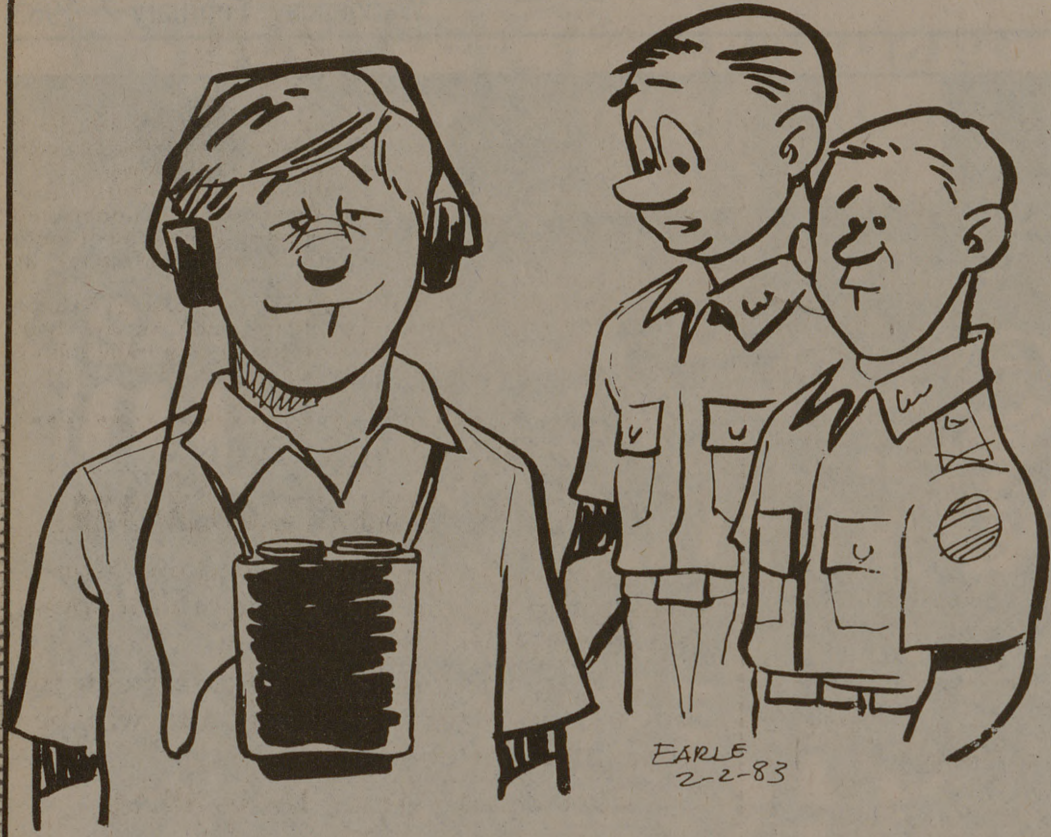


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"His is a sad case. They unplugged him and the silence almost killed him."

Campus 'me' decade far from finished

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

One disheartening effect of America's economic difficulties was reaffirmed last week to nobody's glee. In its 17th annual report on attitudes among first-year college students, the American Council on Education declared that this year's freshmen are more materialistic and less reformist than any surveyed before. This fact alone isn't very surprising, since freshmen have been on a well-documented ego trip since the mid-1970's.

Yet it raises old questions not only about the immediate implications of campus me-ism, but also new doubts about the political future of the United States. Even if prosperity reappears on America's horizon, recovery may not free the post-Vietnam crowd from manacles forged in the uncertainty of today.

Recession-era Americans can judge as they will the career interests inscribed in the results of the council's researchers at UCLA. More than two-thirds of this year's freshmen thought that "being very well-off financially" was "very important," up almost 4 percent from last year (in 1967, the figure was 43.5 percent); there was a similar increase in the share of freshmen who considered financial gain a "very important" reason for attending college. But exorbitant college costs and the scramble to repay loans have twisted the purpose of higher education; increasingly, the reason for attending college is to pay for it.

Conclusions about the class's views on certain social issues are more elusive. While freshmen grow more supportive of national health care and abortion, their liberalism may only be self-serving; support for busing to achieve racial balance in schools has increased, but it still reflects the preferences of only 46.8 percent (merely 35.5 percent of all freshmen endorsed affirmative action in college admissions).

There's nothing fuzzy, however, about their regard for "social activism." Little more than one in five freshmen see merit in the goals of environmental cleanup or community-action programs. Fewer yet would want to "influence the political structure."

This disinclination has been unnervingly evident in campus activism. Once-provocative student organizations — of blacks, women, environmentalists, among others — have seemingly become parochial havens, much like their replicas in Washington. Where new issues — Central America, nuclear weapons, for example — have emerged, participants have often been veterans of past campaigns who never turned in their placards.

One might have thought that frenzy over nuclear arms would make activists of many students today. But the freeze became de rigueur last year among students and faculty alike only after town councils and church groups led the way.

Whether it's the legality of American intervention overseas or the drinking age, university communities have been a Petri dish for spawning debate and change. But with the half-life of critical national issues shortened on American campuses, we may be doomed to the status quo.

But as classes enroll and graduate with little more than a distant interest in social and political activism, they collectively strike an uncanny parallel with Orwell's class of "1984." They could become technocrats predisposed to the whims of anyone who serves their special-interest placebos. Political analyst Kevin Phillips predicts that "populism" of this sort, coming from once-traditional electoral groups, could make our country practically ungovernable.

For its sake, we hope the Class of '86 has other plans.

Hello, hello, and hidee ho

by Art Buchwald

There is a communications revolution going on in the world right now. New technology has made it possible for people to communicate with each other by everything from satellites to car telephones. The only problem is that although scientists have made it possible to think up ways of keeping in touch with each other, no one seems to know if it's a good thing or a bad thing.

I came to this conclusion when I was riding with a friend in his car the other day. He had one of those new telephones attached under the dashboard.

"What do you need that for?" I asked him.

"I couldn't do without it. Look, all I have to do is hit this button and I can get my office." I heard the buzzing and a voice picked up the phone.

"Thunderbird and Thunderbird," the lady said.

"This is Mr. Thunderbird. Do you have any calls for me?"

"No, Mr. Thunderbird."

"No calls at all?"

"No, Mr. Thunderbird. The phone hasn't rung since you left the office."

"Well, I'll be driving in my car for another 25 minutes. If anyone calls put them through to my car telephone."

"Business must be slow," I said.

"We're hurting like everybody else," he said.

"When did your recession start?"

"Come to think of it, just about the time I put the phone in the car."

"That's tough. Just when it's possible for you to communicate by car phone with a client, there are no clients."

"You have to be ready for the turnaround in the economy," he told me.

"When it comes I'll be able to handle all my business from my car."

Just then the phone buzzed.

"There you are," said Thunderbird.

"You see the importance of the phone? If I didn't have it, someone else might have gotten the business."

He picked up the receiver. "Thunderbird speaking."

"Is that you, darling?"

"Yes, dear."

"Where are you?"

"Massachusetts Avenue and Western."

"Would you stop at Wagshal's and bring home a pound of roast beef, dill pickles and a case of beer?"

"I've already passed Wagshal's. Why can't you send Tommy?"

"He's out driving somewhere, but he doesn't have a phone in his car."

Thunderbird muttered something and turned around.

"I guess there are pluses and minuses to having a phone," I said.

"I should have never given my wife my number."

The phone buzzed again. It was Thunderbird's secretary. "Mr. Thunderbird, Father Brooke of Holy Cross just called

and said he needed the \$100,000 I pledged for the new science building."

"Did you tell him you couldn't do it?"

"Yes. But he said to call you. I didn't tell him you had a car phone."

"I did," Thunderbird said. "I'd be happy one of his calls made good."

We picked up the roast beef, dill pickles and started back out of the city. The phone rang again.

Mrs. Thunderbird again. "Dear Mr. Thunderbird, I just wanted to say that you're a real hero. You've saved my pool."

Thunderbird almost threw up out the window.

It buzzed once more.

Thunderbird brightened up and heard the voice.

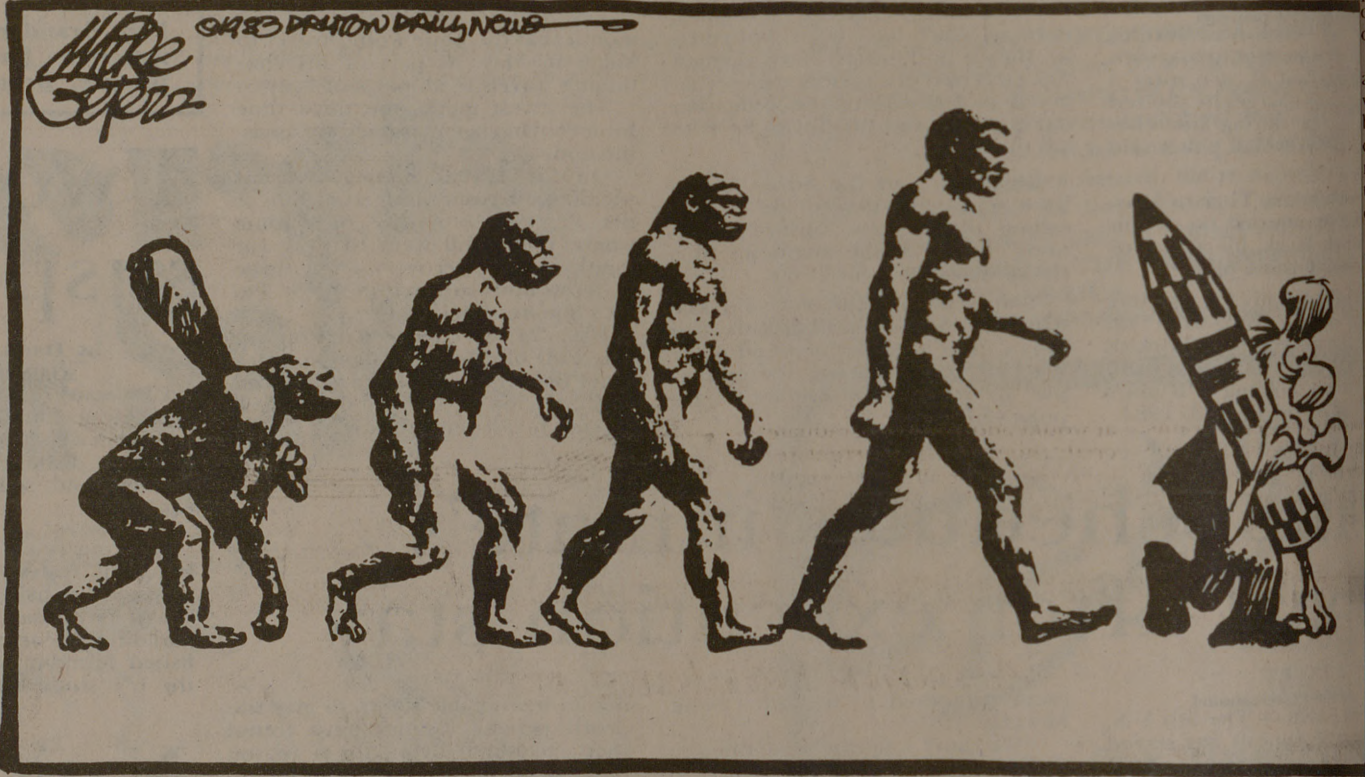
"Hey, Eddie, where are you from?"

"My car. Where are you?"

"I'm in my car. I can hear you clear. What's up?"

"Nothing. I just wanted to say 'Hello, Hello, hello and hidee ho, Roger and out.'"

"Now you see the true value of a telephone." Thunderbird said. "I didn't have one in my car until I got home."



Cryonomics — freezing programs

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Most laymen are familiar with the branch of cryogenics that preserves living matter for future use by freezing it.

What may be the ultimate spinoff theorizes that you can freeze your body until someone discovers a cure for what ails you. Then they thaw you out — voila! — you live happily ever after. Or something like that.

But what of cryonomics, the science of freezing government programs?

That theory, apparently, is less widely understood.

The basic idea is to freeze federal spending until someone discovers a cure for budget deficits. Then the programs are thawed out and thereafter expand in a more healthy manner.

Just what experiments in cryonomics Congress might approve this year is yet to be determined. Among budget items President Reagan has mentioned for possible freezing are military pay and Social Security benefits.

Although all of us Washington correspondents have informed sources we can tap for information, I seldom quote my cryonomic sources, mainly because their leaks usually are iced over by the time I get them.

Nevertheless, this seemed a good time to talk with a few experts to get a feel for what is going on.

It now is technically possible to freeze an entire budget, one source confided. But when I tried to pin him down as to what would happen after the thaw, he began to waffle a bit.

He could not guarantee, he admitted, that a frozen budget would retain intact all of the programs we have come to know and love.

Once restored to room temperature, he said, some of the programs might fail to regain their original level of support, and would simply languish or expire.

Despite such incertitude, however, all of the cryonomic experts I consulted were curious to see what would happen if

selected parts of the budget were frozen.

"From what we know now, domestic spending appears to be the most likely area for low temperature preservation," an independent consultant told me.

"I would be reluctant on the basis of tests thus far to try freezing military spending. The chill could cause an unrepairable crack in the window of vulnerability."

By contrast, another consultant was confident the Pentagon budget could be frozen without serious loss of muscle or overall deterrent capability.

"Cryonomics worked wonderfully in the case of the B-1 bomber program," he pointed out.

"President Carter may have killed the program, but it really died. We just put it on ice for a while."

He suggested the best way to protect the MX missile program would be to freeze the "dense pack" basing mode.

"Then, in a few years, we can thaw it back to life under another name. The MX will be as viable as ever," he said.

My sources cautioned, however, cryonomics won't work unless a certain budget deficit is found.

Without that breakthrough, the ceded, cryonomics would be tantamount to draining off their vital funds and pumping them full of red ink.

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor Diana Sultenfuss
- Managing Editor Gary Barker
- Associate Editor Denise Richter
- City Editor Hope E. Paasch
- Assistant City Editor Beverly Hamilton
- Sports Editor John Wagner
- Entertainment Editor Colette Hutchings
- Assistant Entertainment Editor Diane Yount
- News Editors Daran Bishop, Jennifer Carr, Elaine Engstrom, Johna Jo Maurer, Jan Werner, Rebeca Zimmermann
- Staff Writers Maureen Carmody, Frank Christlieb, Patrice Koranek, John Lopez, Robert McGlohon, Ann Ramsbottom, Kim Schmidt, Patti Schwierke, Kelley Smith, Angel Stokes, Tracey Taylor, Joe Tindel
- Copy editors Jan Swamer, Chris Thayer
- Cartoonist Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist Pam Starasinc
- Photographers David Fisher, Jorge Casari, Ronald W. Emerson, Octavio Garcia, Rob Johnston, Irene Mees

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.

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

Berry's World



"It's a new game based on THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM."