

## People at bottom of Reagan's list

Merry Christmas America. President Ronald Reagan announced today that he will be proposing budgetary cuts that will save the government \$34 billion. Reagan has submitted a list of "terminations and reform cuts." Here are some of the items on Santa's hit list.

All loans and financial assistance provided by the Small Business Administration would be eliminated. The budget would eliminate the 1986 cost-of-living adjustments in food stamps, child nutrition programs, veterans' compensation and pensions and Supplemental Security Income for the needy, aged, blind and disabled.

Many transportation subsidies for railroads, ports, and waterways would be eliminated. Urban development action grants aimed at stimulating private investment would likewise be eliminated.

Other discretionary programs listed for cutbacks include the Special Supplementary Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, the Job Corps, agricultural research and conservation, Coast Guard operations and the maintenance of public lands and national parks.

Another \$14.4 billion will be sought from such programs as student loans, veterans' health benefits, farm price supports, crop insurance, economic aid to foreign countries and in the operations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Battalion Editorial Board realizes that these cut proposals are still to be submitted to Congress for approval and whatever revisions they wish to make.

The unsettling aspect of Reagan's newest suggested cuts is that it again targets programs that are necessary and important to many people. And, once again, military spending avoids the budgetary knife.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Not planning to lose sleep over it

## Reagan has credit limit, too

By ART BUCHWALD  
Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

A man knocked on the door of the White House the other night and the president, in his pajamas, answered it.

"Yes?" Mr. Reagan said.

"I'm from the Visa card company, and you owe us \$210 billion. We were wondering when you planned to start paying on it."

"Two hundred and ten billion? I thought it was only 170 billion," the president said.

"That's what you told everyone during the election campaign. But it turns out it's 210, give or take 5 billion. You've been using your credit card for the past four years, and I think it's time you acknowledged the debt."

"Who is it?" Mrs. Reagan called from the top of the stairs.

"It's a man from the Visa credit card company who says we owe him \$210 billion."

"That's ridiculous," Mrs. Reagan said. "I only bought two suits at Adolfo's."

The Visa man said, "These were not for personal purchases. They are government related. I have all the receipts here. Defense, Social Security, Medicare, Human Services and entitlements. We can't stay in business if people just keep using plastic and don't honor their debts."

"Don't worry about getting paid. My tax advisers are now working on a plan to see that you get your money."

"How do they propose to do that?"

"We're cutting back on spending, reforming the tax structure and lowering interest rates. Listen to my State of the Union address."

Mrs. Reagan yelled from the top of the stairs, "Tell him we didn't run up the bill. Congress did."

"That's ridiculous," Mrs. Reagan said. "I only bought two suits at Adolfo's."

The Visa man heard her. "The card is made out in your name, Mr. Reagan. Whether you like it or not you're responsible."

"Don't worry, we'll borrow the money to pay you," the president said.

"Do you realize how much interest you're going to pay on \$210 billion?"

"My staff deals with minor details like that," the president replied.

"Mr. Reagan, the reason we gave you a Gold Visa card is that in 1980 we considered you a good credit risk. You made a big deal that Jimmy Carter was in debt to us for \$90 billion, and you promised if you got his card you wouldn't owe us anything in 1984. Now you've more than doubled his debt, and we're getting very nervous."

Mrs. Reagan shouted, "Tell him we doesn't want our business anymore. We'll use an American Express card."

The Visa man yelled back, "American Express wouldn't touch you people. A 10-foot pole."

"I don't think this is the time to place to discuss how much we owe the president said. "Why don't you come to my office in the morning?"

"Because your staff won't let me see you tell me you're taking care of it. I don't like to make night calls, but this is the only time I get to speak to principals who are in hock up to their ears."

"Okay, so maybe I spent more than I should have. But if you let me keep my card, I'll cut back on all my spending and I assure you by 1988 I won't owe you more than 100 billion. Would that be in your ballpark?"

"We don't seem to have any other way to do it," the Visa man said.

The president shut the door and went upstairs.

Mrs. Reagan said, "I think that's very rude of the credit card people. Wake us up and tell us we owe the \$210 billion. It could ruin our sleep."

"Not mine," the president said.

## Has anybody out there got a job for a liberal arts major

Well, I made it. December graduation is less than a stone's throw away and I'm standing at the threshold of my future with a ring on my finger, a diploma nearly in hand and still no job offers in sight.

But then again, what did I expect from a liberal arts degree anyway, even if it is from Texas A&M? A ticket to the jet-set? Hardly.

I had been forewarned about the meager beginning salary of jobs for those graduating with degrees similar to mine, yet I continued on in my studies. I enjoyed them. I also had something to prove to myself and I have done so.

I guess I shouldn't complain considering no one forced me into this major. Still, after spending four and one-half years beating my brain to death with studies, living ridiculously below poverty level, working part-time to help finance my education and accumulating an \$8,600 debt in educational loans, I had hoped for something better — you know, a "real" job. For all my trouble, I feel I deserve a job that would allow for a comfortable lifestyle, pay all the bills, permit a savings account and the purchase of a new car.

Both my roommates also are graduating in December

Mark Spicer

and will have absolutely no difficulty finding gainful employment with degrees in engineering technology and geology.

When I think about it, all three of us have spent relatively the same amount of time, money and energy in acquiring our respective degrees. Yet, when I do finally get a job, I'll be making two or three times less than either of them. Somehow, it doesn't seem right.

As far as I'm concerned, their degrees are no more important than mine. However, we live in a democratic society with a free-enterprise economic system that obviously thinks differently or our salaries would be comparable.

I have considered making myself more marketable by staying in school and working on a master's degree, but that would mean at least another two years of sacrifice, of continuing to live in a financially depressing situation and of borrowing even more money to obtain this additional educational goal.

Won't someone please offer me a decent job now and spare me the agony of another two years of headaches, ulcers, skimpy meals and sleepless nights?

P.S....I don't do windows.

Mark Spicer is a senior journalism major.

## LETTERS:

### Cassavoy not really that bad of a guy

EDITOR:

This is a letter in response to the recent "We hate Ed Cassavoy" letter.

I'd like to know what gives a person the right to sit in judgement over someone else?

Being unique in a crowd of 37,000-plus conformists does not qualify one to be labeled as "a bleeding-heart liberal two-pcenter."

Some advice: Next time you take pen/crayon in hand to grace people with your suggestions, remember: it's quite hard to predict the outcome of a football game precisely.

Yes, Ed did exaggerate excessively — and maybe unnecessarily. Maybe he was trying to prove a point.

Just be glad that our newspaper is somewhat of a forum for expression and not solely an example of Aggie propaganda which is stained deep maroon.

Gigi Shamsy  
Class of 1986

Some students and faculty at the Horticulture/Forestry building have been asking about the pair since their disappearance and have indicated shock and dismay over the deterioration of Ag standards.

REMEMBER, Good Aggies do not lie, cheat, steal, FLAMINGONAP or errate those who do.

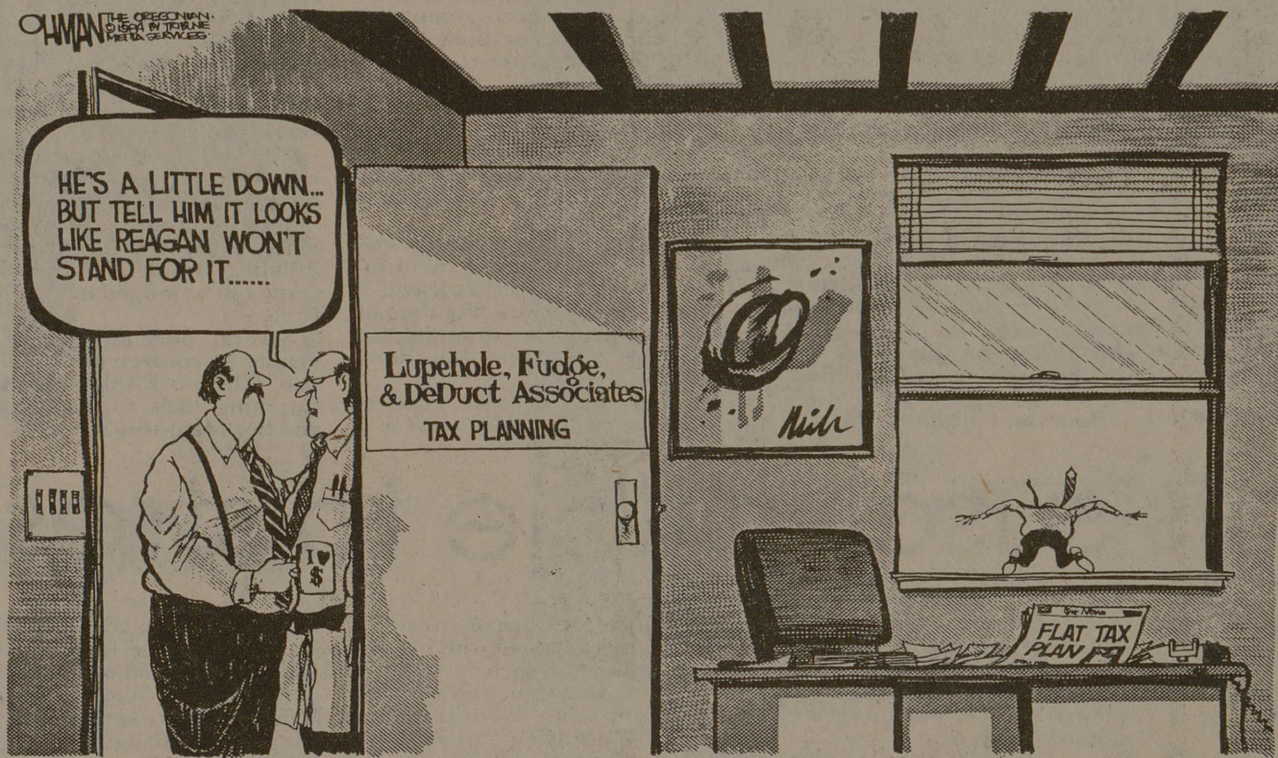
Sad Ags,  
Mark Sebolt, '88  
Cecilie Siegel, '85

### Who draws d.p.?

EDITOR:

Who does "d.p."?

Robert Dowdy, '87  
accompanied by 19 signatures



## CIA agents must have trouble sleeping

Overthrowing a government is a nasty business. Unlike Luke Skywalker fighting the oppression of an evil empire, undermining the existing governmental body is not glorious.

I was reading some excerpts from the CIA's Nicaraguan guerrilla manual which caused such a ruckus in Washington. I found their choice of words intriguing, but more interesting, or perhaps more disturbing, was the realization that this book was an occupational instruction manual.

Can you imagine coming home from work, setting down your briefcase, taking off your coat, and having your wife ask "How was your day, dear?" "Pretty good. I coerced several Nicaraguans into carrying out rebel assignments," or "Not bad, we administered some 'selective violence.'"

The CIA has everything you need to know about guerrilla warfare in their book and others similar to it. This sort of knowledge has been around for a long time. The price of democracy seems to be a long, bloody struggle.

Our own American Revolution employed many of the same tac-

Loren Steffy

tics the CIA is advocating in Nicaragua. Our forefathers certainly used "selective violence" in dealing with the British. We, too, created "martyrs" — remember Nathan Hale?

And, while we never "neutralized" any British government officials, we could be accused of getting the help of professional criminals. In the eyes of the British Empire, many of the foreign officers who aided our cause were criminals.

When we view the other side of things, we change the language a bit. For example, Anwar Sadat was assassinated, not "neutralized". Whatever the words, guerrilla warfare is a nasty business, but in some instances, it is necessary.

Still, I wouldn't want to be the one to come home and put my head on my pillow knowing I helped "neutralize" a government official, organized "selective violence," or hired a professional criminal.

The end result may be democracy, which might justify the nastiness, but I wonder how those CIA guys sleep at night.

Loren Steffy is a weekly columnist for The Battalion.

### Scandal at A&M: tradition broken

EDITOR:

A scandal in Aggieland. GOOD AGGIES DO NOT LIE, CHEAT, STEAL OR TOLERATE THOSE THAT DO. Well Aggie, 28 November was a sad day for Texas A&M. A sacred Aggie tradition was broken. On this day in the Horticulture/Forestry building a pair of endangered birds were stolen. They were placed by the fountain in the Horticulture/Forestry building on 27 November. These birds were an endowment from two students who wanted their fellow Aggies to enjoy them as much as they had.

There have been numerous rumors floating around about who committed this outrageous crime. One report said that Patty Hearst and a group of terrorists have flamingonapped the pair; another report claims that an angry student is holding them until he is assured an A in a certain class; but those reports were dismissed as cranks. There are other reports, however, that indicate it was an inside job; an employee of the University, no less.

Is this to be tolerated, Aggies? Is nothing sacred? Would the administration tolerate the theft of other endowments? If the new Carrillion was stolen, would they take it sitting down? What if you came to campus to watch a football game only to discover that someone had made off with Kyle Field? Think about it; how would you feel? Is it safe for Reveille to roam the campus with only one guardian?

The two pink, plastic flamingoes stole the hearts of some of the students during their brief stay and were named Pink and Floyd. This species was a common bird in the fifties, seen in the front yards of finer neighborhoods everywhere, but they have been dying out since the mid-sixties.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory experience for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

**Letters Policy**  
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer. The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except during holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$10.00 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35.00 per year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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