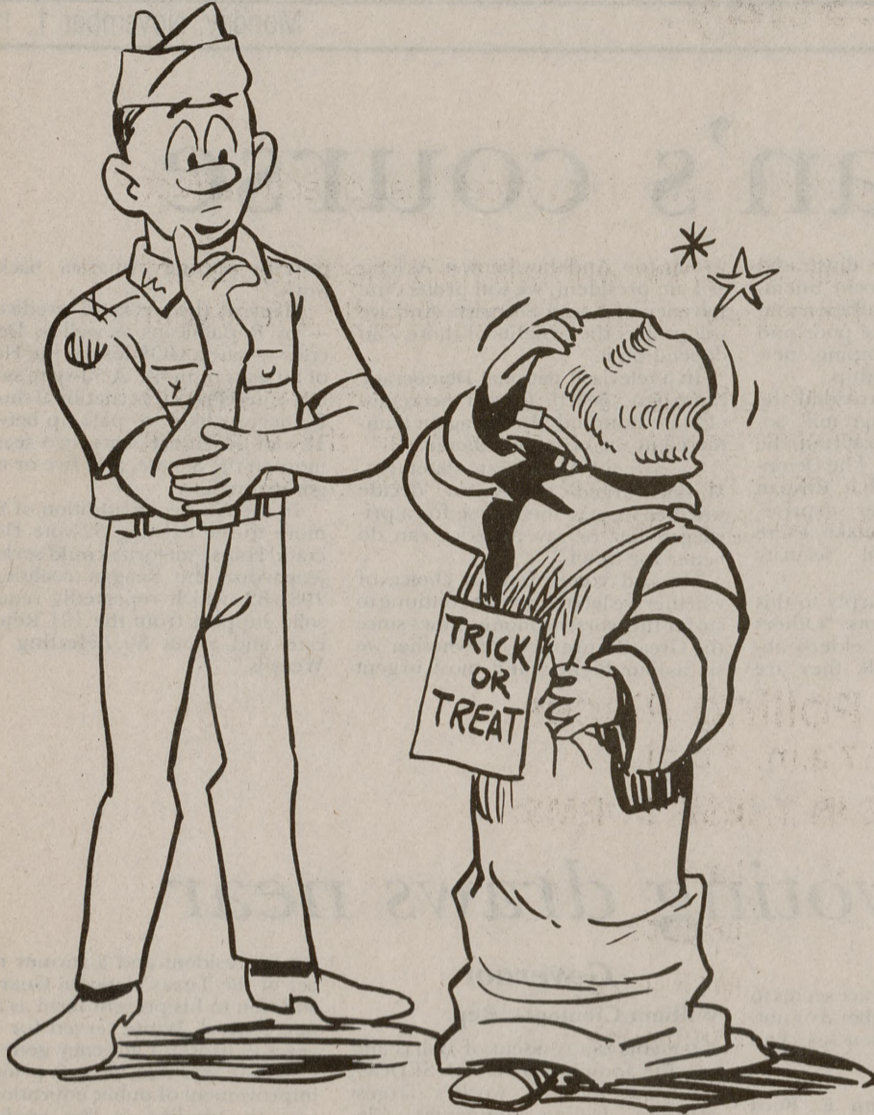


Slouch By Jim Earle



"Boy! They ought to quit worrying about Tylenol and spiked candy. The real problem is with baseball bats."

One vote can be the difference

"My vote won't matter anyway," is a comment made by many when elections approach.

This argument seems to stand up because thousands and thousands of votes are cast in each election. But this couldn't be farther from the truth.

In many cases, one vote has changed the course of history.

- one vote cost King Charles I of England his head in 1649;
- Elizabeth II is Queen of England because the British House of Commons voted in favor of the House of Hanover, 1688-89;
- the U.S. Senate agreed in 1845 to annex Texas by a one-vote margin;
- in 1868 the U.S. Senate twice failed by a single vote to convict President Andrew Johnson in his impeachment trial.

After America became an independent nation, the power of a single vote continued as a major factor in electing its leaders.

Thomas Jefferson was elected Presi-



diana sultenfuss

dent over Aaron Burr in 1800 by one vote in the House of Representatives, following a tie in the electoral college.

John Quincy Adams in 1824 was chosen President by a one-vote margin when his race was decided by the House of Representatives.

Rutherford B. Hayes was elected President over Samuel J. Tilden when a special Electoral Commission voted 8-7 in his favor.

John F. Kennedy had less than a one-vote per precinct lead across the nation in

his race for President. In Illinois, New Jersey, one-half of one percent of the votes cast swung 43 electoral votes in only two states won by him. Reversing that small percentage thrown his election into the House of Representatives for a decision.

The stories of one-vote elections happen at all levels of government. One California congressional race ended with a tie vote. The incumbent's race was decided by drawing lots. The incumbent drew.

His secretary had decided she was busy working at campaign headquarters on election day.

In a Cincinnati suburb, a city candidate was hospitalized on election day for an emergency appendectomy without having voted.

He lost by one vote. So one, single vote does matter. The effort to get to the polls on election day can make all the difference in the world.

How tough is baby boom's lot in life?

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

A well-heeled young friend of ours was drowning his sorrows the other day over drinks, unhappy with his lot as a member of the baby boom generation.

Taking up a familiar complaint, he moaned that "we're never going to be as successful as our parents." If there was an American dream, he said, "it's all over now."

Of course, our friend, 26, is one of millions his age who have arrived at this conclusion. As a car-carrying member of the baby boom generation, he's felt entitled to handicap himself with every ounce of sociological jargon available about high expectations, sheer numbers and diminishing returns. Like so many others, he's embraced books such as Daniel Yankelovich's "New Rules: Searching for Fulfillment in A World Turned Upside Down" as a defense against a creeping sense of failure.

His pessimism reflects a common belief that the baby boom generation's size has not only doomed its members' futures but helped to cause our nation's economic misery, too.

But while his resignation is no doubt useful in eliciting sympathy and monthly stipends from mom and dad, it may be as bogus as the foreign-made taste of Haagen-Daaz ice cream. Though unemployment tops 10 percent and national productivity stagnates, good 'ol dad seems to have been right when he said: "If you think things are bad now, you

should have tried growing up in the Depression."

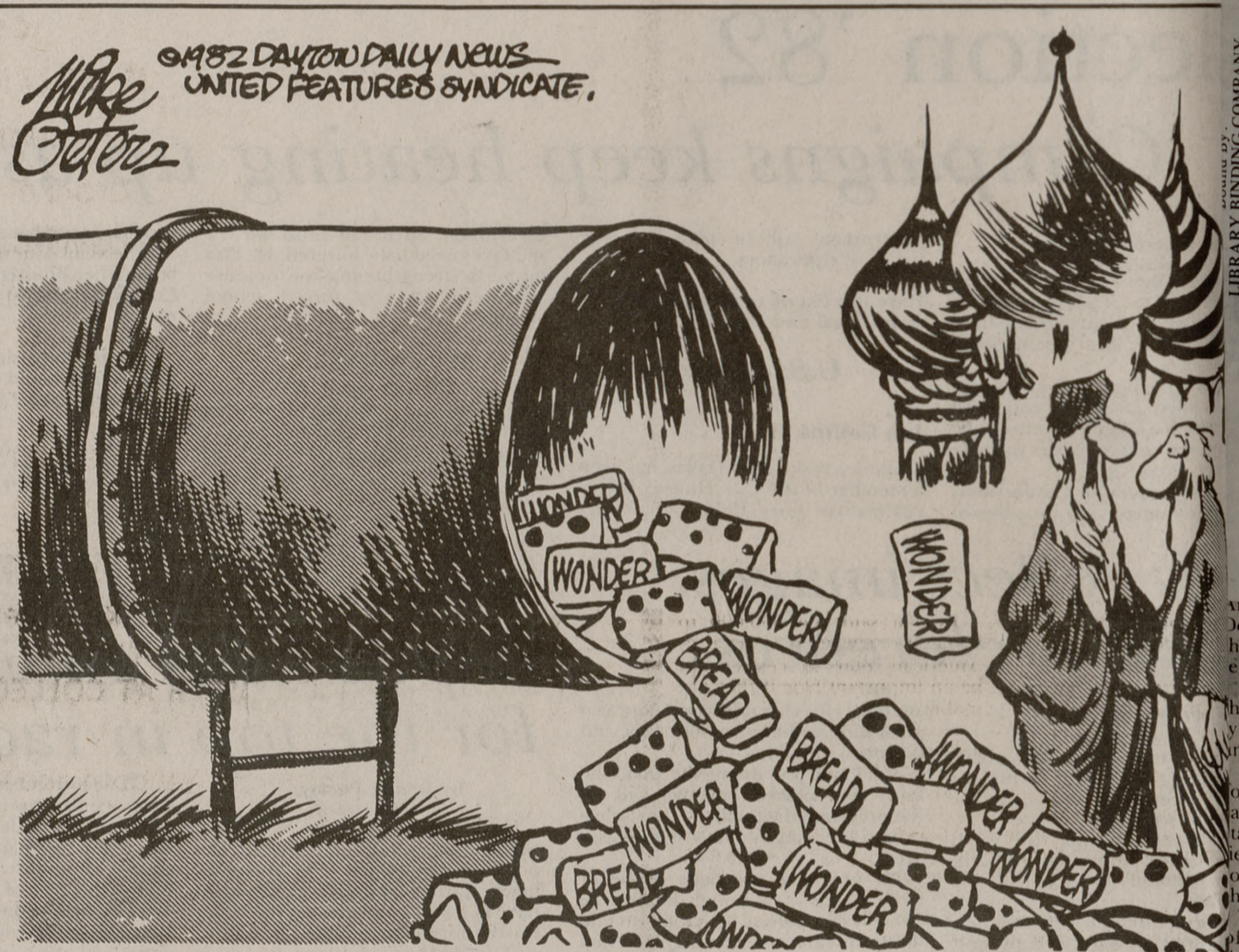
Indeed, as hard as it may be to swallow, the baby boom generation has fared better than its predecessors, according to Louise B. Russell, Brookings Institution economist, in a new book, "The Baby Boom Generation and the Economy."

After comparing the last two generations' access to education, housing and income, Russell concludes the baby boomers have no right to complain.

In education, Russell notes, more money was squandered on post-war kids, per student, than on members of any previous generation. The quality of instruction has also been higher. (In 1930, for example, only two states required that elementary-school teachers have a B.A. degree. By 1961, 44 states did.)

In the broad matter of housing, a higher percentage of young couples own homes today than did 25 years ago. Between 1970 and 1980, for example, "the proportion of homeowners rose from 49 to 58 percent for the 25-through-29 age group, and from 66 to 76 percent for those 30 through 34," writes Russell. (In 1960, 44 percent of all husband-wife couples between 25 and 29 years of age owned homes.)

Though earnings didn't grow as rapidly in the 1970s as they did in the 1960s, baby boomers, according to Russell, have earned real incomes as high as, or higher than, those of any preceding generation.



IT'S THE ONLY WAY REAGAN WOULD AGREE TO THE PIPELINE

Election results too close to call

by Clay F. Richards

WASHINGTON — Gamblers who have saved up a bundle during the football strike should avoid the temptation to bet it all on the outcome of the November election.

A little more than a week before Americans decide whether to restore the Democrats to power or reinforce Ronald Reagan's 1980 mandate — or do neither — the outcome is by all bets too close to call.

As Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., the chairman of the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee put it: "The election is happening now."

Any Democrat will tell you the voters are fed up with Reagan's economic program and the high unemployment. They will tell you voter emotions are running heavily against the GOP and the tide is favoring Democrats. And in the next breath they will tell you Democrats will pick up no more than an additional 20 House seats in the elections, well below the average of 38 the party in the White House loses in mid-term elections.

Try to get them to explain the difference between the momentum and their predictions of the outcome, Democrats say "money." There have been well financed candidates before and some have lost and others have won.

The reason it is hard to tell what is going to happen is that apparently many voters haven't made up their mind how they are going to vote, or more importantly whether they are going to vote at all.

Blacks and women are overwhelmingly rejecting Reagan policy but their turnout figures may not be equal that of other elements of the voting population.

And the failure of Democrats to present a clear alternative to Reagan policy has turned off some voters.

Because there appears to be no firm national movement emerging in the voting pattern so far, local issues may play a more important role in how the elections come out. The people will more likely vote for the candidate they are more convinced can do something about crime or will vote to cut defense spending or whatever their special interest is.

"Voters are looking for some assurance

that things will get better," says pollster Peter Hart. "The people want to return to the center."

The pollsters say Americans want neither the extremes of Ronald Reagan's program or

a return to the "tax, tax, spend, spend" program they associate with the Democrats.

That leaves a confused electorate that could do anything on election day but bet the rent money.

Berry's World by Jim Berry



"Now that I've told you my thoughts on abortion, I'll tell you my ideas about prayers in school and handgun control."

The Battalion

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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.

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