

Students don't miss long lines, crowds

A round of applause goes to the administration for successfully implementing the new preregistration system.

This year, students have registered on specified days, alphabetically and according to their classifications.

Predictably, freshmen and sophomores aren't happy about the seniority system. Some are afraid they won't be able to get the classes and schedules they want since junior and senior preregistration goes through the University computers first.

But it's more crucial for upperclassmen to take the classes they need to graduate. And the new procedure means shorter lines for everyone.

It takes most students about five minutes to go through the whole process.

No lines. No crowds. No card packets to keep up with — just a single sheet of paper.

The confusion that was predicted never materialized. Students who missed their designated days were allowed to preregister late since there was no rush at the Pavilion.

This year, we can concentrate on getting through the last round of tests and assignments without having to worry about spending a couple of hours standing in line.

And this year, we don't feel like cattle.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Boycott of Games: Don't worry yet

The Soviets are saying they might not attend the Olympic Games in Los Angeles this summer. In a classic Communist mincing of words, the Russians insist they're not planning to boycott the Games — they just won't show up on their Aeroflot jets when the opening ceremonies begin.

Once again, the Olympic Games are being used for political gain.

In 1980 the United States learned the hard way that nothing is gained by using athletes to protest a government's actions.

The U.S. boycott of the 1980 Games — meant as a symbolic act to show the U.S.S.R. our opposition to Soviet military maneuvers in Afghanistan — made little impact on anyone except the American athletes.

Perhaps the United States has learned something from President Jimmy Carter's misuse of the Olympics

in 1980. We hope so.

The U.S.S.R., however, is as willing as the United States was in 1980 to mix politics with athletics; hence the Soviet warnings about this year's Games.

But there's a good chance the Soviet athletes will be in Los Angeles. Bringing attention to a cause or objection is the reason for any country's threat to skip the Olympics. Once this publicity is attained — a process going on now — the Communists probably will decide to grace the Olympic Games with their presence.

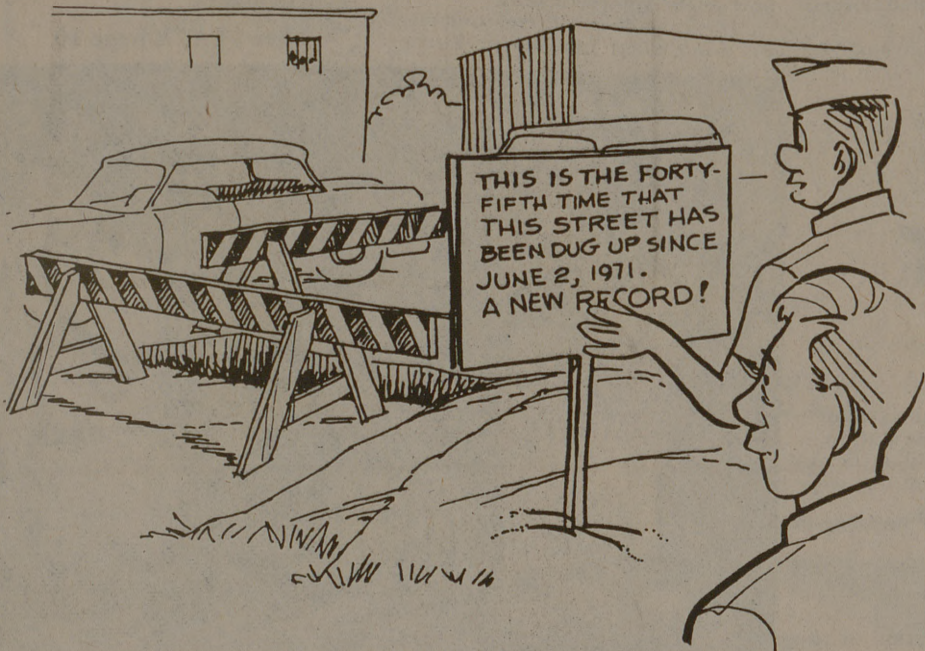
After all, if they can't get their way on the issue of athlete visas, they won't want to pass up the opportunity to beat our athletes.

The only losers in this political game would be the country whose athletes stay home. Like the United States in 1980.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

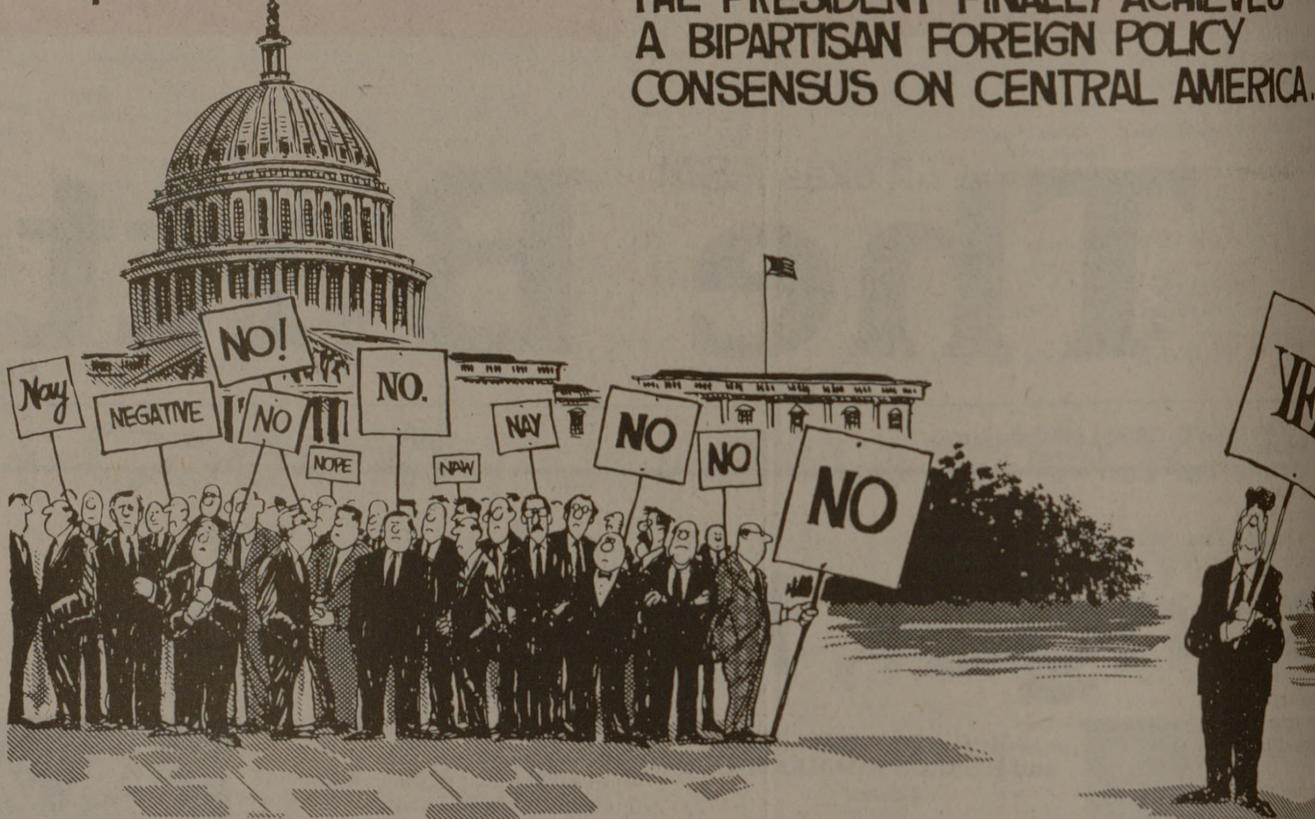
Slouch

by Jim Earle



"We could send it to the 'Book of Records,' but we may as well wait 'til next year. It'll be a better record then."

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THE PRESIDENT FINALLY ACHIEVES A BIPARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY CONSENSUS ON CENTRAL AMERICA

Reagan's campaign: Who picks up the tab?

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

One of the greatest problems, when an incumbent president is running for office, is how to differentiate a political trip he takes from one when he is on the nation's business. If Mr. Reagan goes out campaigning, the Republican Party is supposed to pay for it, but if he is traveling as a president, the taxpayer does. Every time the president leaves the White House it runs into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

So who makes the decision whether the president is out on the road making a political speech or delivering an inspirational message as this country's elected leader?

The White House Staff does. "How do you decide when Mr. Reagan is going out for political reasons, and when he goes out for Presidential ones?" I asked a friend at the White House.

"We're very careful not to confuse the two," he said with a straight face. "What are the criteria?" I wanted to know.

"Well, if the president flies out to attend a luncheon of businessmen to explain how well his economic plans are working, after inheriting the worst financial mess in 40 years from the Democrats, then that would be a presidential trip and considered nonpolitical."

"Would a speech to the fundamentalist preachers about prayers in school be considered political or presidential?"

"Presidential, of course." "Recently, one of the president's main themes in his speeches around the country is that Congress is responsible

for all his failures in foreign policy, including Lebanon. He has almost called them traitors. Would the upcoming elections have anything to do with the thrust of his remarks?"

"Certainly not. The president has a right to inform the people of this country who should be blamed for the collapse of his bipartisan foreign policy."

"Couldn't he do that from the White House?"

"It's important that the people see their president, and the more he gets around the key electoral states, the stronger the message he is sending to the Soviets that we intend to have peace through strength. It is also his duty as Commander-in-Chief to warn the nation of the disastrous consequences of a nuclear freeze now being put forth by the presidential candidates in the opposition party."

"Some might interpret those as political speeches in an election year," I said.

"How can they be considered political when the nation's freedom is at stake, and all he is saying is that the Democrats would deliver us into the hands of the Communists?"

"It appears to me then, that so far most of the president's sojourns haven't cost the party too much money."

"President Reagan would never use his high office to campaign for reelection at the expense of the taxpayers."

"When will the president dig into the Republican war chest for his reelection?"

"If he stays presidential, then not until he goes to Dallas in August for the Republican convention."

Letters: Attitude cause problem

Editor:

This letter is in response to the O'Hanlon's published in the Battalion.

It is somehow surprising that age when Texas A&M University is striving to be recognized as a University," people with ideas are O'Hanlon's still exist in a society claims to be educated.

I would tend to believe that a man being who qualifies for a position at Texas A&M should be judged on whatever other classifications were derived to identify humans. If the university has to do the quota routine, it is terribly wrong. Maybe the University sees some merit in integrating these people into the student body.

So, what is so repulsive about the idea of having a certain number of "minorities" enrolling at Texas A&M? I am sure the University is not going to jeopardize its status by letting a few qualified students just in the quota.

It is time to realize that the university plays a large part in how successful an institution such as Texas A&M projects its image.

A university is not only a place where we study physics, chemistry, engineering; it is also a place where we learn how to deal with the problems of society. It is here that we can accept the fact that there are other humans created in this world who have been deprived by our nonchalant attitudes for more than 200 years. It's that simple.

Gabriel M.P.A.

Coverups solve summer problem: One size swimsuit does not fit all

By DICK WEST

Columnist for United Press International

Springtime is barely upon us and already we are being warned of the dangers of overexposure to the ultraviolet rays of the sun.

Although the perils of solar abuse are well documented, one subject that has not been approached en masse is swimsuit abuse. So far, I have received only one press release dealing with that issue, and it by no means touched all the bases.

Swimsuit abuse has been one of those taboo topics seldom discussed in polite company. "Out of sight, out of mind" is the prevailing attitude. And some of the bikinis worn on the beach and at poolside literally are out of sight.

Only infrequently has there been any sort of national dialogue about the terrible strain that many swimsuits are put under each summer.

Phrasing this as delicately as possible, it must be noted that human bodies during the winter layovers tend to become rather, ah, lumpy. Ideally, consumers would buy several swimsuits of different sizes at the outset of a new season in the sun.

The larger models, preferably having plenty of pleats, ruffles, flounces and

other types of camouflage, could be worn during the early stages of the tanning process before the body has had time to overcome the ravages of winter.

Smaller swimsuits then could be donned after a certain degree of narrowness and natural tapering had set in.

But, alas, prices being what they are these days, few sunbathers can afford a complete range of swimwear — one that covers all the contingencies, so to speak.

Ergo, the one-size-fits-all model is necessarily in vogue.

In addition to being subjected to a great deal of early season stretching, many swimsuits also are required to withstand a considerable amount of staining.

Who among us has not seen beachwear smeared with melted chocolate bars, spilled peach juice or permanent cola colorations?

Worse yet is the fitness kick. Swimsuits are not just for swimming anymore. They also are exposed to volleyball, tennis and other strenuous activities, including jogging.

Cement is another major enemy. The very calcined mixture that makes dawdling around swimming pools so invit-

ing may balance the equation by being ring and "pilling" swimsuits.

Moreover, the snag index of suits worn for beachchair sunbathing rather high. But that might be secondary to the erosive effects caused by sand and mud. Not to mention the tear of some swimsuits to sag and hang wet.

The solution to all these problems suggested by the Visa fabric company may be the polyester cover-up.

Slipped on over a swimsuit, these garments keep sunbathers "cool, comfortable and dry, and stains wash out easily," the firm says.

Additionally, they can keep the parts of the epidermis.

The biggest advantage of these like beachwear in preventing sunburn abuse may have been overlooked. They are loose-fitting and obscure all but the most blatant time contours.

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.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Reader's Forum columns and guest editorials also are welcome. Address all inquiries to the Editorial Page Editor.

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