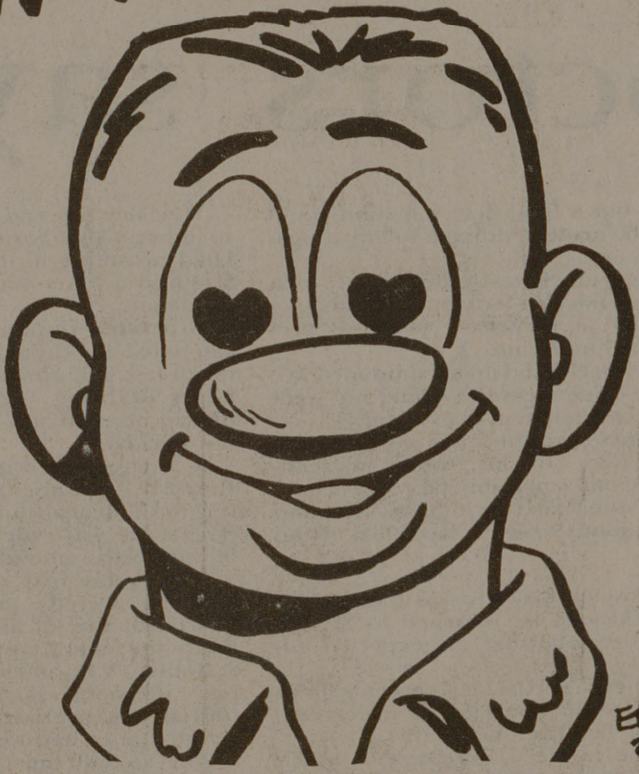


Slouch By Jim Earle

# HAPPY VALENTINE



EARLE  
2-A-83

## White House vs. the 'real' world

by Helen Thomas  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Reagan White House wants reporters to focus on what is right with the country, not what is wrong. The most vocal on the subject has been White House spokesman Larry Speakes, who says that reporters should be more "upbeat" and spotlight the "good news" in the economy.

"My question is, have we now arrived at the journalistic standard where good news is no news?" he asked in a pep talk to the National Association of Government Communicators. An administration naturally wants to emphasize any gains and trends it sees in the economy, but resents a reminder of its failures.

When the gross national product showed a slight increase, reporters were treated to a briefing by Martin Feldstein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. And when the unemployment figures dropped a few tenths of 1 percent, President Reagan made an unheralded appearance in the press room to proclaim a triumph and an America "on the mend."

And when the figures are bad, reporters are given one or two sentences by Speakes that an improvement is expected in the coming months or year. Speakes has a printed slogan on his desk: "You don't tell us how to stage the news and we don't tell you how to cover it."

That is only half true. There is no question that this administration controls and manages the news to the best of its ability. The problem is it also wants to cover it by denying reporters the responsibility of putting things in perspective.

"It seems that 10.8 percent unemployed is big news, while 89.2 percent of the Americans who have jobs and enjoy

the highest standard of living in the world is not news," Speakes said.

This administration is no exception in wanting to play down some of its defeats. It was ever thus. It appears that in all things economic, the administration still is prepared to blame President Jimmy Carter and some of his predecessors.

Not only are reporters expected to report only the upbeat news, from Speakes point of view they are also expected to ignore presidential remarks or to assume that he didn't mean what he was saying.

Such was the case when Reagan said he knew he was going to "kick myself" for saying that the corporate income tax should be abolished and went ahead and said it anyway.

The next day, instead of trying to cut the losses, Speakes accused the press of "jumping up and down, clapping your hands and licking your chops over this statement."

Reagan himself finally gracefully put the matter in perspective by admitting he goofed, telling reporters that he said he would kick himself "and I did." "During the first year we were in the White House, Reagan victories were news," Speakes conceded. "During the second year, winning was no longer the stuff that makes headlines," he added.

Reagan's second year was not particularly marked by great victories, but rather by retreats. Nor did any of his rosy predictions about progress in the economy come to pass.

Speakes remarks are the equivalent of Reagan's statement that the television networks going looking for that one unemployed man in South Succotash.

Only recently there were a spate of stories that Reagan is "out of touch" with what is going on in the country. One wonders if Speakes reports to him only the good news.

## Getting nothing for something

Nothing is free. Haven't I heard that somewhere? Apparently, I misunderstood. Silly me. Nowadays, everything is free. Free of what, you ask. Well, listen up boys and girls, I'm going to tell you a little story of American engine-oo-ity.

Back in the old days, people paid more to get more. Today we pay more to get less. It's not a big-business plot to maximize profits, you understand. We actually want less.

And are we ever getting it. Look at all the "free" products on the market. Pepsi-free. Pepper-free. Diet-Coke. Sweet and Low. Caffeine-free coffee. Light-beer. Light-wine. Fat-free milk. Salt-free salt. Free. Free. Free.

Take non-dairy creamers. What's worse than putting cream-free, water-free cream in your caffeine-free coffee? How about hop-free beer? Sounds appetizing, doesn't it?

But, there's a catch to all this free stuff. You don't pay less to get less. You'd think that since they were taking stuff out, it wouldn't cost as much. El wrongo. In reality, you pay more for less.



elaine engstrom

My political science professor likes to differentiate between myth and reality. Well, the myth in this case is that you pay for what you get. The reality is that you pay for what you don't get.

Personally, the only reason I drink colas and coffee is to get my caffeine. I don't want it all taken out for my own good. I also prefer cream in my cream and sugar in my sugar. Guess I'm just a little strange that way.

Lest you think all is lost, have some. Some stuff does get added. Artificial coloring, artificial flavoring, preservatives and emulsifiers (whatever they are) name a few. How about leaving out and keeping in the good stuff? Hear a vote for artificial-free food?

This incredible "free" phenomenon probably causing foreign social some considerable food for thought. Hear they are thinking, how stupid can Americans be. They are paying more not get anything for their money.

The future looks grim, boys and girls. Soon, all food will be "free." You're able to go to the store and pay money to buy food-free food.

A can of sugar-free, caffeine-free, bonation-free, water-free cola is your only beverage. When you get it, you can grab a can from the fridge, back in your armchair, pop the top, listen as the word "Cola" hisses out. Quenched, you can throw the empty (after you've crushed it with your hands) in the recycling bag. Now that's true satisfaction.

# REAGUN

A terrifying saga of political intrigue. When a simple Westerner, living in the East, is changed into a powerful and ruthless warlord.

©1983 DAYTON DAILY NEWS  
Mike Spivey

## Letters: Gregory called a comedian

Editor:

I can see that Mr. Dick Gregory is a comedian because some of his comments, reported in The Battalion (2/10/83), must have been jokes. Although, I will admit they're not very funny.

"There are no good schools in America." That's the best joke I've heard in a long time. I would like to know where Mr. Gregory thinks all the good schools are, or better yet, I'd like to know why he even bothered to attend Southern Illinois University if he is willing to argue with me that Americans are by far the most highly educated people in the world. He must not have been tuned in on that fateful day when Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon. Where did the people responsible for that feat acquire their knowledge?

It was also reported that Mr. Gregory said that schools manipulate students and teach people how to make a living — not how to live. Perhaps he would like to have colleges offer courses on how to live. Now that's what I call manipulation. I don't know about anyone else, but I came to Texas A&M to learn a profession, which will ultimately help me to make a living. I don't need a school to teach me how to live, although, my experiences at school as well as in everyday life have taught me a lot about how to live.

The biggest joke of all was when he compared blacks celebrating George Washington's birthday to Jews celebrating Hitler's birthday. First of all, he is comparing Washington and other founders of our country, such as Thomas Jefferson, to a maniacal murderer. Secondly, Washington was not responsible for founding the insane institution of slavery, whereas Hitler was responsible for the murder of millions of Jews.

I'm also disappointed that Mr. Gregory considers Martin Luther King Jr. as only a black hero. As far as I'm concerned, he should be emulated by all races. On a lighter note and in true Aggie form, I'd like to remind Mr. Gregory that "the Gulf of Mexico flows both ways."

Jeff Nuzzaco '82

### 'Songs' criticized

Editor:

I am shocked at the Corps runs due to the "songs" they sing along with the runs. As I was walking past the Corps dorms this morning, I heard them sing, "issue me an M-16, turn me into a killing machine." I think this is disgusting. Those guys ought to think about what they are saying. (When I say think, I mean by themselves, not by what their superiors tell them to think.)

Is this what Texas A&M is developing within the young men in the Corps? I realize that these guys are training to become soldiers and are learning to be able to use that training to become soldiers and are learning to be able to use that training to defend our country. However, it sounded to me like they were ready to pull that trigger and blow someone's head off at any given moment.

It is sad to think that these young men desire to be given the chance to murder someone. It is sad to think that they believe a conflict can be resolved through senselessly massacring other human beings. To me, that kind of thinking is warped and ruthless. I am ashamed that an academically superior university like Texas A&M is permitting this sickening cultivation of the Corps' minds.

Elizabeth Smith '84

### Racing thanks

Editor:

We are writing this letter to express our appreciation for all those who organized and were responsible for the Straight Shot 10K which took place Feb. 6 on Texas Avenue.

First we would like to thank Rusty Hisham and Kent Buehen, the race directors who gave many weeks of their time to organize the race. They both did an excellent job; the race ran very smoothly

and we consider it better than most races we have run in in Houston and Austin.

Second, we would like to thank Bryan-College Station Eagle, whose financial support the race not have been as competitive because the out of town competitors who brought in.

Third, we would like to thank the police of both cities who allowed the race to be run down Texas and insured one's safety.

We know this race took many planning and effort and we would say that it was a class race and we can become an annual race.

Bill Pewen  
Editor's note: This letter was signed by five other signatures.

### Books stolen

Editor:

What happened to the books at Texas A&M? When I came to Texas A&M, everyone convinced me that the honest Aggies are. It's one of the reasons I like the school so much. My opinion of honest Ags was changed this morning, whether it is to be changed or not.

I had a couple of books stolen from my back pack while I was down in the snack bar. At first I thought someone accidentally picked up the books, but when my pack was found in the restroom (where I certainly didn't go) with only the books missing, I was to think the otherwise.

All I can say to the dishonest is that I hope he gets caught. The rest of the honest Ags, keep your things when you're in the snack bar — you may be next.

Patrice B

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