

English professor takes U.S. trip to gather material

By PATRICIA FITZGERALD
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

In June of 1975, John Balaban, University associate professor of English and comparative literature, began a cross-country journey in a manner usually not associated with college professors.

His "hand" was none other than "Hitch-Hiker."
"Using a hand-held walkie-talkie is the only way to do it," he says. "You're able to contact drivers and tell them what you're doing long before they ever reach you."
"Maybe this will be my contribution to American culture," he says jokingly. "All of his hitchhiking experiences, both good and bad, in some way have worked

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—John Balaban

"There's a great difference in people," Balaban said. "Once you get out of the East, especially across the Mississippi, people become much more friendly and open."
"I think most of this is due to fewer people, and fewer people usually means that they're usually less suspicious."
Even though it only took him between five and six days to travel cross-country, there were times when the going got a little rough, he said.

Balaban participated in the Vietnam War as a conscientious objector. From 1967-68, he taught linguistics at the University of Can Tho in the Mekong Delta. Then from 1968-69, after the university was bombed and destroyed, Balaban worked as a field representative for the Committee of Responsibility to Save War-Injured Children.

Hitchhiking is best because you meet people: stone truckers, aural masseuses, doggit trainers, rocke riders, molybdenum miners, middle-aged, ex-Hitler Youth electronics experts, tattooists, newly-commissioned West Pointers

And Chico cowboys pulling horse roads. His "hand" was none other than "Hitch-Hiker."

Balaban came to the University in 1970. Then in 1971 and 1972, through a grant from the National Endowments for the Humanities, he returned to Vietnam to collect ca dao, which are traditional, Vietnamese lyric poems.

Balaban was the first person to ever record these ca dao, which he estimates to be nearly 2,000-years-old. The poems are sung without musical accompaniment and deal with such experiences as love, marriage, birth and death.

His war-time experiences have dramatically influenced his writings. Balaban's first book of poetry, "After Our War," devotes itself to the horrors of the war. It was named the Lamont Selection

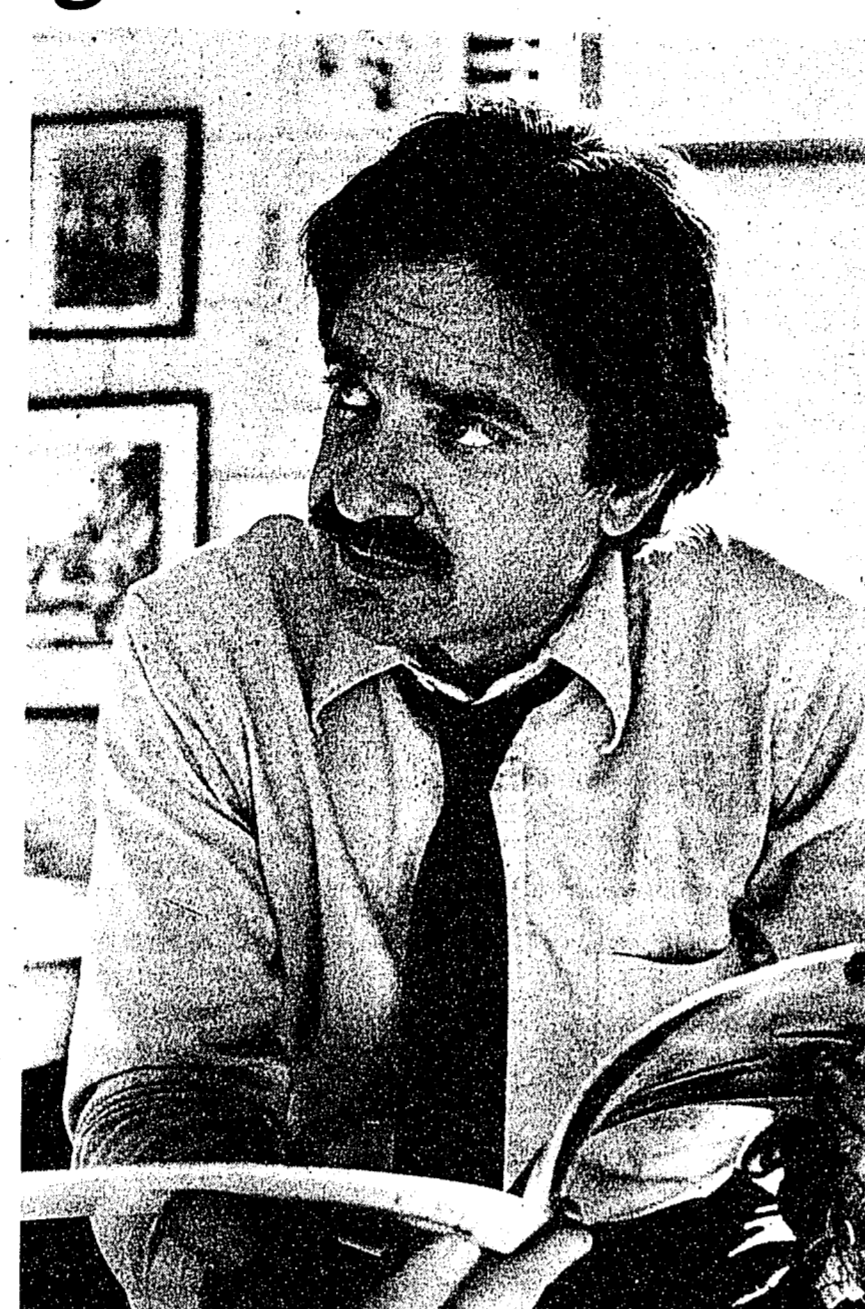


Photo by Suzanne Tyrrell

John Balaban

Reagan refuses Stockman's resignation offer

By OWEN ULLMANN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Budget Director David A. Stockman confessed to "poor judgment and loose talk" in what he termed a visit to President Reagan's wooded retreat. But Reagan rejected his offer to quit for having expressed doubts about the economic program he helped design. Stockman, in quavering voice, said he tendered his resignation in a 45-minute Oval Office meeting with a "very chagrined" president, who, at the end, "asked me to stay on the team." He agreed.

Stockman's comments broke a two-day silence by himself and the president despite the political furor caused by an article in the December issue of the Atlantic Monthly. Stockman is quoted in the piece as having misgivings about several elements of the administration's program. Perhaps the most damaging of those statements was his

suggestion that the president's tax cut was a political "Trojan Horse" designed mainly to lower tax rates for the rich.
A White House statement handed to reporters following Stockman's appearance said Reagan had expressed "grave concern and disappointment" about the article and his "particular dismay" at the possible suggestion that his administration "might seek to mislead the American public."
"He (Reagan) stated unequivocally that he would not tolerate any such behavior," the statement said.

Stockman, who grew up on a farm, said "My visit to the Oval Office... was more in the nature of a visit to the woods than the White House."
The budget director described Reagan as "very disturbed."
The budget director hardly appeared the confident, even cocky, spokesman that Washington so quickly grew to know following Reagan's inauguration. He appeared weary, and his voice and hands trembled as he read an opening statement to reporters saying he had offered to resign.
Stockman was asked if he could remain a credible point man for Reaganomics, and replied "Well, I can't judge that, but I would only say this: that almost anything other than maybe an indiscreet quotation... in that article basically reflects things that I had been saying in our private deliberations as well as in public comments."
But Stockman said his "poor judgment and loose talk did his (Reagan's) program serious harm."
Stockman said the article presented "utterly false" impressions and misconstrued his views. "I take full responsibility for the error," he said.

state/nation/world

Sister shuttle aids Columbia

By ROBERT LOCKE
AP Science Writer

PAUMPALE, Calif. (AP) — When the chips were down, Columbia's half-built sister ship, Challenger, sacrificed a key data instrument so that Columbia might fly. Challenger could afford it; its time for space will not come until June.

Workers at the Rockwell International facility here are installing the instrument atop a scaffold surrounding Challenger — second of a planned four-ship fleet of reusable spacecraft.

Pieces were manufactured around the country with green plastic, as is its open nose. The cargo bay doors are not attached and workers move about on ladders and catwalks, installing cables, conduits and tubing.

On Wednesday, after a problem in Columbia's data relay system jeopardized its launch, Rockwell workers scavenged two 30-pound units, each the size of a breadbox, from Challenger and flew them cross-country to Kennedy Space Center.

Challenger must be completed next summer because it is to fly in 1982. The third and fourth shuttles — Discovery and Atlantis — are at early stages of assembly and are to follow Challenger out of the hangar at roughly one-year intervals, Barton said.

For now, Challenger's six windows are covered with green plastic, as is its open nose. The cargo bay doors are not attached and workers move about on ladders and catwalks, installing cables, conduits and tubing.
Much of the work involves applying the 30,000 heat-resistant tiles — about 50 more than protect Columbia from the fiery heat of re-entry.
Each tile is attached individually by workers, who wear white gloves as they select the appropriately numbered piece, apply glue, set it in place and tighten it down mechanically.
Barton said the ship was first assembled three years ago and delivered to a nearby site for a series of stress tests. "Then it came back here and we dismantled it" to install the systems and subsystems for final assembly.



The space shuttle Columbia is framed by the American flag as it lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center yesterday morning.

Challenger's construction, a huge, nondescript building with great sliding doors is identified by a weather-battered sign as "Building 29." It sits on the edge of this desert town 25 miles from the dry Rogers labeled where Columbia ended its historic first flight last April.

Joe Engle, Truly's commander on the shuttle mission, was also more than a little anxious for launch day. He waited 16 years for a flight and was lifted from the crew the last moon mission to provide a spot for a geologist.
Truly became the country's youngest astronaut 16 years ago, at the age of 28. His high hopes of an early space trip led to mounting frustration as one manned space project was scrubbed, another cut back and the shuttle delayed for years.

Truly celebrates birthday blast

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Richard Truly had predicted when he and Engle arrived from Houston on Tuesday. The celebration began as soon as he entered the astronauts' dining room for an early morning breakfast. The room was festooned with ribbons and along with his steak and eggs was a shuttle-shaped centerpiece and a birthday cake.
His fellow astronauts sang "Happy Birthday" and tossed streamers and balloons. The song was later sung by Truly boarded a blue van to take him and Engle to the launch pad. He flashed a huge grin and waved.
On launch pad 39A, a long, multicolored "Happy Birthday" banner hung over the highway to the orbiter. It was signed by members of the launch crew.
And minutes before the 10:05 a.m. shuttle liftoff, a section of Very Important Persons sitting in bleachers at a special viewing site burst out in a spontaneous tribute by singing "Happy Birthday."

Four charged with Sadat assassination

By ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The four alleged assassins of President Anwar Sadat and 20 other Egyptians were indicted yesterday for premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder. Conviction on such charges carries an automatic death penalty.

The indictment accused three of the Khoran, or Moslem holy book, to justify the assassination. Other defendants were listed as an army lieutenant colonel, an engineer, nine students, a dentist, a merchant, a pharmacist, two carpenters, a university instructor and a driver.

The indictment accused the religious leaders of the group as Omar Ahmed Ali Abdel Rahman, a theologian, instructor, and Mohammed Abdel Salam Farrag Atteya, an engineer.

Explaining the failure of Sadat's security to protect him, the indictment said the assassins buried three grenades and fired automatic weapons in the first five seconds of the attack.
"This stunned the persons sitting in the reviewing stand, including the president's bodyguards, and it forced them to duck," it said.

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The indictment, broadcast over national television, said the four main defendants were charged with premeditated murder, a capital crime in Egypt.
The indictment accused Lt. Khalid Ahmed Shawki el-Islambouly of leading the attack on Sadat at a military parade outside Cairo Oct. 6. The attackers halted their trucks in front of the reviewing stand, then stormed the stand with guns blazing. According to the indictment, they killed Sadat and seven other people and wounded 27.

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Polish students boycott classes

By W. JOSEPH CAMPBELL
Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — More than 100,000 Polish university students boycotted classes yesterday by a major regional strike by 150,000 workers in Zielona Gora province ended. The independent union Solidarity said it would start negotiations with the government next week on the Polish crisis.

Commenting on the series of strikes, Polish television said: "How long can one beat to death one's own country? Everybody is striking now over whatever one wants. Let's have no illusions. These are no longer just control by the government and Solidarity. This is a national tragedy."

In announcing that union-government talks would start Tuesday, Solidarity spokeswoman Maria Komarowska said, "It's been decided and agreed upon by both parties." Polish Radio said the talks were to have started today, but that the tense labor situation around the country had forced postponement of the talks until next week.

Poland's national chairman Lech Walesa visited 2,500 striking miners in Sosnowice on Wednesday and warned that the government may use force to stop their protest, called 16 days ago over a chemical throwing incident. Twenty-one Solidarity leaders were replaced by their protest, called 16 days ago over a chemical throwing incident.

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