

THE COMEDY TEAM OF BUSH AND QUAYLE:

...WELL, THOSE FELLOWS... THOSE ASTRONAUTS... UP THERE... LONG TIME AGO... UP THERE DOING THAT THING... UP THERE IN SPACE... UP THERE WITH A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT (HA-HA!)... DOING THAT THING...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT APOLLO 11, I AM REMINDED OF ANOTHER FAMOUS AMERICAN: WINSTON CHURCHILL, THE FIRST MAN IN ORBIT. WASN'T IT GANDHI WHO SAID: "ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MAN, A SMALL STEP FOR THE REST OF US"? OR WAS THAT BUZ LUKENS?



GEORGE BUSH



DAN QUAYLE

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Mail Call

Trouble with trees

EDITOR:

How come it's illegal to poison old oak trees in Austin, while in College Station trees can be cut down at will, without the permission of the students who spend more time outside with the Texas A&M landscape than do the paper pushers in offices who never have to see the trees, or the lack thereof?

Carol Malone '90

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

Puzzled about crosswords

EDITOR:

I am curious to know why *The Battalion* does not have a crossword puzzle. Most major campus newspapers, including the University of Texas' paper, contain one. This matter might seem trivial and even a bit funny to some. However, to crossword buffs, the puzzle's much needed addition would be greatly appreciated.

Homer Wells

author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

Congress can't fix financial disaster

I told you so, didn't I? I tell you to keep your eyes on those gutless wonders in Congress as they are fixin' to fix this S&L mess they created in the first place? I am telling you right now, the fix is going to be the biggest rotten rip-off since the S&L greedheads made off with zillions in the first place. Cheez! No shame at all. Remember, this little piece of corporate welfare legislation is going to cost every one of us — man, woman and child — \$1,000. If you're married with two toddlers, you're in for \$4K. At least. If they keep on doing what they've been doing, the tab will go higher.

I thought we could count on Henry B. Gonzalez, the old freedom fighter from San Antonio who is now chairman of the House Banking Committee, to get us a bailout that would put the burden where it belongs — on the sorry individuals who pushed for and profited from the lunacy of S&L deregulation from the git-go. But Gonzalez is up to his keester just fighting off the worst, most crazed demands of the still-mighty S&L lobby. Hell, Henry's just barely holding off the sold-out Senate committee that wants to keep M. Danny Wall, the fixer of this entire financial disaster, as chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

The Senate chairman is Jake Garn of Utah and M. Danny was Garn's top aide for 14 years, from whose happy position he wrote the lunatic law deregulating S&Ls with the able assistance of his very dear friends, the top S&L lobbyists. In his present position, M. Danny went on to distinguish himself by holding a fire sale of troubled S&Ls late last year as time was running out so more greed-heads could make more staggering profits.



Molly Ivins
Syndicated Columnist

The Financial Democracy Campaign, which is some of your good-head Southern populists, came up with a just solution for this mess, which is to make the people responsible for it pay for it by these means:

- Use of the proceeds from the liquidation of insolvent S&Ls
- Retained earnings from the 12 district Home Loan Bank Boards
- Increased deposit insurance premiums for thrifts and commercial banks (the commercials have as BIG self-interest in pulling out the S&L's because they'll all go together if they go)
- One-time fees levied on financial firms such as the money brokers, securities firms, appraisers and accounting firms that contributed so handsomely to the S&L insolvencies
- Special purpose tax on interest income earned by foreign investors in this country (you know that one would be popular)
- Tax receipts collected by reconstructing the present deductions for luxury second homes

And all that together will about pay for the S&L mess instead of making all of us pay for it. Young Joe Kennedy of Massachusetts carried a bill with some of these suggestions in it and got but nowhere in the House (although he did manage to get in a provision stopping

S&Ls from their notorious racist redlining.) That's partly because although Kennedy is a good liberal, he's not the brightest porch light on the block, so the other members are not going to take a cue from him, plus — same old problem, you and me, Jack, we got no lobbyists up there. The S&Ls do, the banks do, the securities firms do, but us — so far we're too dumb to even get mad about this.

You have to quit wasting your time on diddly crap like this flag-burning crusade. One jerk burns a flag and you people want to change the Constitution of the United States. While all the professional patriots, led by our peerless president, are whipping up patriotic sentiment against flag-burning, the thieves who broke into the S&Ls are now into our homes, carrying off the furniture, the clothes and the food. Wake up, people.

As a final note on patriotism in our time, consider the words of James W. Hall, currently on trial for espionage, an Army warrant officer who became a spy for the Soviet Union. On videotape, Hall said, "I wasn't terribly short of money. I just decided I didn't ever want to worry where my next dollar was coming from. I'm not anti-American, I wave the flag as much as anybody else."

Society flat out wrong about Earth's shape

As I was reading through the special Apollo 11 moon walk anniversary section of the *Houston Chronicle* the other morning at breakfast, I came across the headline "Some say moon walk was hoax."

I wasn't too surprised to hear that. I already knew that some people think the moon walk was a hoax, because I saw a program about it on public television.

Maybe you saw the program. It was about a guy who was obsessed with proving to the world that man never walked on the moon. He believed NASA used Hollywood's technology to create the illusion that man walked on the moon, much like Hollywood created the illusion that the people in "Lost in Space" were actually lost in space.

The program was set up like this: First they would show this guy who built a replica in his basement of a movie set like the one he thought NASA used to take the photographs of men who were allegedly on the moon. Then they'd show some scientist or researcher or expert of some sort who would say, "This guy is really looney tunes."

So, anyway, I knew there were people around who never believed we had walked on the moon. It didn't startle me too much.

However, the bulk of the *Chronicle* story was not on the actual moon walk hoax, but instead was about a group called the International Flat Earth Research Society.

The members of the Flat Earth Society not only believe there was no moon walk, but also, as their name implies, they believe the earth is flat.

The society claims the Earth is shaped like a record album, or for those of you who don't recall exactly what vinyl albums look like, a compact disc. The North Pole, then, would be the little hole in the center of the disk and the South Pole is a ridge of ice around the edge.

But, you scoff, what about the sun? Why do we have night and day? Where does the sun go if the earth is flat?

That's easy, the society says. God just flips a switch and the sun comes on in the morning, and then he shuts it off at night. The same with the moon. Isn't that simple?

God, they say, lives in Heaven, which is located in the nebulous area up above the disk of Earth. Charles K. Johnson, the president of the Flat Earth Society, says Heaven might be only 4,000 miles above the Earth's surface.

Society members aren't impressed with the body of scientific research that disputes their beliefs. In fact, they call the Greek astronomers who first came up with the theory that the earth is shaped more like a ping-pong ball than a frisbee "Crazed Fiendish Perverted



Ellen Hobbs
Editor

Bloodthirsty Simon Legree Slave-ers," and call them the first perpetrators of the "BIG LIE."

Most Americans would say that one of the most ridiculous things they've ever heard. But the members of the Earth Society, now 2,800 strong, say 'theory' of a round Earth is the most ridiculous thing they've ever heard.

"It's no secret (that the Earth is flat), Johnson told the *Chronicle*. "It's a part of the language. When we're 'height,' when we say some land is 3,000 feet in height, we mean 3,000 above sea level and that's the level. And level means flat."

Johnson also said the Earth has a flat, or else a submarine would be able to travel straight to Europe in America without going through the earth.

If this was a PBS program, it would be about time for the expert with Ph.D. to come on and say, "These people's brains are made of sawdust."

I know what you're asking you right now. You're asking, "What is a person that think that the Earth is when everyone else is telling him differently?" For Johnson, it was the old St. Claus legend.

Johnson said grown-ups had told for years that Santa Claus was real, he believed them, until he got enough to realize it was just another of those things adults say to keep from becoming intellectually independent too early.

Then when the grown-ups show him globes in elementary school, knew better than to let himself be again.

"It's perfectly simple," Johnson said. "All you have to do is step outside and check it out. Look."

Well, I went outside, and I look. The Flat Earth Society has a good point. The Earth looks pretty flat out across the polo field with my two feet on the ground.

But I'm afraid I just can't take the proof. It goes against my grain to consider the research of a common number of people, people who have done all their research with their feet planted firmly on the ground. I gotta keep believing that the Earth is round.

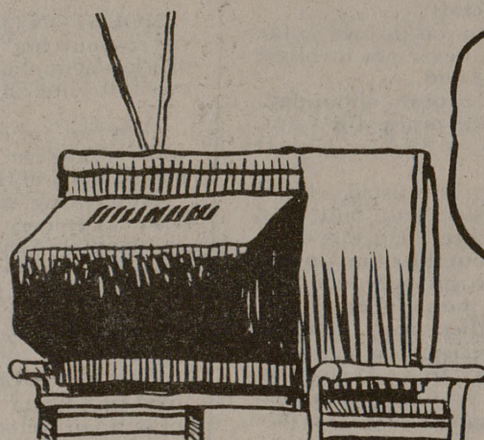
Sorry, guys, I'm not converted. But sure was a great article to read on bowl of Cocoa Crispies.

Ellen Hobbs is a junior journalism major and editor of *The Battalion*.



Look, George, I KNOW why I'm not welcome at your Economic Summit... the major players are afraid to be overshadowed...

GORBACHEV



You're right... Rather, Brokaw, and Jennings ARE touchy about that...



MARGULIE
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The Battalion

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