

Why is Reagan always smiling?

When I see President Ronald Reagan constantly smiling, I have to wonder why. The federal deficit, almost \$700 BILLION under the Reagan administration, is much greater than the combined annual federal deficits of all administrations since World War II! Even David Stockman, director of Reagan's own Office of Management and Budget, disputes the claim that economic growth can reduce Reagan's record deficits.

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Instead, Stockman concedes that 80 percent of the downward revision in projected deficits are in fact due to a combination of tax increases and spending cuts enacted by Congress. If it had not been for these policy changes, \$200 billion annual deficits would, in Stockman's words, "stretch as far as the eye can see."

According to Reagan, the deficit will "vanish" due to lower unemployment, lower inflation, and higher corporate profits. The facts, however, disagree.

In the first place, any gains in revenue are offset by sharply higher interest rates that cost the government billions of dollars in additional debt-service costs. It's no secret that real interest rates (interest rates less the inflation rate) are the highest in U.S. history and are caused by federal borrowing to finance Reagan's deficits.

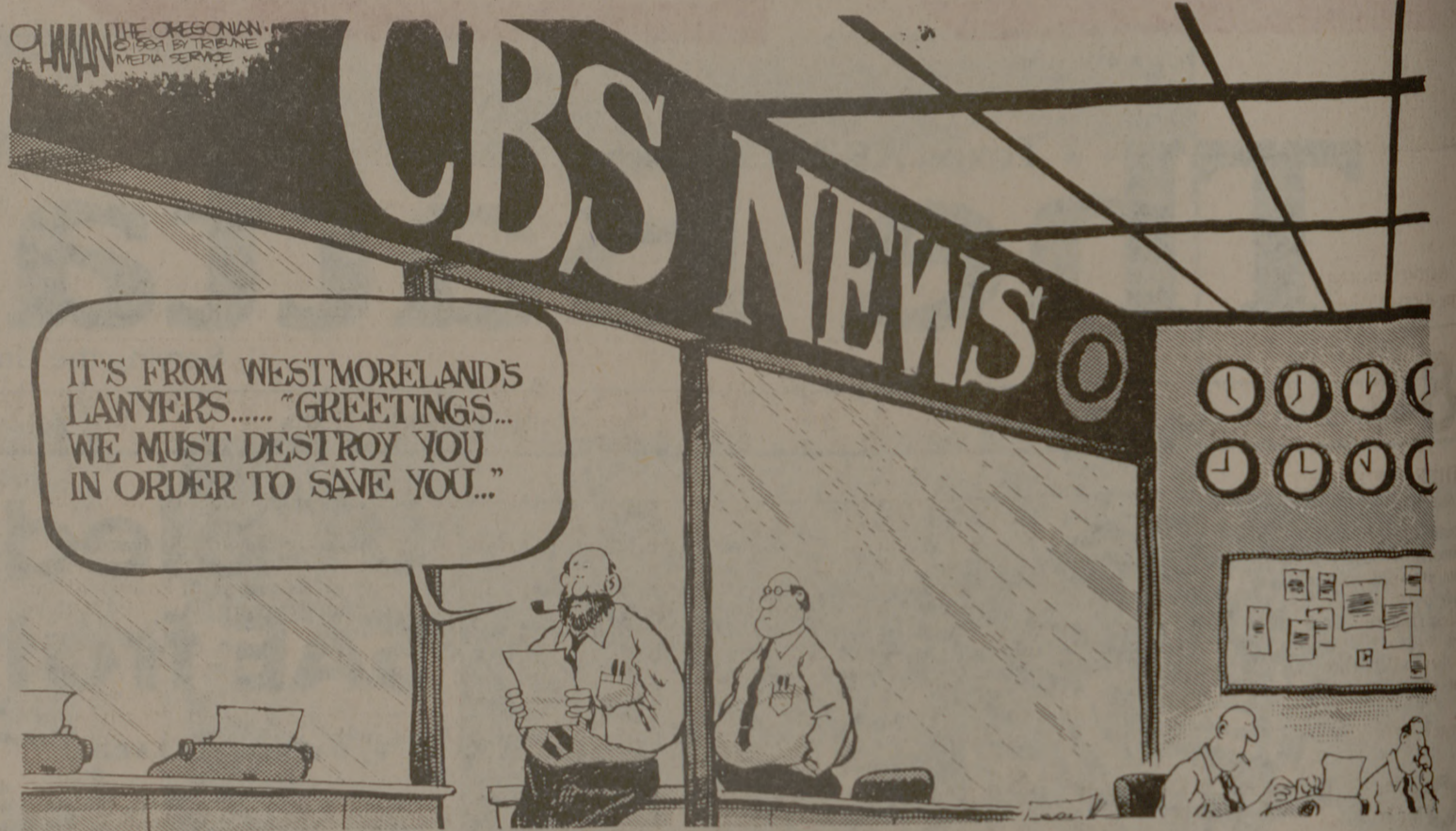
Secondly, the explosion in corporate profits have done little to reduce the red ink. This is because those profits are protected by tax shelters and depreciation deductions stemming from the rapid rise in plant and equipment spending.

Third, Reagan seemingly doesn't realize that tax revenues spring from the total dollar value of the nation's output. Lower inflation estimates also means the government can expect a sharp reduction in tax revenues, thereby increasing deficit projections.

I can, however, understand the President's difficulty in keeping a straight face when he defines his "High growth scenario" that will eliminate the deficits. This scenario forecasts a 2 percent unemployment rate, a 3.5 percent inflation rate, and a 5 percent interest rate on treasury bills by 1989! It also assumes the economy will boom, uninterrupted by recession, even faster in the 1980's than the record expansion of 1961-69. Using more commonly accepted assumptions, the Congressional Budget Office projects annual deficits to reach \$263 billion by 1989.

Please, Mr. Reagan, don't be offended if I don't smile.

Mike Burton
Class of '80



LETTERS:

Chinese students not converting Aggies

EDITOR:

I've been reading about the recent mass-hysteria concerning, you guessed it, the Gay Student Services. After going over my own thoughts, I've decided to put in my two cents.

First, Recognition: It seems to me that the Hometown Clubs, OCA, Organization of Arab Students, Aggie Women, Malasians in Aggiland, etc. all provide the same kinds of services that GSS wishes to provide. They are just another special interest group.

I think the idea that GSS is trying to "promote" homosexuality is ludicrous — is the Chinese Student Association trying to get people to become Chinese?

I would think that if A&M stopped wasting money and let them be an organization, GSS would just become another club in a "cast of thousands."

Secondly, more than half of the people who are now so scared of the GSS would never have even heard about it if the school had recognized them from the beginning. I really find it hard to believe that you all have time to worry about a lifestyle with which you probably rarely come into contact.

I'm not sure if you all are paranoid that you'll "catch it," get attacked, or if you actually believe that if GSS isn't recognized, the homosexuals will disappear. And I also can't believe that you find it so difficult to handle. Did you really expect to be sheltered from it all of your life? Were you trying to pretend that homosexuality didn't exist?

Welcome to the real world.

Betty Byrd
Class of '87

Joining the 20th century

EDITOR:

Dear Rod Arnold:

Lighten up, Ag. Why don't you climb down from your high horse and look at Texas A&M? You really think the Corps is GREAT. Even if I don't agree, I can understand how you feel. It is only fitting that a member of the largest fraternity at Texas A&M should be just as enthusiastic about his "brotherhood" as the members of smaller, non-recognized fraternities.

What I cannot understand, however, is your belief that all traditions are sacred and none are to be broken. If traditions at Texas A&M were never broken, all students here would be in the Corps,

and you would have no one to bitch at. If traditions at Texas A&M were never broken, Kristen Haas, Kelli Thomerson, and Analisa Vinson would not be students here at all unless they had exchange operations, and you would have no one to commend. If traditions at Texas A&M were never broken, this school would presently be an insignificant little college, consisting only a bunch of guys going to class in soldier suits, rather than a fine university, boasting a 36,000 member student body and aspiring for world class status.

So, lighten up, Rod. The people here whom you'd like to ship off to Austin aren't trying to destroy every tradition at Texas A&M. They've merely decided to join the twentieth century. Try it sometime.

Joe Knight
Class of '87

A rousing blow against intolerance

EDITOR:

HURRAH! A rousing blow for intolerance and closed minds was struck Wednesday 24 Oct. '84. I am referring to the letter by Rod Arnold. Yessir, Yessir, I also believe that we should get rid of everybody who doesn't hold our cherished traditional beliefs. I, in fact, think that instead of shipping all of our liberals, antitraditionalists and other 2 percenters to Austin, we should shoot them all and bury the bodies in a mass grave at the bonfire site; we could then congratulate ourselves on obliterating the menace once and for all.

I hope my meaning is clear: with Arnold's attitudes prevailing on this campus, this college will never attain World University Status (WUS). Correct me if I'm wrong Arnold, but isn't a UNIVERSITY supposed to be an institution dedicated to freedom of speech, tolerance and a free exchange of cultures and ideas? With attitudes like yours representing Texas A&M, Arnold, it is my belief that this university will forever remain a small, provincial, backwater school simply dedicated to football.

Michael J. Traubert, '86
Ernest W. Hartt, '85
Yvonne G. DeGraw, '87
Margaret A. Mitchell, '88
accompanied by six signatures

Still trying to cash Texas A&M checks

EDITOR:

I just received my add/drop supplemental fees from the TAMU Fiscal Dept. I quickly endorsed the check and

went over to the Coke Building to get it cashed, but to my surprise they said, "Sorry, we issued you that check, but we can't cash it for you. You'll have to take it to your local bank and get it cashed." I promptly replied, "I don't have a local bank." She said, "Then you can cash it at First Bank Bryan, all the way down Texas Ave."

What is this? When I decided to pay my fees I didn't ask TAMU to go all the way to my hometown to get their money. Why should I have to go to theirs? Not everyone has ready access to off campus "downtown Bryan." I think this is a poor way of doing business, and that something should be done about it, fast! Before I get Marvin Zindler on the case.

Jay Hendley, '86
Ken Hendrickson, '87
Jeff Blagg, '86
Eric Wellington, '88

Females in band won't hurt football

EDITOR:

Re: Regent McKenzie's opinion that allowing female band members would be akin to letting them play on the football team, maybe we could make a great band greater, and who knows what might happen to the quality of the football team.

John Natowitz
Class of '87

Colombia fights drug abuse, image

EDITOR:

On Tuesday, the 23rd of October, Brandon Berry, reporter of The Battalion, published an article about Patricia Gonzalez and Susie Faccini, two of the most outstanding A&M golf players. Patricia and Susie are both from Colombia.

Susie and Patricia are both members of the Colombian Students Association. As president of the association I want to thank Berry for the article he wrote about the Colombian golf duo. I also want to thank A&M women's golf coach Kitty Holley for giving them both an opportunity to succeed in golf.

I would also want to express something that came to my mind the moment I started to read the article. There are indeed many other ways of introducing our country than this:

"To most people, a 'Colombian Con-

nection' conjures up visions of shady dealings and illegal substances. But for Texas A&M women's golf coach Kitty Holley, Colombia has given her a special type of Colombian gold."

If Mr. Berry wants to write an article about Patricia's and Susie's merits and values in golf he should not start the article the way he did. Drugs are as illegal in Colombia as they are in the U.S., and we are fighting very hard to finish that problem.

I sincerely hope that in the future Berry or any other person omit these kind of references.

Juan Pablo Aljure
President, Colombia Student Association

Cadet dismissal on the right track

EDITOR:

Congratulations to Bill Kibler and the University for a job well done - the dismissal of three junior cadets implicated in the hazing death of Bruce Dean Goodrich on August 30. I am glad to find the University felt it imperative to effect some type of disciplinary action against these cadets, even though hazing appears to be committed by a host of others on this campus. This example may serve to warn others of the possible punishment they may face if they chose to break a university regulation, whether it be hazing or otherwise.

To those who insist that the three junior cadets should not be punished for something in which others may have taken part in at one time or another, I ask you to think about this: The next time you are speeding down Highway 6 along with a line of other cars and one of those drivers is pulled over by the DPS while committing the same infraction you are, count yourself lucky. You might even learn from the experience.

Brian Koontz
Class of '86

Education at A&M combats ignorance

EDITOR:

In 1981, I vowed that I would not leave Texas A&M without writing a letter to the editor. When I came here as a sophomore, the conservative views of Texas A&M fit neatly into the narrow-mindedness that my parents worked 19 years to instill in me.

However, in order to graduate I was

required to take courses in the sciences. I was a hostile student who argued with my professors, because the thing I was learning forced me to look at my eyes and to realize that not everything had it as good as I did.

I began evaluating the views of a majority of students at A&M. It was looking into a mirror, and I didn't like what I saw. I saw prejudice and discrimination and selfishness for the first time and I knew it was wrong. But more all, I saw ignorance.

Since then, I have re-evaluated my entire value system and my way of thinking. I am becoming a more open and accepting and informed person every day. I've learned to accept and help people who are different than me if necessary rather than make judgments.

You may say that I am becoming more liberal but I call it growing up. This has been a painful but enlightening experience for me. Life was easier when I lived in ignorance. I never want to return to the way I used to think (or didn't think before).

Thank you, A&M for providing me with an education that I would not have been able to obtain anywhere else.

Becky Stieber
Class of '85

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
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Southwest Journalism Conference
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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photographing within the Department of Communication.

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Letters to the Editor should be typed, double-spaced, and include the author's name, address, and telephone number. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the author.
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