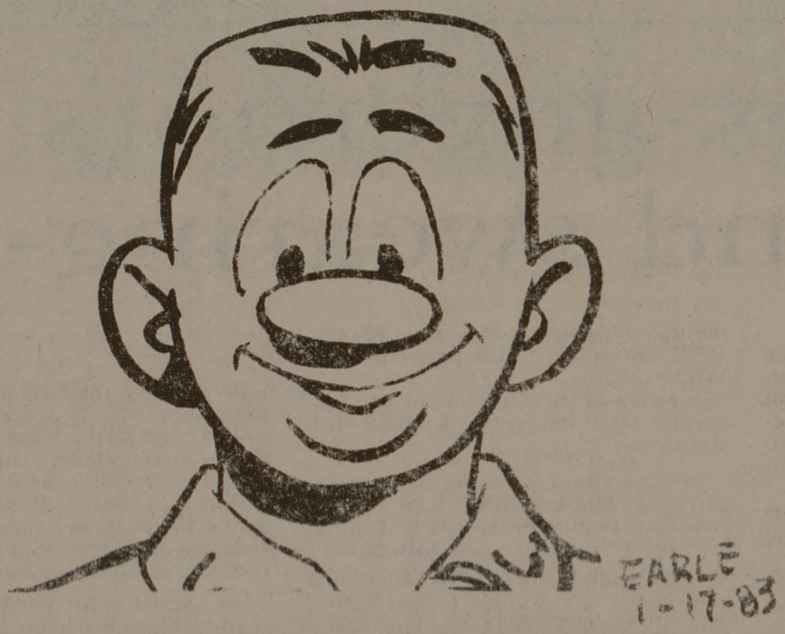


Slouch By Jim Earle

# WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY 1983



## Social Security sweepstake begins

by Art Buchwald

There is one solution to the Social Security bankruptcy problem that has not been suggested yet, and that is the government might hold a sweepstake for eligible senior citizens. The Department of Human Resources could hire one of the professional sweepstakes companies to write and mail out brown envelopes to everyone on the Social Security rolls.

The letter would read:  
DEAR MRS. DALTON,  
Do not throw away this letter. You may have won one of 300 prizes adding up to \$1,000,000 in the 1983 SOCIAL SECURITY SWEEPSTAKES. Yes, that's what I said, ONE MILLION DOLLARS in prizes offered to you absolutely free by the SOCIAL SECURITY CLEARING HOUSE. All you have to do, MRS. DALTON, is return the enclosed coupon with your LUCKY number on it and you will be eligible for our MILLION-DOLLAR SWEEPSTAKES.

Just think, MRS. DALTON, if your number is picked on March 15th, you could win \$250 A MONTH FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. You may be holding the WINNING ticket in your hand right now. But if you don't send it back right away you could be the sorriest senior citizen in America.

I know what you're saying. No one wins in a SWEEPSTAKE. But MR. CARLOS SEGURA, aged 70, of Long Beach, California, won \$50,000, MISS KITTY SOAMES of St. Louis, aged 83, won \$75,000, and MR. & MRS. JASON MARKS of Sun City, Arizona will receive Social Security checks for the next 20 years worth (are you ready for this?) over \$100,000.

Not only will you be eligible for the GRAND PRIZE of \$250 A MONTH FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, but

you will also have a chance for other SUPER PRIZES in this once-in-a-lifetime SOCIAL SECURITY SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING.

Listen to some of these other GRAND prizes.

A MONTH'S STAY in a PRIVATE room in the hospital of your choice, ALL MEDICAL EXPENSES PAID or \$60,000 in CASH.

FOOD STAMPS FOR FIVE YEARS worth \$20,000.

FREE HEATING FOR ONE YEAR worth \$5,000.

A TWELVE MONTH VACATION IN A NURSING HOME WITH YOUR OWN ROCKER worth \$30,000.

You are probably asking how we can afford all these unbelievable prizes at NO COST TO YOU.

The answer is that the SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION has a trust fund which was set up to take care of American senior citizens. The trust has decided the fairest way to distribute the money it has left in it is to hold a SWEEPSTAKES, making it possible for people who otherwise would get nothing from the system to win a SUPER PRIZE.

There is nothing to buy and a Social Security employee will not call on you. Consider this SWEEPSTAKES the U.S. GOVERNMENT'S way of taking care of its retired citizens who can now look forward to enjoying the September years of their lives, PROVIDING their LUCKY number is drawn.

No one has a better chance than you, MRS. DALTON, to win — so give your LUCK an opportunity to work for you. But you have to get your entry in NOW. The SOCIAL SECURITY CLEARING HOUSE may never have as much money to distribute among its winners again.

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.

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## Take it slowly with ERA II

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

Anxious to do a good turn for the women of the country, House Democrats have made ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment a top priority of the 98th Congress.

Yet the initiative does not wholly please groups which will eventually take responsibility for changing the minds of often-truculent state legislators. While grateful for the continued focus on ERA, many advocates feel that a rush to ratify the amendment now might prove a foolish tactic. Without a breather to allow women's organizations and other pro-ERA groups to reorganize for the next campaign, ERA II could fare no better than the late ERA I.

Democrats, of course, have considered themselves the "party of the ERA" since 1980, when Republicans, under the spell of a then-visionary Ronald Reagan, dropped support of the amendment from the GOP platform.

Democrats have wisely been running with the ERA ever since. The amendment proved to be the only issue at the DNC's sleepy mid-term convention in Philadelphia last summer; less than two weeks after the ERA died in June, House leaders threw a strange reintroduction celebration on the West Capitol to herald a second try.

Last week, perhaps sensing an opportunity to widen the president's gender gap, House Democrats ranked ERA above all other legislative proposals and promised to hold hearings as soon as possible. Nearly 200 have agreed to cosponsor reintroduction (compared to about 30 House Republicans).

Yet enthusiasm for ERA II isn't as well mobilized beyond Washington.

Admittedly, autumn campaigns in several states last year resulted in important gains for ERA supporters. In Florida, concerted work by feminists helped to increase from 17 to 28 the number of women in the state legislature, making possible a future victory in the long-recalcitrant state senate. In Illinois, a Democratic takeover in both houses has created the necessary three-fifths margin needed to pass the ERA on Phyllis Schlafly's home turf.

But in other closely-contested states, such as Oklahoma, the vote counts haven't budged. "We really don't want the ERA to come back here until after 1984," said Wanda Peltier, president of the Oklahoma Women's Political Caucus. "We've got to have some elections before we're ready again."

Similarly, in North Carolina the number of pro-ERA lawmakers rose after the November election, but not sufficiently to guarantee a win. Johanna Ettin of the National Organization for Women in Winston-Salem reports that her chapter will need at least two years to lay the groundwork for ratification. "We're all concerned that it be done properly," she said. "I don't think anyone is in a hurry except in Washington."

Bigger roadblocks, however, may crop up in some of the 35 states which ratified ERA early in the 1970s, before conservative forces organized in opposition. Such states may not necessarily repeat their good judgement: Legislators who voted to ratify have since faced strong opposition from anti-ERA cadres at the polls and are under continual pressure to re-

scind their vote.

In Wisconsin, NOW's state opposes reconsideration in the 1973 state ERA proposal for fear it would fail. Warned Marquette University political scientist Janet Boles, written widely on ERA: State legislators will be "exceedingly hostile" about considering ERA immediately. "We've got to have to give them a rest," she said.

Women's organizations have begun to prepare for 1984, targeting candidates, raising money, and course — raising money. In many states, organizers are also readying a new ERA in the 1980s based on economic equity than simple equality.

House constitutional rights committee chairman Don Edwards expressed in a telephone interview that his intention of expediting the ERA going to start the hearings and then for a number of months to get the votes. We can pass it in the Senate is another problem.

However, though 54 senators agreed to cosponsor the ERA this year, the GOP leadership shows little breaking from either party political president. Without Republican support, ERA may never get beyond Capitol Hill.

The danger for ERA II could be Democrats' tendency to force the political advantage by pushing the amendment onto a gender gap-conscious Republican Senate. While Senate action might pressure some Republicans to rethink their opposition, it may do as many in the process. Such a miscalculation could kill ERA II before ever reached statehouses.



SHE DIDN'T START GLOWING LIKE THAT UNTIL WE FLEW OVER A TOXIC WASTE DUMP...!

## Letter: Incentives in education

Editor:

I dedicate this piece of writing to all those who sit through the drudgery of lectures only to let it off the other ear no sooner they exit from the exam room. This article deserves a similar mode of consumption.

Aha, so you say there isn't any incentive to study well and score high grades these days? And to even those who see some incentive to get an A (the reasons offered are various, ranging from, it will help me land a good job, to my peers are all A students), what incentive is there to score a 99.9 instead of a 89.9? There will be one, and a strong one, when a mixture of capitalism and free enterprise plus a little brain (if you have), is injected into the sphere of education. I can already hear you screaming, "What is this nut talking about, anyway?"

When the current grading system was being developed, it was assumed that students would work to the limit of their abilities; be it for peer pressure (aha!) or for inner satisfaction (hah, hah!). Needless to say, today these qualities are as

rare as the horns on a horse. So complaints run rampant that students no longer take their studies seriously but consider it as just one of the things in life you have to put up with. Now look at the facts. Which is the only ethical way to motivate the present-day materialistic students? Money, with a capital M.

So what can be done to incorporate the two, money and education, so as to provide the needed boost to education, which is after all our goal. Here is where the ideas of capitalism and free enterprise come in. I have developed a complete blueprint of the same but here are the basic rudiments.

On the first day of class, the instructor announces, "Your grades in this course will depend on how many points you can obtain from whatever sources. I leave the details to your personal ingenuity." An Einstein's brain is not required to figure out that the students will form a mini-stock exchange, with the going rates for the grades fluctuating with how high or low a class average is for a given test. A typical conversation may go like this, "Hi, Jerry, how d'you do on that Math test?"

"Not too hot, man, a 58, but I am coolly negotiating with Sue for the 20% point she gives from her 92." Take Jerry, shop around for the lowest

Thus students who score high on their excess points (more than required to maintain a particular grade) poor souls desperately trying to get their heads above water. So students are already good in their studies with some pocket money (a new dimension "working your way through college" those who are not so good at the would work harder and learn better cause it pinches where it hurts the (i.e. on purses and wallets).

In a short while, you will see lines full on Friday nights and Sunday mornings... The continuation of the program should obviously depend on student participation and the success of the program.

But isn't it worth a try?

Biju Man College Sta