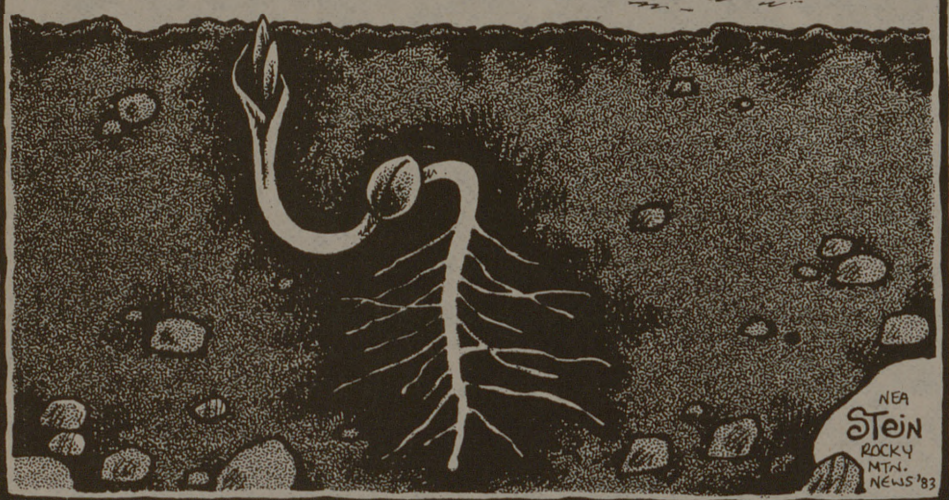
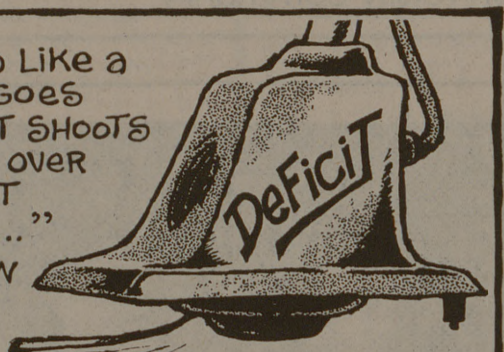


"ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS LIKE A SEEDLING. FOR AWHILE IT GOES UNDERGROUND...AND THEN IT SHOOTS UP AND IS SPROUTING ALL OVER THE PLACE. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE STARTING TO SEE..."

--RONALD REAGAN



Reagan aims to sell controversial policies

by Helen Thomas
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is embarking on a selling campaign to promote support for the building of the MX missile, his military spending increases and his foreign policy.

On all three fronts, he still must convince Congress and the public that he is on the right track.

As a result, he is calling in some old pros to help launch a drive to improve understanding of his policies and to win backing for them at home and abroad.

He has tapped Max Friedersdorf, his former chief lobbyist on Capitol Hill, to return from his diplomatic sojourn in the Bahamas to lend a hand in selling the need for production and deployment of the controversial MX missile.

In the foreign policy field, his administration has committed \$65 million to a program to support democratic institutions throughout the world through student and leader exchange programs, and aid to foreign education and broadcast outlets.

Reagan also recently dispatched Vice President George Bush to Europe to shore up sagging support among European leaders for his "zerozero" nuclear arms proposal to the Soviets. Many of the leaders are urging a more flexible policy than the U.S. proposal that calls for the elimination of all intermediate-range missiles on the continent.

And he sent Secretary of State George Shultz to China to mend fences in a continuing dispute over the U.S. relationship to Taiwan. Shultz also stopped in Japan where relations between the two countries are strained over trade and Japan's contribution to Asian defense.

At home, Reagan makes no bones about the fact that he is bothered by critics who think he is spending too much

money on military programs and taking away from the poor.

He has brought in William Greener, one of the spokesmen for the White House and the Pentagon in the Ford administration, to advise on making a better case for the \$30 billion increase in the defense budget, and improving understanding of the need for a buildup.

"I know there's been a constant drumbeat about defense spending as if that's responsible for all our ills," Reagan told a business gathering earlier in the week.

"We feel that it is necessary to do what we're doing," he said. But added that he is "very careful" to preserve the "safety net ... for people who are truly needy."

In the near future, Reagan plans to deliver a major address on his foreign policy and on defense needs. Aides are counting on his considerable powers as a super salesman to turn around the public opinion polls that have shown a dramatic drop in support for the trillion-plus increases in defense during a five-year period.

Also under way at the White House is a review of Reagan's media and public relations offices to determine how well they are working. The president has been holding a series of sessions with out-of-town correspondents and broadcasters who have been briefed on his budget and are given a chance to question him on a range of subjects.

At midterm, the need for selling his policies is obvious. The Western allies appear to be pulling in another direction, and Reagan has yet to establish himself as the leader in the field.

If the selling campaign succeeds, it will be because Reagan has managed to persuade Americans that they must stay ahead of the Soviets in the arms race, and convince the Europeans that he offers the best hope for a peaceful better world.

The last of the big evaders

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The long arm of the law, as represented by the Internal Revenue Service, is trying to reach out and touch waiters, barmaids and other restaurant workers likely to collect tips.

The IRS says many taxpayers who toil in the food industry have serious memory lapses when it comes to listing tips on their Forms 1040. So 8 percent of their total sales has been made automatically subject to taxation.

Restaurant employees for their part claim the new law is causing "crippling disruptions" in their business. That I can readily believe.

Any customer who only leaves an 8 percent gratuity is likely to find that service at his table has been cripplingly disrupted.

Nevertheless, some waiters and waitresses complain they rarely serve the last of the big spenders. When their tips don't add up to the minimum percentage, they say, the sales totals their bosses report to the IRS are misleading.

I don't necessarily quarrel with the

principle that the IRS is entitled to extract a pound of flesh for every beefsteak coming out of a restaurant kitchen. What I question is the fairness of singling out waiters when so many other potential taxpayers get away with not reporting huge chunks of income.

Someone once sent me a copy of "a special message to taxpayers" prepared by the Massachusetts revenue department. It reminded Bay State residents they were liable for taxes on income derived from kickbacks, stealing, drugs, cash skimming and other illegal activities.

"Not reporting such income can lead to prosecution for perjury and fraud," it solemnly and straight-facedly warned.

I commend that approach to President Reagan and Congress as they struggle to reduce the federal deficit.

As things now stand, the entire budgetary burden is borne by those of us who have only legitimate sources of income. So how about tightening collection procedures on the millions of dollars in illicit revenue that goes unreported each year?

How long has it been since kidnapers

paid taxes on ransoms? How long have hostage-takers forked over to the government the indicated portion of their and valuables received in exchange agreements? How long since arms jockers were soaked by the IRS for transportation benefits?

I don't know exactly how many taxes thieves, prostitutes and drug peddlers avoid paying each year. It might turn that, with all the deductions they could claim, they would owe nothing. Income earners in these days have heavy business expenses, you know.

Even in these days of declining line prices, keeping the motor running a getaway car must be frightfully expensive.

But most bank robbers, narcotics peddlers and the like file no returns. Worse yet, they obviously can allow leave big tips when they eat out. They are the tax evaders the government should be going after.

Another new law extending the holding system to ill-gotten gains put the budget back in the black.



NOW, HERE'S A PLAN WE IN WASHINGTON CAN LIVE WITH...

Letters: Display of flyers questions

Open letter to Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority:

Last Friday morning, when I arrived on campus, I was embarrassed and angered by the lack of decency and respect that was exhibited by your sorority in your circulation of flyers advertising a pre-Valentine's party. The use of the word "orgy" on the heading of the flyers disgusted me. Is this what young ladies must do to get attention? Are you running a sorority of a brothel? I was furthermore humiliated by the placing of a picture of Cupid also on the heading of your flyer. Cupid is a symbol of love, not trashy lust. Really now, was that necessary?

However, what was most disturbing was the manner in which these flyers were displayed. They were placed on fire evacuation boards, faculty boards and grade boards. When they were placed on the proper board, they were placed over other advertisements, namely the fine, wholesome Christian programs presented on Campus. I was enraged that you would lay an orgy over the word of God! I was truly embarrassed, and I'm sure that your parents, who pay your sorority dues, deserve better than this.

I was beginning to feel that the Greeks had a place at A&M, but after this display of indecency, I'm going to have to reconsider.

William B. McGuire III '84

Kidnapping causes missed class

Editor:

I teach at Texas A&M in the Department of Physical Education. I am writing this in order to publicize a situation that occurred recently in one of my classes.

A student had missed a class, and approached me with an explanation of his absence. He claimed he had been kidnapped and wanted to make up the class he had missed. Actually, he had been abducted by members of the fraternity to

which he was pledged, and driven to Waco. He missed a day of classes for this foolish prank.

The point I would like to emphasize is the action of the fraternity, forcing the pledge to miss class. It is absurd to think the University would condone the action, much less support an organization that makes it a regular practice.

If a student's top priority is not school, he should perhaps explain to himself why he, or his parents, is spending thousands of dollars to enroll at Texas A&M. If fraternities ever plan to proudly represent this University, or earn respect from other students, they certainly need to reevaluate their objectives.

Rhonda Reese
2800 Longmire

Thanks for the song

Editor:

This is in tribute to three young men who serenaded the Fowler-Keathley-Hughes girls from their quad in the wee hours of the morning on Feb. 15.

Not one but three suitors did woe me with songs of love like minstrels of old singing out so bold at such an early hour, had I the courage I would have showered you with praise and flowers. Now I must know From where'd did you come and where'st did you go, Oh, heavenly three with voices of gold. Come sing to me again of love so old.

Thank you for the beautiful music and feel free to interrupt our slumber again with your beautiful voices.

Cathy Close,
Caroline Singletary

129 Fowler

Rankings

Editor:

Peter Flawn (president of the University) asks you to accept the concept of greatness, excellence, and first-class qualities, not quantities ... But UT is fourth, of seventh, or eleventh, such figures are meaningless. From Sept. 1982 Texas Monthly magazine.

Peter Flawn (same one), 1982 reference to Jones-Lindzey Report study "... makes it clear that UT has now become one of the smallest of truly outstanding state in the nation. Quote from Feb. 2, 1983 edition of Battalion.

He apparently also stated that the report proved U.T. was first in training among universities in the southwest.

Does this mean that ranking meaningful only when they rank you?

Charles B. ...
Dunn

Correction

Editor:

With reference to the article "A&M installs computer insurance programs," appearing in the February issue of The Battalion, I have been requested to bring the following correction to your attention.

The picture accompanying the article was incorrectly captioned, in that Painter is not the director of the Electrical Engineering computer facilities; the interim director of the College of Engineering Computer-Graphics Project is supporting the PLATO project in computer-based education. The four microcomputers, referred to in the caption, were donated by Data Corporation to the College of Engineering, not to the Department of Electrical Engineering, as was stated. Thank you.

John H. ...
Professor, Electrical Engineering

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.

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.

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