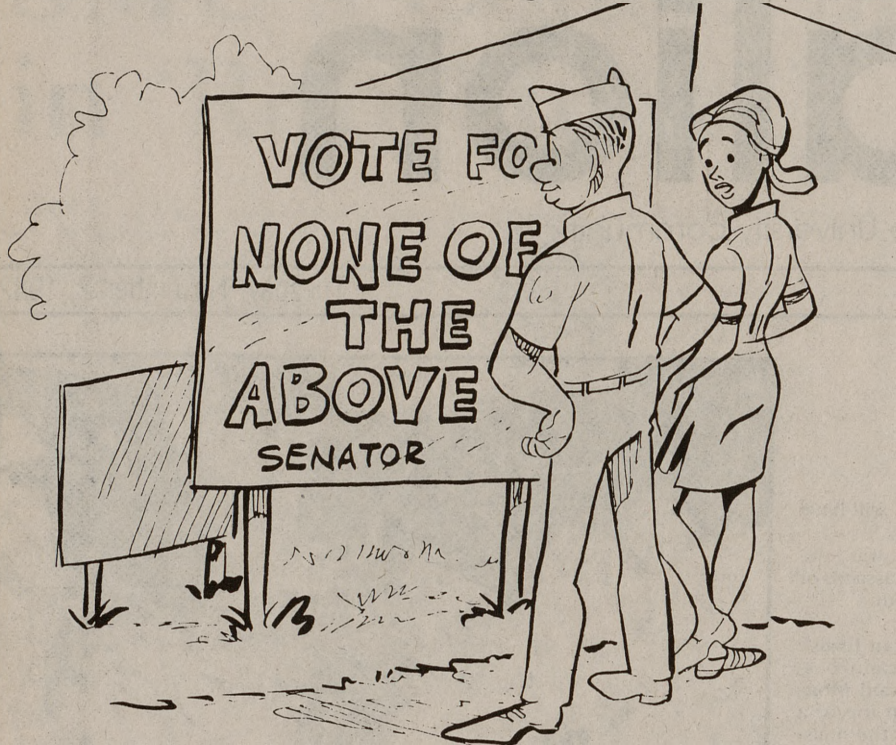


Slouch By Jim Earle



"You mean he changed his name to 'None of the Above' just for the election?"

Water the government lawn

Editor:

The solutions are not easy nor are the answers clear. The problems are many, maybe more than any one person can realize.

It is not the choice of "easy paths" that we are to choose from. But the path which will satisfy our intention from the beginning all the way to the end.

We must set up guidelines and follow them. We must maintain a course that will lead us to rectitude.

We must be more decisive. The problems of decades can not be solved in four years. Nor can those paths which we have chosen be judged at the "middle of the road." Hard times are yet to come, but they can be resolved, and they will be resolved.

A strong will, a solid backbone, and the willingness to endure will determine the fate of this country and these times. Quick solutions, the easy way out, and the illusion of a smooth ride will not prevail; not this time.

No one man, no one administration can solve the problems of the American people. Only the American people can do this. But in the process we must not continue on the erratic path that we have been following. Let us stabilize, become one, stay on course and let it be determined that we can solve our own problems.

America has always stood fast in a state of crisis. But are we in a state of crisis? I should think not. Not yet, but if we don't follow the straight and narrow and decide what it is that we want, then we will be at a crisis.

This, our government, can no longer feasibly give away to its people or to the people of the world. Our businesses are being undermined by a cheaper Euro-

Reader's Forum

pean, Japanese market. The world is in debt to these United States, and it's time that the world start paying back.

Some governments do pay us back. An even exchange has been worked out. For example: Israel has pitted our finest military equipment against what has been assumed to be the finest military equipment in the world; produced by the Soviet Union. And Israel continues to make the Soviet machinery look silly in actual combat.

If there is nothing for us to be happy about under these circumstances; then the least we can be happy about is the fact that our military money is being invested wisely in good/evil projects.

We must put all of this aside for the time and direct our attention to the real problem which is indecisiveness. We elect people to office because of their policies (I hope). Then, after a year, we lose faith in those policies and we look for new or old policies to come back or to be formed, we put those policies into effect and after a year we are still not happy so we follow the same pattern. Chaos takes over. We live in the illusion that "the grass is or was always greener on the other side."

We should realize that the only way to have green grass is to spread fertilizer, water and seed, and then maintain those seeds which will then turn into our "lawn."

And then we realize that the only way to maintain our lawn is by constant care and determination; that no matter what the circumstances are, we will have the greenest lawn. However, we must first

and foremost realize that we must take care of our lawn and that that will also demand hard work.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president, he spread the fertilizer, watered and planted the seed to develop a lawn of economic recovery. First it took some time; but he cared for his lawn, and the people gave him time care for it. It wasn't until after World War II that his seeds for a greener "lawn" began to grow.

When the war ended his lawn was firmly planted into the American social and way of life. For a while, his lawn grew green. But as time marched on his lawn began to grow brown and "turn to weed."

It was not and is not the work of one man, one "tenant" of the house on the lawn who can be blamed. It is and was the work of many. And some of those "many" are and were that man's neighbors.

Many have tried to "paint the fence that surrounds the house, but this has been superficial. Many have tried to let the lawn just grow, in hopes that it would at least appear to be green.

Neither has worked. The lawn has to be cut down. The fertilizer and the seed all have to be replaced. Then we will have to water and continue to plant new seeds to make our lawn grow and be green again.

This will take time and care. But in the meantime, we will have to till the soil and work the land. We ruined our own "lawn," our neighbors haven't helped either. But basically, it has been our own neglect. Now we must be patient and stay again.

I just hope and pray that when the lawn does grow green again that we'll be better care of it. And that we hire good "tenants" to do the same.

Stephen Weiss '83

Endorsements for public office

by Art Buchwald

It is now time for this column to endorse certain political candidates for public office. We have studied all the issues and arrived at our conclusions by not only comparing who our choices are running against, but how they stack up to what we've got already.

For U.S. Senator — Plato Syracuse. We support Plato because he was the only political candidate this year who did not have his picture taken with an unemployed automobile worker. When this was pointed out by his opponent in their final debate, Syracuse defended himself by saying, "I couldn't do anything to get the man his job back, and he knew it and I knew it, so why use up a lot of my time for a lousy two minutes on the evening news?"

For Congress — Walter Rosebud. Our reason for choosing Rosebud over his opponent is that Rosebud, although a multimillionaire, refused to use a cent of his own money to finance his election. He was quoted as "Meet the Press" as saying, "I worked hard for my fortune, and I have no intention of blowing it on an election when I can get 13 percent on tax-exempt municipal bonds. If the special interest political action committees don't want to buy my vote, then I don't think I want the job."

For Governor — Hayden Dunkerman. This was a tough choice because Dunkerman's opponent has a much prettier wife. But Dunkerman has two more children than his rival. Dunkerman also was an all-state running back in college, while his opponent, because of a bad knee, wouldn't go out for the team. Dunkerman's other qualification for making a better governor is that, in his state, which has a 20 percent Hispanic population, his whole family professes to be crazy about Mexican food.

For Lt. Governor — Ramsay Wilder gets our nod. Wilder disagrees with almost every stand Hayden Dunkerman, the man we support for governor, has taken. Therefore, since neither one of them could work together, it's doubtful that Dunkerman would dare leave the state during his four years in office.

Although Wilder has no executive experience, we still endorse him because a lieutenant governor doesn't need any for this nothing job.

For State Attorney General — Dallas Reising would probably make a better attorney general than Arnie Burchett. He has been more forthright in answering the tough questions posed to him by the media. Last week in a televised debate with WTWT's hard-hitting Reg Smiley as moderator, Dallas was asked where he stood on the death penalty and he replied, "It's none of your damn business." Smiley's follow-up question on how Dallas would deal with white-collar crime brought this response: "I didn't come here to discuss my personal life." Smiley then tried to pin Dallas down on what stand he would take on prayer in public schools. Dallas replied, "I have made it a rule never to talk about the Constitution when appearing on television."

For making Smiley look like a fool, we have to endorse Reising over Arnie Burchett, whose make-up on the show made him look terrible.

For Mayor — the incumbent, Charles Bledsoe, has done a good job and deserves another term. The fact that he gave the garbage contract for the city to his brother-in-law, and received a free trip to Tokyo from the company who sold the city 200 buses that have been recalled for faulty brakes, does not detract from our opinion that Bledsoe is probably one of the most popular machine mayors the city has ever had. We endorse Bledsoe because he is beholden to no one, thanks to a blind trust fund in the Bahamas set up by his close friends in the school contracting business.

For City Council President — Sarah Evans gets our overwhelming endorsement, because she's a woman.

As for the various propositions on the ballot: We favor all the odd-numbered ones and are against the even ones, with the exception of Proposition 82, which reads, "The people of this state believe that in the event of a nuclear attack no alternate parking will be permitted at ground zero."



ISN'T THAT CUTE, DEAR?... JUNIOR SAYS HE'S GOT A JOB AS A DELOREAN DEALER...

New book describes familiar quirks

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — Wild-eyed and salivating, most people I know would rattle their cages in vehement negation at any suggestion they were lacking mental stability.

Yet there is no gainsaying that many of the quirks mentioned in "The Neurotic's Handbook" will seem hauntingly familiar.

Who among us, for example, is not squeamish about touching the bottom of a lake with our bare feet? And who at one time or another has not become preoccupied with the welfare of pigeons, developed an irrational dislike of Brussels sprouts or had guilty feelings even on those rare occasions when we were doing things right?

According to Charles Monagan, author of the handbook, all of the above are tell-tale signs of neuroses. The fact that they are commonplace manifestations of anxieties, phobias and assorted hang-ups make them no less revealing in his view.

Monagan's book is subtitled "The Very Nervous Person's Guide to Life in the Modern World," and I certainly am no one to say it doesn't fill a pressing need.

Do you do crossword puzzles in ink, rejecting all offers of assistance?

Do you collect swizzle sticks, convinced they will some day be valuable?

Instead of saying "I love you," do you say, "I haven't felt this relaxed in months?"

Do you take books along on blind dates?

Do you regard gin as a security blanket?

Do doctors lie to you?

Do you think every headache is a brain tumor?

Do you have snakebite remedies in your first-aid kit?

Are you pretty sure things aren't going to work out romantically if your date goes to the bathroom and doesn't come out for 23 minutes?

Do you lie in fear that one day you'll cross

your eyes and be unable to uncross them again?

Do you believe the messages you read on bumperstickers?

Are you unable to breathe properly if you start thinking about breathing?

Do you hum or whistle at inappropriate times or places?

Five or more affirmative answers means you are beset by what Monagan calls "the basic building blocks of anxiety" — distrust, fantasy, insecurity, persecution and guilt.

I am as aware as you are of the old saying that "just because you're neurotic doesn't mean they really aren't out to get you."

I likewise am well aware that anyone rash

enough to touch a lake bottom feet-first is almost 100 percent sure to step onto quicksand, poisonous marine life or something disgustingly yucky that can only be removed through surgery.

Nevertheless, as Monagan points out, most of us are indeed in need of professional help in coping with the fads, foibles and popular delusions of life on this planet, or what passes for life on this planet.

If you can't afford a shrink, the \$5.59 paperback may be the answer.

I don't for a minute question Monagan's assertion that this is "the Era of the Neurotic." But right now I have to rush home and make sure the telephone isn't ringing.

Berry's World



"Ya know, I think I'm going to miss these Sunday walks when the football strike is settled."

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

Editor: Diana Sultenfuss
Managing Editor: Phyllis Henderson
Associate Editor: Denise Richter
City Editor: Gary Barker
Assistant City Editor: Hope E. Paasch
Sports Editor: Frank L. Christlieb
Entertainment Editor: Nancy Floeck
Assistant Entertainment Editor: Colette Hutchings

News Editors: Rachel Bostwick, Cathy Capps, Johna Jo Maurer, Daniel Puckett, Jan Werner, Todd Woodard
Staff Writers: Jennifer Carr, Susan Dittman, Beverly Hamilton, David Johnson, John Lopez, Robert McGlohon, Carol Smith, Dana Smelser, Joe Tindel, John Wagner, Rebecca Zimmermann
Copy editor: Elaine Engstrom
Cartoonist: Scott McCullar
Graphic Artist: Pam Starasnic
Photographers: David Fisher, Jorge Casari, Ronald W. Emerson, Octavio Garcia, Michael D. Johnson, Irene Mees, John Ryan, Robert Snider

Editorial Policy
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.