

Sherrill's attendance policies succeeding

Congratulations to Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill for the apparent success of his program to keep athletes in school — and most importantly, to keep them studying.

Sherrill has shown that he is committed to providing athletes with an opportunity to succeed in the classroom as well as on the field.

Editorial

Starting last fall, new class attendance policies were established requiring mandatory class attendance — and study hall if needed — for all scholarship athletes.

And the program seems to be working. Only one freshman football player had a GPR below 2.0. The average GPR for freshman football players was 2.6. The highest GPR among the freshman football players was 3.69.

And freshman football players aren't the only ones studying. About 30 former athletes — including former Texas A&M

running back Curtis Dickey — are studying in the off season in order to receive a degree from Texas A&M.

According to figures compiled by the Southwest Conference, about half of the athletes who enroll at Texas A&M eventually receive their degrees. That compares to 30 percent at other Southwest Conference schools.

The academic staff employed by the Athletic Department has been expanded to run these programs. About \$40,000 is spent each year to keep this staff running.

The Athletic Department seems to be turning out some well-rounded athletes. The department apparently realizes that studying and class attendance, as well as extracurricular activities, should be part of every college student's life. But the extracurricular part never should be allowed to take over.

If Sherrill's programs — and the athletes — continue to work, the old brawn-over-brains stereotype of the college athlete may lose some ground at Texas A&M.



Good news story — joys of employment

by Art Buchwald

Larry Speaks, as all presidential press secretaries seem to do when their boss is in trouble, took out after the press the other day. In a speech he complained about coverage of the bad economic news by the media, as opposed to the good news.

When inflation was at 13 percent, he complained, the media reported it. Now that it is 3 percent (that's Larry's figure, not mine) the press has ignored the fact that the Reagan administration licked the country's number one problem.

Speaks also questioned the public opinion-polls that indicated the American people considered unemployment the present number one problem.

"And why not?" he asked his audience. "Every night we have seen the unemployed line up and march across the television screen, and I certainly would not make light of the people who are unemployed ... But why is it that 10.8 percent is news, but 89.2 percent of Americans who are employed and enjoy the highest standard of living is not?"

Larry posed a good question. Why aren't the news programs covering the employed people instead of the unemployed? And how would they handle it, if they did?

"This is Tom Brokaw in New York. The big news tonight is that 89.2 percent of all Americans who want jobs have them. Irving R. Levine reports on the plight of one of these men in Scarsdale, New York."

"This is Irving R. Levine and I'm standing here with Frank Davis, broker for E.F. Hutton, who is one of the millions of people now employed in the United States. To the Reagan administration, Davis is just another statistic. But in human terms, he and his family tell the real story of what is going on in America today.

"Frank, this is a lovely house you have."

"Yup. It's worth \$250,000. But since I'm working, I'm not about to sell it."

"How much do you make a year?"

"With bonuses about \$100,000."

"Then you don't have to depend on

food stamps, unemployment insurance or use up your savings to keep going?"

"Certainly not. We eat very well, and we have enough money left over to own a boat, and send our kids to private schools, and go out to a good restaurant when it moves us. If the stock market keeps up the way it is, we might buy a second home in East Hampton."

"Does being employed make you feel any different than being unemployed?"

"Very much so. It makes me feel good. I like to work, and I enjoy being paid for it, and I'm not mad at anybody."

"How does your wife feel about you being employed?"

"She thinks it's just great. She's very supportive, as are the children, that I'm making it during the recession. I don't know what I'd do without them."

"But don't you get discouraged sometimes and say to yourself, 'I'm sick and tired of working, and I'm going to throw in the towel.'?"

"I imagine the thought has occurred to me. But my wife and I like nice things, and if I threw in the towel, we couldn't afford them. We're going on a ski trip next week to Vail."

"Then you're not angry at President Reagan because you have a job?"

"Why should I be mad at Reagan? He's not to blame because I'm making a good living."

(Cut to Irving R. Levine standing beside the Davis swimming pool, alone.)

"Frank Davis is an example of one of the 89.2 percent of the American working class, blessed with all the things this country has to offer. Unlike the 10.9 percent who are unemployed, he believes in tax cuts, military aid to foreign governments and an increase in defense spending. He may not represent all the employed people in this country, but his story is worth telling because it gives a true picture of what is really going on in the country today.

"Tomorrow we'll talk to another employed person who is doing very well as a golf pro in Palm Springs, California. This is Irving R. Levine in Scarsdale, New York."

Reagan catches education way

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

Before a Senate subcommittee the other day, former governor Jerry Brown of California articulated the kind of paradigm for which he's become famous.

"The nation needs a vision of where we are going for the rest of the century," he told the Finance Subcommittee on Savings, Pensions and Investment Policy. "And out of that comes a consensus, and out of that consensus will come a discipline that will pervade our schools, our factories, our public sector."

If Brown's model is valid for U.S. scientific, educational policy, one could argue Ronald Reagan's vision of America's future is fuzzy at best.

Reagan has, of course, tried to catch a wave that he virtually ignored two years ago. His 1984 budget asks for \$50 million in one-year scholarship grants to be awarded by the Education Department (and matched by states) to prospective science teachers. Through the National Science Foundation (NSF), he also wants to provide \$26 million for three other "quick-fix" programs to attract more students to graduate study.

"Our economic strength, our military strength, and our health and well-being depend to a very large degree on the fruits that modern science and technology ... have brought to us," Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell told a House panel last Monday.

While the administration's efforts represent something of a turnaround, its scope seems paltry given national needs. Even at 156,000 the number of high school math and science teachers is notoriously short of demand; poor quality has become a national scandal. But the Education Department programs would

assist perhaps 10,000 individuals (using \$10,000 as an average cost per student) for two semesters and a summer session, when adequate training might require three years.

Meanwhile, NSF grant recipients could number but a fortunate few. Perhaps 200 students would be eligible for the proposed \$6 million Presidential Young Investigator Awards program.

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which is designed to encourage graduate study over more lucrative private-sector jobs. Will that be enough to solve the attrition problem plaguing universities?

Reports last week that infant mortality rates are rising in nine states might have been expected to result from waning federal and state support for the women and children nutrition program. Unhealthy mothers make for unhealthy babies.

Yet, secondary surveys by the Food Research Action Council (FRAC) revealed that infant mortality rates in subsections of some urban and rural areas far exceed the national average of 11.7 deaths per 1,000 births. In parts of Detroit, the rate exceeds 33 (higher than the national average of Honduras). Elsewhere, 55 deaths per 1,000 were reported.

Perhaps worse, declining federal support for prenatal care providers has left many states without the manpower to monitor infant mortality and low-weight

birth rates. As a result, we won't know the current recession's human

Watergate sleuth Robert Woodberry preparing to take a leave from Washington Post's investigative journalism, write a book on the death of architect John Belushi.

Politics and movies are renews. Last year's mammoth anti-nuclear rally in New York City is currently pieced into a major motion picture. From Hollywood comes the report the Democratic National Committee organizing a national telethon on Memorial Day weekend that will be a Woodstock of television.

Peter Hannaford, a former Ronald Reagan in California and a time business associate of presidential assistant Michael Deaver, is the author yet another book about the current family. The sumptuous fare of Reagan literature may explain why "Reagans," due next March, is the Conservative Book Club alternative.

Once esoteric in Washington the applications of high technology war and commerce have won widespread notice at the White House and on Capitol Hill. Now Georgetown University School of Foreign Service is considering proposal to establish a research and degree program in international communication. Said Stephen Chabot who heads the Foreign Service science program and will supervise project: "We want to combine an understanding of international affairs with language of technologies and international revolution in a way more suited to the 21st century."

Canned art

Editor:

Today I was walking down the street when I saw an empty beer can on the ground. I thought about picking it up and throwing it away, but then I remembered hearing people say, "If it makes you think, then it's art." So I left it on the ground.

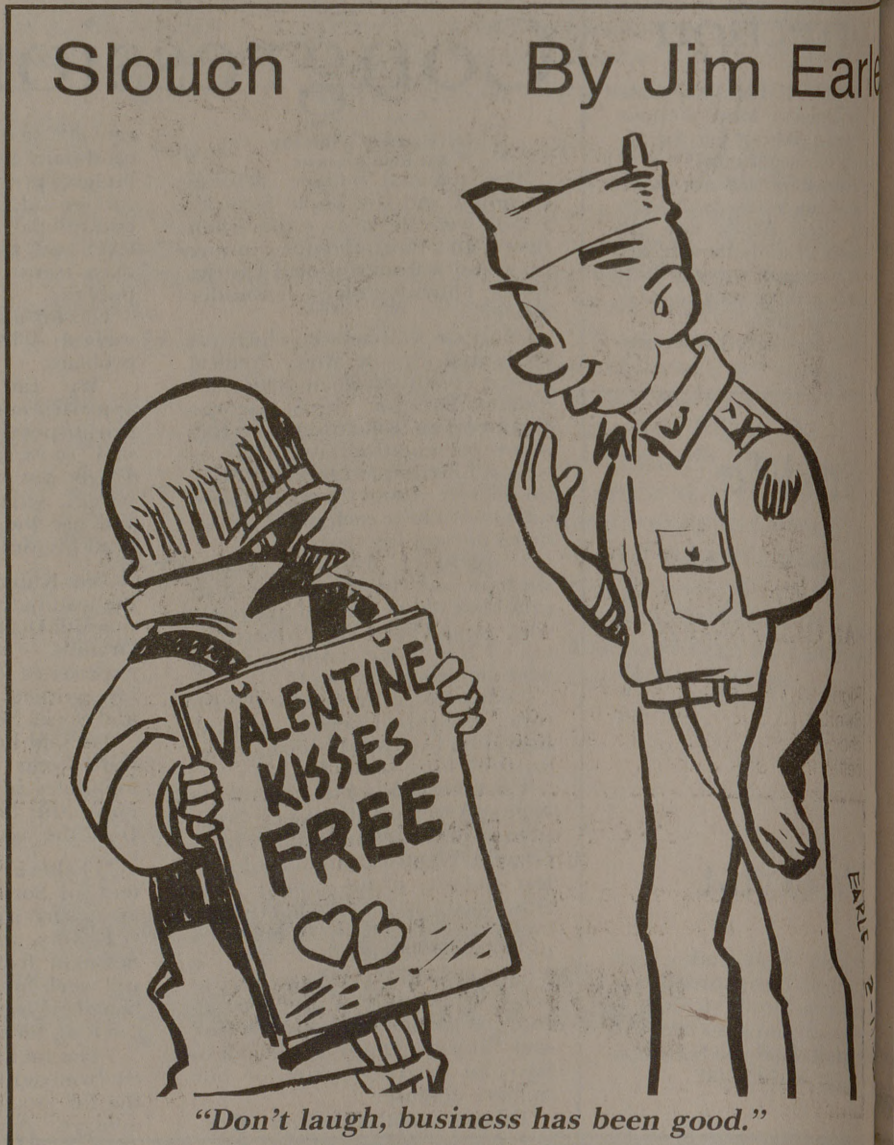
Michael Barnett
Aston Hall

Transformer found

Editor:

I found an expensive transformer behind the Engineering Building in the parking lot Monday. To identify and return to owner, call 260-6788 and ask for Lou.

Lou Doak '83



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