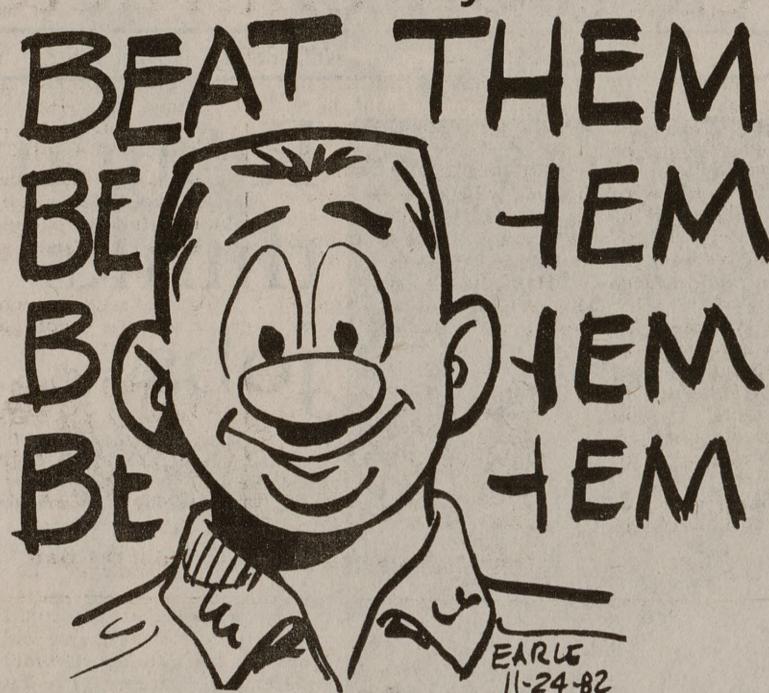


opinion

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November 24, 1982

Slouch

By Jim Earle



Woman behind the woman

by Art Buchwald

Behind every liberated woman, there is another woman who has to do the dirty work for her.

I discovered this talking to Lila Peabody. Lila works for a law firm from nine to five or six, or seven, depending on what case she is involved in.

Lila told me she couldn't do it if it wasn't for Juanita.

"Who is Juanita?" I wanted to know. "Juanita takes care of the house and the children, and cooks our meals. I couldn't work if it weren't for her, and the fact the Safeway stays open until nine."

"You pay her?"

"Of course I pay her," Lila said. "Half my salary goes to Juanita."

"You mean your husband doesn't contribute to her wages?"

"No. He insists if I want to work I have to pay somebody to do the things I had to give up when I took my job."

"That doesn't seem fair. I should think he would be proud of you for being a housekeeper and take care of the kids and wait until you get home at night. I've been through three Juanitas in two years. One came from El Salvador, another from Ecuador and this one is from Bolivia."

"It's perfect, but frankly we're all getting a little tired of fried beans."

"It seems ironic in order to be free a woman must find another slave to replace her."

"You have no choice. A husband is willing to go along with a liberated wife as

long as things are running smoothly at home. But one breakdown in the support system and then he starts screaming he didn't marry a woman who would ignore her house and children."

"But every magazine you read in the supermarket features husbands of working wives sharing the household duties."

"The magazines are the only place you see them. The American male will accept his wife doing her own things as long as she does everything else as well. When we go to parties my husband introduces me proudly to everyone as 'my wife the lawyer.' When we get home at night, he wants to know why there are no clean sheets on the bed."

"It's funny," I said. "Until I talked to you, I thought every liberated woman had it made. I always saw you as someone who had the best of both worlds. Now it turns out that without Juanita mopping floors you wouldn't be liberated at all."

"You've got the picture," Lila said. "Any married woman who wants to be liberated better have a good pal in a local American Employment Agency."

"What happens when your support system gets sick?"

"Then I stay home and everyone in the law firm says, 'We knew this would happen if we hired a female lawyer.'

Letters: Response to accusations

Editor:

I would like to respond briefly to the several accusations made against me by Carol Parzen in a recent letter to The Battalion.

First, my involvement in the Christian Update Forum was principally as a speaker, not as an "enlistee of student support to pressure professors..." Five Texas A&M-recognized Christian organizations co-sponsored the program (at their initiative, not mine), and no one to my knowledge was ever encouraged to pressure their professors. My involvement in enlisting students was one 10-minute announcement at a Campus Crusade meeting.

Second, I was correctly quoted earlier by The Battalion to have said that "a Christian perspective" would be presented, not the Christian perspective as implied by Ms. Parzen.

Third, presentation of various religious as well as secular perspectives in appropriate academic areas is not only permitted but is actually encouraged by Supreme Court decisions which state, for example, that "that the state may not establish a religion of secularism in the sense of affirmatively opposing or showing hostility to religion, thus preferring those who believe in no religion over those who do believe" (Zorach vs. Clauson, 343).

Fourth, presentation of diverse points of view whether they be theistic, deistic, polytheistic, or atheistic is the obligation of any real university. In a pluralistic society, tolerance for different points of view is essential. I would agree with Ms. Parzen that we should not force feed religious doctrine including, secular humanism.

Finally, one comment in another Battalion article questioned the appropriateness of the many lecturers in the College of Engineering. Since most of these lectures were on "Engineering and Ethics" or "Technology and Society", they represent a small step in the direction recommended by the Engineering Council for Professional Development, who recommends an entire course on these subjects.

Walter L. Bradley
Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Rock 'n' roll

Editor:

I wish to respond to a letter which appeared in the Nov. 17 Battalion by John McGhee concerning his view of the Maranatha Rock 'n' Roll Seminar.

Mr. McGhee:

About your recent article, I feel you have unjustly accused these so-called "religious fanatics" who have attempted to uncover the vices of Rock 'n' Roll. Not that Rock 'n' Roll is in and of itself bad, for it too is a creation of God, but it is its emphasis and message they wish to point out to you.

You must of course try to see the Christian perspective. For those in Christ, the only thing that matters in life is the lifting up and glorifying of their Heavenly Father and His son Jesus Christ. To do otherwise is a sin against God and His holiness. This attitude, rather this conviction, is not limited to one particular area but instead penetrates all areas of the Christian's life. Therefore, it is their duty to fight back against forces which seek to undermine this faith.

In the case of Rock 'n' Roll, it can readily be seen that this conviction is severely attacked — especially by groups who, without reservation, claim allegiance to Satan, God's enemy — so that the Christian must either speak out against it, as you have witnessed, or not do a thing and allow Satan his share in their life.

In conclusion, it is not the purpose of these "religious fanatics", of whom I belong, to deprive you of your choice of music, but rather to protect themselves and you from the subtleties of Satan who seeks to devour our lives.

Bret Roberts '83

Agreement

Editor:

In response to John McGhee's letter of November 17, we can only add: Amen!

Paul H. Meachum '86
Van Patrick Bevill '86

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.

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Reagan's opportunity with Moscow

by Maxwell Glen
and Cody Shearer

As Americans born during the Cold War, we learned early to fear the Soviets as much as the dark. Nikita Khrushchev's promise to "bury us" and our own fall-out shelter drills in school were enough to make any war baby have nightmares.

In subsequent years, fortunately, tensions between East and West eased, and Cold-War rhetoric began to seem unsportsmanlike.

But the arrival of the Reagan administration and its "we will bury you, too" attitude brought back all the bad dreams. "The endless series of distortions and oversimplification ... and routine exaggeration of Moscow's military capabilities," declared former U.S. ambassador George Kennan last year, have all but ruined chances for "a more hopeful world."

The death of Leonid Brezhnev, we hope, gives the Reagan administration an opportunity to alter its thick-headed thinking and strike a new tone with an old adversary.

Brezhnev's death has given the Reagan administration a special chance to repair some of its long-term policies toward the Soviets, and perhaps open up the channels for wide-ranging negotiations in the coming months," said Jonathan Sanders of the W. Averell Harriman Institute for the Advanced Study of the Soviet Union.

To some degree, Reagan may already be edging toward a softer anti-Soviet line. Virtually beaten on the Siberian pipeline issue, President Reagan must now reach out for an agreement with Western Europe on specific technologies for sale to the Soviets, a shift that could increase U.S.-Soviet trade.

Also, the arrival of George Shultz and the departure of Richard Pipes, the hard-line Kremlologist at the National Security Council, should herald more cool-headed rhetoric.

It might seem unrealistic to expect a man who has made a career out of anti-communism to change his colors now. For years, President Reagan has viewed

our relationship with the Soviets as some kind of football game with winners and losers. Even today, Reagan remains hopeful that the Soviets are on a collision course with economic collapse due, in part, to United States sanctions.

Berry's World



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