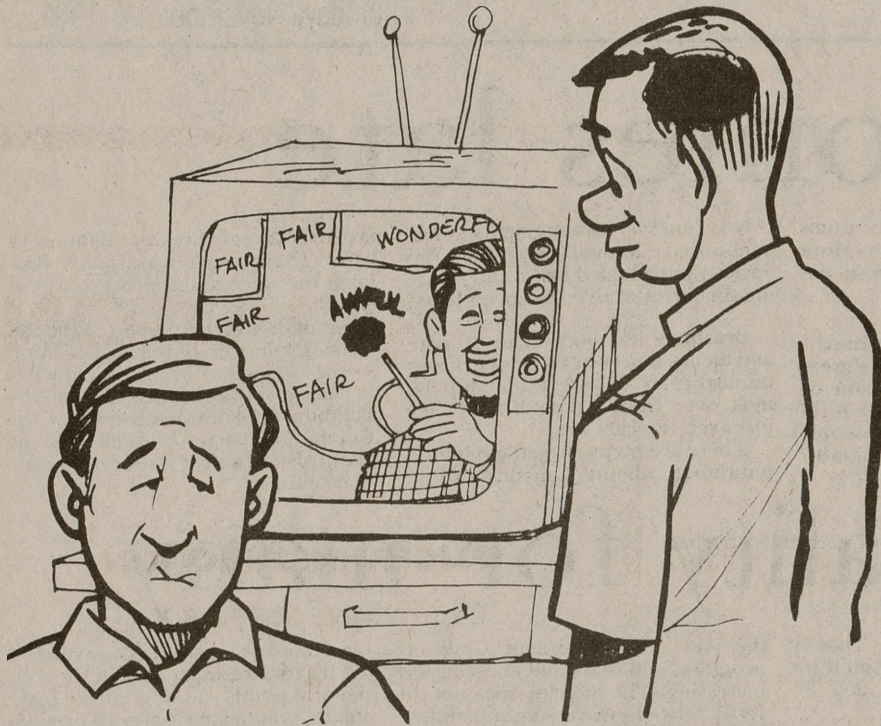


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"...state-wide, fair weather is expected, with one exception — College Station! They will experience what has come to be known as a 'bonfire monsoon!'"

Las Vegas suffers economic woes too

by Art Buchwald

Every columnist has to go to one typical American town every fall to tell his readers what is really going on in the country. This year I chose Las Vegas, a nice friendly community situated in the desert somewhere between Salt Lake City and Phoenix.

I dropped into Caesars Palace, the local hangout, and sat around a crap table drinking coffee with some of the locals.

They told me Las Vegas has not been immune to vicissitudes of the economy. Business is way off, and unemployment is above the 10 percent mark.

"They're closing down blackjack tables left and right," a bearded dealer told me, "and half the roulette wheels have stopped turning."

Another old-timer said, "Our slot machines used to go day and night. Now we're lucky to have one shift working in the evening."

"A few years ago you used to have to wait two hours to get a seat in a poker game. Now you can walk into any place and they'll deal you a hand before you can take your money out."

"Things are that bad?"

"They've never been worse," a fellow in a cowboy hat said. "We got hoofers that haven't worked in a year."

"I thought Las Vegas was recession-proof," I said.

"So did we. We always figured that no matter how bad things got people would come here to see Wayne Newton and forget their troubles. But we were wrong. People are staying home and saying, 'Maybe next year, if things pick up, we'll go to Las Vegas and lose all our money.'"

"What is really killing us is Wall Street," a pit boss said. "When there was no action there, everyone came out here to shoot crap."

"Now the high rollers would rather gamble on the stock market than come to Las Vegas and bet on a sure thing."

"Another reason we're hurting," a cocktail waitress said, "is Atlantic City. They shouldn't have allowed casinos in New Jersey. It corrupts the people."

"It was a rotten thing for Jersey to do," the pit boss agreed. "When Bugsy Seigel built this town out of sand, he was given everyone's solemn word that Nevada would be the only state to have legalized gambling. Then Bugsy was hardly cold in his grave when Jersey reneged on its promise."

"We're not just worried about Atlantic City," the blackjack dealer said. "New York is talking gambling, Florida is talking gambling, even California is talking gambling. Every state that can't meet its bills is trying to find a new way of taking a taxpayer's money away from him."

"Maybe you're being too pessimistic," I suggested. "Surely most Americans have a sentimental attachment for Las Vegas that they don't have for any other town. After all, you replaced Niagara Falls as everyone's favorite tourist attraction."

"Crap shooters don't have sentiment. All they need is a green felt table and a pair of red dice, and they don't care where they are."

"If they put 10 slot machines at Chicago's airport, we could be out of business tomorrow," the man in the cowboy hat said.

"Do you people blame Reaganomics for the lousy shape the town is in?" I asked.

"What's Reaganomics?" the waitress wanted to know.

"It's President Reagan's plan for getting America back on its feet. It includes tax cuts for everyone, incentives for industry, a big cut in government spending, and eventually a balanced budget."

"What are the odds in Washington he can do it?" the pit boss asked.

"Right now they're 10-to-1."

"Tell the people in Washington if they fly out here, we'll give them 30-to-1 and all drinks are on the house."

Inside dope rings flourishing

by Dick West

United Press International
Nobody can say with certainty how much money is spent in this country each year on the collection and distribution of inside dope.

It is a good guess that the inside dope market now ranks economically with light industry. One reliable indicator is the growth of the newsletter business, whose publishers are among the biggest dealers.

The 1982 Newsletter Clearinghouse Directory has more than 2,400 listings, most or all of which push inside dope.

Heavy users are found in nearly every sphere of activity. Among the more widely publicized inside dope addicts are horseplayers, stock market investors and odds-makers who compile betting lines on sporting contests.

It is known, however, that the demand for inside dope usually reaches a peak just before and after an election. At that time, even consumers who only use inside dope for "recreational" purposes are clamoring for a fix.

Which figures. How else except with inside dope could anyone explain this year's Illinois gubernatorial race?

gubernatorial race?

As everyone knows, Adlai Stephenson III was expected to run well behind Republican Gov. James Thompson. The reason the election was so close can best be understood with a hit of inside dope.

Political insiders confide that what we were witnessing in Illinois was a wimp backlash.

During the campaign, you'll recall, Stephenson's rather, ah, restrained style frequently was contrasted to Thompson's more, ah, outgoing technique. Out of these differences developed a campaign charge that Stephenson was a bit of a wimp.

This being a controversial subject, I shall quote from a non-partisan dictionary definition of wimpishness. One key word is "insipid."

When applied to a politician, the term wimp is widely considered pejorative. But hold!

As political insiders are aware, a goodly portion of the male voting population in America is composed of closet wimps.

Maybe we strive manfully to shuck that

image. Maybe in public we would never to having a wimpy streak. But all of a knowledge having a few insipid come brothers-in-law. In the privacy of a booth, which closely resembles a close not natural to gravitate toward one own?

You hear a lot of things about the election. The soggy ballots in Chicago, vaunted Cook County machine. Etc. Etc. Etc. chief of the single important element.

Deliberately or not, the Thompson expanded the theme advanced in the book "Real Men Don't Eat Quiche" and implied that "Real Men Don't Vote for Dates Named Adlai, Particularly If the Is Followed by Roman Numerals."

In Illinois, that intimidation struck under feelings. As it would in any state. Stevenson's column.

Let this be a lesson to all future candidates. If you want to win re-election, don't be a wimp.



Letters: Rebel flag symbol of racism

Editor:

This is a modest plea for change, masquerading as an inquiry. For some eight years, as I have biked to school in the fall past the bonfire site, I have noticed the Confederate flag which flies from the crossbeam and wondered why it was there. No, that's not quite true. Actually, I know that over the years it has become a tradition to place it there, which a group in the Corps does. What I have really wondered and found myself disturbed about is why A&M's administration and student body allow it to fly, particularly in such a semi-official manner.

I realize I may be mistaken in associating the flag with racism. In fact, I would like to believe that although it flew over the slave-holding South during the Civil War and was waved by Southern bigots in the 60's to taunt Civil Rights workers and Blacks, it has other, more admirable associations, when flown here. But I suspect it does not, or at least did not some years ago.

Most Aggies, I believe, now feel embarrassed about Texas A&M's segregation policies of the past and support President Vandiver's current effort to make A&M a "world university," sensitive to the problems of people of all races. Shouldn't we then cease to honor and identify the university with a corrupt Southern nation long ago discredited and undone by its own moral confusion and social decay?

hallway room on the second floor of Rudder Tower and waits while the Placement Center staff calls out different company names, along with the qualifications needed for the said company. After four company names are called, the group's station number is called and everybody who wants to interview with one of those companies runs like maniacs to form a line at that station. This goes on and on. The running mass of humanity — arms and elbows flailing about, mad look of determination on faces, bodies colliding with bodies — is really a spectacular sight.

They say it's a dog-eat-dog world out there and this process of signing up for interviews is a sure way to get students acquainted with what they can expect in life. I don't have any better ideas for the procedure and this letter is not a complaint. Just a warning that you have to be prepared with a football helmet, elbow pads, knee pads, and a vicious, killer attitude if you want to get that interview and land that job. I'll be ready. Good luck.

Larry Chasen '82
Dogwood
C.S., Tx

Convention a success

Editor:

Last weekend, the National Honors Mechanical Engineering Fraternity Tau Sigma, held its 62nd National Convention here on our campus. The event was a tremendous success, with attendance by 63 chapters and about 130 delegates. It was the largest convention in at least 12 years. Delegates were housed mostly in the MSC Hotel and all meals and meals were in the Rudder/MSCPlex.

On behalf of the Texas A&M Sigma Delta Chapter, which organized and hosted the Convention, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the campus offices that gave us so much assistance in preparing for this event. Special mention goes to the Scheduling Office and the MSC Main Desk for the ways doing what we wanted done, matter how short the notice.

Saleem Karimjee
Convention Director

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.

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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Berry's World by Jim Berry

Larry J. Reynolds
Associate Professor
Department of English

Placement race rages

Editor:

There are certain things one must do while in college to prepare for a future career and land a job in that career upon graduation. What high minded freshman would have ever thought that along with making good grades, participating in school activities, getting summer jobs in career fields, and getting to know professors, they would have to be versed in self-defense and brute tactics to have a chance at that long awaited job. Anybody who has ever had the pleasure of signing up for an interview with the Placement Center knows what I'm talking about and those that have not will get there soon.

Until then, here's how the game is played. Everybody crams into the big

Berry's World by Jim Berry

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