

Slouch By Jim Earle



"You're absolutely right! They are fifty-yard line tickets, and I'm sure that you will have the seats that are listed, but next time, don't buy tickets when we play 'Open Date.'"

Communications 104: Intro to football cheers

by Dave Spence

I went to the football game last weekend. I hadn't gone to one in a long time. Once in the stadium, I found that just as an athlete's muscles would have atrophied in absence of training, so had my "rooting" abilities fallen into a shameful state of stuttering during a two-year lay-off from football.

"Err, Go Team!" I said uncomfortably after we lost yardage on a broken play. Disparaging eyes of more fluent Ags hushed me after that remark.

Finally, the gentleman next to me — clad in maroon, a Class-of-'46 ring, and horn-rimmed glasses — turned and asked sympathetically, "You're sorta new at this, aren't you?"

"Well, just a bit out of practice, I guess, sir."

"Would you like some tips? I mean, I'm no yell leader, but I've had years of experience."

"Oh, that would be super!" I eagerly replied.

Mr. Garner — as he later introduced himself — beamed with delight at the opportunity of instructing me in the finer points of "Stadium Etiquette."

He was able to boil the whole "system of optimum crowd response" into three simple rules, which he taught me between fits of hysteria directed at the line of scrimmage.

"First," he proposed, gesturing not with his forefinger, but with an erect thumb, "you hate the referee! The ref is always an idiot. He's blind. He's a tea-sip. You hate 'im, and continually let him know it during penalties against us — all of which, of course, are in the wrong. He was most likely bribed by the other team, y'know."

"You bet he was, the swine!" I parroted.

"Good, good. You're catching on. Now for rule two," he proceeded while beckoning a roaming Coke-boy over to our seats. "You always reflect on what would've happened if ..."

"If what?" I paid for the Cokes.

"If anything! Say ... if we hadn't fumbled the damn ball last quarter, just think, we'd be dah, dah, dah. If that safety wasn't so lucky to be down field, our

boy would've gone all the way. If only —"

"If only we'd had the sense to keep Bear Bryant when we had him," I declared pedantically, "we'd be where Bama is today!"

"Hell, yeah!" he agreed.

I began to enjoy this very much.

"Now for the last rule. Before I tell yuh, gimme a good response to the situation on the field. We've got the ball on our own five, and the Bears are tackling hard, hoping to knock the ball loose. Go ahead. Give it a try."

"It is imperative, fellas," I screamed, "that you embrace the football cautiously!"

Mr. Garner's red face fell into his cupped hands as the crowd around us jeered at my awkward verbosity.

"Not quite," he finally criticized. "But the right idea. The third, and most important rule, is to always speak monosyllabically. Even 'football' should be reduced to 'ball.'"

I was surprised to hear Mr. Garner say that. He obviously had command of a broad vocabulary and had explained this stuff to me colorfully and with inspiration. People around me would think I always spoke like a simpleton.

"No they won't. Don't be a snob, boy. You're not talking to them anyway; you're bellowing at the football players. Keep it simple. They don't have dictionaries in the huddle."

I nodded and he continued, "Try your last yell again, but reduce it this time."

"How 'bout 'drop ball, no?'" He nodded.

The ball was still dangerously deep in our territory. I went over the cheer again in my head. Planting my feet on top of the aluminum seat, I drew in air, cupped my hands, bulged my eyes, and shrieked, "Drop Ball, No!"

All heads instantly turned to me. I felt like a fool and shrunk with embarrassment. But to my utmost surprise, the crowd began to clap and to echo my spirited cheer.

Soon, the entire stadium resounded with my inspiring words: DROP BALL, NO! DROP BALL, NO!

And to all our satisfaction, the team dropped ball, no.

Election may not affect future

by Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's economic revolution has not been totally stopped in its tracks as a result of the midterm election. But it won't have the clear sailing he enjoyed in his first year in office.

The operative word until the returns are fully digested is "compromise," with the Republicans controlling the Senate by a slim margin and the Democrats controlling the House by a large margin.

Reagan, who has been rigid in his conservative ideology since the mid-'60s, may have to moderate his views and programs, and that won't be easy. His agenda calls for more cutbacks in social spending and clearly will involve changes in the social system, either by cutting benefits or raising taxes.

In the coming days, the president will have to sit down with his key policy makers and decide where he is going for the next two years. Reagan's top aides are all convinced he will run again. The impending selection of Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., his close friend and key 1980 campaign strategist, as campaign chairman of the Republican National Committee, is another sign that Reagan likes being president and wants to remain in the White House for another term.

White House chief of staff James Baker, in analyzing the returns, said that the electorate is going with Reagan's appeal that he needs more time for his programs to work. He insists that there has been no

repudiation of Reagan policies or programs.

On the other hand, the vote in the hard-hit Midwest shows that the blue collar workers he had with him in 1980 have rejected his slogan, "Stay the course."

Nor did he offer any new hopes for the millions who are in the unemployment lines, except to promise a better future and "a greater America."

The president believe he has a mandate to keep on doing what he is doing, according to Baker.

Reagan's vigorous campaigning over the past few months has focused on a defense of his economic policies and a strong attack on his predecessors, particularly Jimmy Carter.

He also laid heavy blame for the deficits on the Great Society programs, contending that he has done much better for the poor by bringing inflation down.

Reagan has never mentioned the cost of the Vietnam War in the '60s and early '70s as a contributing factor to the deficits, or LBJ's failure to raise taxes to pay for the war.

In the closing days of Congress, Reagan's relations with Speaker Thomas O'Neill, for all the overlay of Irish humor, became downright acerbic. The lines are definitely drawn for all the explanations that "we're friends after six o'clock at night" facade.

There definitely will be a continuing clash of ideologies in the next Congress. Baker told reporters he expects the

House coalition of Southern Democrats and Republicans to hold on to seats. Issues Reagan may pursue despite Democratic gain in congressional seats.

But other observers believe Reagan will have to be more flexible, more amenable to opposition suggestions to get any new programs through.

Baker also told reporters on election night the returns showed that Reagan will be able to lead the country effectively in the next two years.

The president scored in several areas where he campaigned for individually, particularly in what is called "Reagan Country," such as California and Nevada. He also lost out in some areas where he had put in appearances for GOP candidates.

His hopes that the ideological conservative sweep in the country that manifested itself in 1980 would continue were dissipated by the election results.

But unless he wants to govern by fiat, which was done by President Ford following the 1974 midterm elections, he is going to have to play ball to some extent with the Democrats.

On the other hand, the power of the White House cannot be underestimated, nor can Reagan's ability to take his country on national television.

The betting is that he will not be easily defeated. He was not nicknamed "Duke" for nothing.



Letters: Definition of freedom

Editor:

Dear Tom:

Thanks for your apology and the clarification of a Head Yell Leader's responsibilities. However, certain comments in your letter disturb me. First, the Memorial Student Center is dedicated as a memorial to the men who gave their lives in defense of this nation and the freedom it represents, not in opposition to homosexuality or the ideology of communism.

We have fought wars against the forceful spread of communism, but not against communism as an ideology, and I know of no military conflict in which 'who had sex with whom' was an issue. The freedoms that this nation is founded on and which so many people have died for do not cease at the entrance to the bedroom.

If two mature individuals of the same gender consent to have sexual relations, nobody, not even a Head Yell Leader, has the right to tell them they cannot exercise their free will. These same freedoms also allow the people to choose their own form of government, whether it be democratic or communist. The words 'communist' and 'Soviet Union' are not synonymous, so please do not get them confused. Having been in the Corps myself, I know there is a tendency to assume all socialist countries are automatically our enemy, which, of course, is not true.

Second, this nation began because a group of people fled their homeland in search of religious freedom. It is your privilege to believe in the religion of your choice (which you profess to be Christianity), but DO NOT force your "Godly principles and morality" on me. It is also my privilege to choose my own religion and formulate my beliefs.

The Bible may say homosexuality is wrong (which is questionable and very much in debate among Biblical scholars), but that makes it wrong only for Christians, not for the world. Do not use the facade of religion to spread your personal beliefs throughout the United States.

The United States enjoys a degree of freedom unequalled in the history of this planet. The only way we will continue to

enjoy this freedom is to keep our minds open to opinions and points of view that differ from our own. A free and open forum where all issues can be intelligently and rationally discussed is the best method of ensuring this democracy continues.

Only suppressed ideas are dangerous. We must be tolerant and respectful of other peoples beliefs as long as they do not infringe on another persons rights. PROVE to me that homosexuality is a threat to this nation. Don't give me emotional outbursts or religious dogma. Show me reliable, documented FACTS that demonstrate homosexuality is harmful. Provide evidence that another form of government is a danger to our freedoms.

NEVER quietly accept another persons beliefs. ALWAYS ask questions and research the subject before adopting a stand on an issue.

If you are going into the military, and even if you aren't, before you risk your life defending this nations freedoms, I strongly suggest you study the following definition:

Freedom: The quality or state of being controlled by others. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

I also suggest you seriously re-think about the Constitution of the United States. Maybe then you will have some idea of what this nation is really about.

David Gash

Thanks

Editor:

I would like to thank the following people for their help in my campaign: County Treasurer: Mark Hinkle, Edwards, Ted Crisp, Suzy Vincent, Jalufka, George Gump, and Didi Fernandez. It is encouraging to see so many students from Texas A&M involved in Cozoz County politics. Thank you for support and help.

John T. Leverette

Berry's World by Jim Berry



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