

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 17, 1978

## Reagan: Stars in western skies, Aggie eyes

By DOUG GRAHAM

The old western actor-former California Governor, Ronald Reagan rode into town Thursday night to speak to Aggies crowded in Rudder Auditorium.

And he couldn't have picked a better house to play in. The crowd was his from the beginning.

Were Reagan to act for a thousand years, it is doubtful he would have received as many standing ovations as he did that night. There were more whoops than stars in the western skies of his movies.

The question is why.

It has to be that Reagan — a bright star on the conservative scene — speaks out eloquently for something elemental in conservative middle class America. He

He said, during a morning interview, that he believed that American schools needed to teach some virtue as was done when America was founded. "Not teaching morals," he said, "is like teaching immorality because without morals, there is only immorality."

He said crime and juvenile crime were outgrowths of this moral vacuum.

When asked, Reagan said he is a Christian, having been raised that way. He also

said he went on record in California against Proposition 6, a referendum banning homosexuals from speaking out in public schools.

A hero to much of middle America, Reagan is also characterized as a reactionary by some.

"Let 'em take a look at my eight years as governor in California. I introduced the conjugal visit to state prisons. I appointed more minority administration members

than all previous governors. We spent more on mental retardation programs than had been spent in the previous 100 years," he said.

"If that's right wing extremism, then I'm guilty."

That sums up Reagan. At 67, he may or may not be too old to seek the presidency and his solutions may seem a bit simplistic for today's problems.

Some fear "Reactionary Ronnie" might lead the United States into nuclear holocaust, but that is not likely.

Reagan is no moron. What he says makes sense. Be strong enough as a nation, and others won't push you around. Some of what he says borders so much on common sense that it seems suspect.

But so it goes. Reagan, still in excellent health, carries that Hollywood aura with him. He carries himself like the good guy in pictures and appeals to those same vague gut American feelings.

He was like the white hat who came to town, cleaned up the world and then rode off into the sunset. Too bad Reagan did not have his horse with him in Rudder Auditorium Thursday night. If he had the effect would have been complete. When he left the silver screen, and slowly rode off into the western horizon, he would have left nary a dry eye in the house.

## Fantastic, says reader

Editor:

Ronald Reagan's speech Wednesday night on campus was fantastic! Reagan was refreshing to listen to and expressed his views with a sincerity scarce in today's politicians. He gave the overwhelming image of a strong, confident and intelligent leader. It was unfortunate that he was not allowed to speak any longer than the hour allotted.

Answering questions from the audience, the inevitable question of his seeking the office of the presidency was raised. From his answer ("The door is certainly not

closed"), I sensed a twinge of excitement in his voice and a sparkle in his eyes which brought a standing ovation in counter-response. Reagan, in my opinion, will run on the Republican ticket in 1980! The only misfortune is that he is not serving as our president at present!

The committee setting up the Political Forum should be commended for obtaining such an intelligent political figure and I'm looking forward to other presentations!

--R. Scott Cardwell  
Class of '82

## Commentary

speaks for less government interference, stronger defense, and a return to basic American principles.

That is what so many Americans are clinging to, much as do many Aggies who fear the loss of their traditions.

Reagan may speak out in over-simplistic terms, at times, but he touches a resonant chord in Americans tired of federal obfuscation.

## Humor

Congressional reformers pushed through new rules earlier in the year specifically designed to expose false risers.

Yet a spot check of the Congressional Record suggests the lawgivers are having great difficulty breaking themselves of the nasty habit.

You can tell that by the number of "bullets" sprinkled through the pages of the Record, which is supposed to be a verbatim report of what is said on the House and Senate floor.

Last Aug. 2, to cite just one of many recent examples, the record attributed to Rep. Joshua Eilberg, D-Pa., a statement that began as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to any attempt to lift the embargo on the sale of arms to Turkey."

The congressman did not, in truth and in fact, "rise" in the sense of springing, scrambling or otherwise elevating himself to his feet to speak against the embargo lifting. What he did was send a text of the speech to the Congressional Record.

The Record makes that clear by placing at the start and finish of Eilberg's state-

## False rising on Capitol Hill

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — In addition to the payoff, kickback and Korean bribery scandals that marred the now departed 95th Congress, there also was a heavy outbreak of false rising.

(That's a term used by congressmen to refer to material placed in the Congressional Record which makes it look as if the lawmaker was on the floor to present it—but he wasn't.)



ment little black dots known to the printing trade as "bullets."

The bulleting rule was adopted some months ago as a means of stamping out congressional ubiquity — the ability to be, or appear to be, in two or more places simultaneously.

Under previous rules, a senator or House member could, according to the Record, be delivering a fiery oration on some great national issue when he was, in actuality, back in his office nuzzling a summer intern. Or something of the sort.

Omnipresence, it should be pointed out, has never been a crime on Capitol Hill. For years, to the contrary, the

privilege of making undelivered speeches was generally regarded as a harmless deception that enabled congressmen to use scarce time to better advantage.

And for those who didn't have to listen to the speeches, the rule was a godsend.

Nevertheless, in the post-Watergate reform wave that swept the government, congressional leaders adopted a truth-in-vocalization policy.

Now each issue of the Record includes a notation that "Statements or insertions which are not spoken by the Member on the floor will be identified by the use of a 'bullet' symbol."

Despite that stricture, false rising has

proceeded apace.

During the first nine days of August, a period chosen at random, the Record contained at least 10 bulleted entries that began with the words "Mr. Speaker, I rise."

Reps. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., Lester Wolff, D-N.Y., and Margaret Heckler, R-Mass., rose in support of something; Reps. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and Eilberg rose in opposition to something; Rep. Mark Hannaford, D-Calif., rose to express disappointment; Rep. Romano Mazzoli, D-N.Y., rose to express sadness; Rep. Max Baucus, D-Mont., rose to express concern and Rep. Thomas Luken, R-Ohio, rose "with great pride and admiration to commend."

All that was just in the Appendix of the Record, which is customarily reserved for extraneous remarks, the poetry of constituent's children, assorted trivia and afterthoughts.

False rising in the main body of the Record may have been even more prevalent.

Why, knowing full well they can no longer get away with it, do congressmen continue to feign utterance of what is clearly written discourse?

Habit, some say. The "I rise" opening is as ingrained in congressional parlance as the adjective "distinguished."

Inadvertence, others say. A statement prepared for oral delivery may for some reason be submitted for printing in the Record instead.

Either way, it is evident that the bullet has by no means stopped false rising. Not by a long shot.

## WORLD

### Former Spanish judge killed

Two terrorists shot and killed the former chief justice of Spain's once-feared political court in a downtown Madrid street Thursday. Police said two youths shot Jose Francisco Mateu Canova in the head at nearly point blank range and escaped on motorbikes. Canova headed the political tribunal under the late Gen. Francisco Franco. Mateu was walking near his home when the two youths approached on motorbikes and opened fire, police said. The doorman of a nearby building was hit by a stray bullet and wounded. Since Oct. 1 the Basque separatist group ETA has unleashed a wave of 20 assassinations, but it was not immediately clear who was responsible for killing the judge. The Spanish police said that the killing was done by terrorists.

### 200 Moslems killed in air crash

A chartered Icelandic airliner flying 246 Indonesian Moslems home from a pilgrimage to Mecca crashed into a coconut grove near Colombo, Sri Lanka, just before midnight Wednesday and exploded into a ball of fire, killing 200 persons. A Civil Aviation spokesman said the crash occurred as it was coming in for a landing on the island nation formerly known as Ceylon, off the southern tip of India. The Indonesian Embassy, which announced the casualty figures, said 59 of the 250 persons aboard survived this worst chartered jet disaster in history, but that many of them were in critical condition and not expected to live. Twenty were treated at Colombo hospitals and released. It was unclear what caused the crash, but recent newspaper reports have charged that the instrument system at the Colombo airport was defective and that aircraft were finding it difficult to land at night.

## WEATHER

Partly sunny with a high of 61 and the low tonight of 58. Warmer tomorrow with a high of 68.

## THE BATTALION

LETTERS POLICY  
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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## Letters to the Editor

### How old tradition? Women worked on '73 bonfire

Editor:  
Regarding the viewpoint article "Tradition shouldn't divide A&M students" published last Tuesday:

In the fall of 1973, 10 women freshmen talked about wanting to work, really work, on Bonfire. When we questioned the people in charge we were told there was no written rule that said women could not work, and that if we could get a crew we could work in the cutting area.

We got a crew up and at 5:30 the following Saturday morning we were at the cutting area. We were to help clear out brush, so the trucks could get into the area to load, and then we were to carry felled logs out of the woods to the trucks.

Our shift went quickly and uneventfully. We did our work seriously and received a lot of encouragement from the other crews of men. Later we found out, after we had gone home, the head of safety came out to the cutting area with the intention of "running those women off."

The following night we volunteered for and were put to work on a pulley crew in the stack area. Once again we did our job realizing we were participating in and contributing to one of the greatest Aggie traditions.

It was after that year that the stack area was closed to women, and women crews were not allowed in the cutting areas, except to bring in food and first aid.

My point is that women can and should work and contribute to Bonfire more ways

than they are allowed to now. However, they should work under the guidance of an experienced upperclassman, as men working for the first time are, and irresponsibility and improper conduct should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Granted, one letter and one opinion will not change tradition, but that was not my intent. It was my intent to ask you Ags to think about this.

As for me, I'll never forget what I felt inside when I saw that Bonfire burn and I was able to say:

"That's my Bonfire!"

--Winnie Jackson, '77  
1213 Holik  
College Station

### Know the difference

Editor:  
In reference to the "tradition" viewpoint column in Tuesday's Battalion, may I say that you screwed up royally.

The statement that "The Battalion didn't know it would make any difference" if a woman was sent into the perimeter of the stack (centerpole) to take pictures, shows a lack of journalistic proficiency.

I have worked on the bonfire for one week, and I know why women aren't allowed inside the perimeter. Have the editors of the Battalion been at A&M for three or four years and never cogitated the whys and wherefores of one of the University's most adhered-to traditions?

The perimeter of the bonfire is a dangerous place. People not working, especially those with no prior knowledge of the bonfire, are discouraged from entering the perimeter at all times.

Once the centerpole goes up, safety is utmost in the worker's minds. Headgear is required and anyone inside the perimeter without a safety helmet is in the wrong and everyone I have seen has been asked to leave.

Women in general (including the Waggies) are disallowed from cutting or working the stack because the heavy work done by the men at bonfire is hard, and much of the time it's not much fun. After having seen how crapped out the Waggies

got after the last Corps run, I know they couldn't stand up to a weekend of 1,000-pound logs. True, a small minority of the women could hold their own end of the stick, but if you let one woman in, you're stuck with them all.

Another reason for the no-women policy is that it is considered bad luck for women to be in the perimeter. This also is one of the last holdovers of what once was an all-male University.

I can also express my feelings in most any terminology that I care to while I am at the stack. Oftentimes the slang used is of the type not approved of in mixed company.

Therefore, I care to keep the "tradition" so blatantly slandered by Miss Tyson as do many others. Be it tradition for tradition's sake or be it tradition for a reason, often if one only looks, the two are one and the same.

--Reid M. Scott

### Scouts praise Aggies

Editor:  
Believe it — credibility is most questioned when one blows his own horn about achievements. In this case students from Texas A&M University have earned plaudits from the Scouters of Arrowmoor District, Boy Scouts of America.

This past Saturday, Arrowmoor District conducted its 1978 Camporee at Camp Arrowmoor. Two student organizations were asked to help by providing judges for several of the field tests that were conducted. When asked, the Orienteering Club, sponsored by the U.S. Army Instructor Unit (ROTC), and Xi Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega volunteered their services and it might be added in grand style with a bang. From the Orienteering Club, cadets David Neeley, Company B-1, John Trankovich, Company D-2 and Clay Delaney, Company D-2, conducted an orienteering test that examined the skills of the scouts in compass and map reading, and in heights and distances. These cadets kindled a fire of interest in orienteering that will certainly result in an orienteering post.

From Xi Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi

Omega, 17 young men and women showed up to offer their services in first aid, knot tying, and nature studies. Then, at the end of the day, when one would have expected their spirits and energy to flag, they created an excitement, a renewed energy and a second wind in fun for the young scouts during the last test of the day — the pioneering chariot race.

Their names are Tony Fels, Rick Allen, Hank Baker, Duane Smith, Robby Denton, Steve Yeary, Jay Ball, Mark Edmund, John Muth, Clay Alverson, Michelle Marti, Julie Cane, Russell Kirk, Roger Lind, Carry Wilkins, Jack Baker and James Miller.

The great Aggies brought along with them to the Camporee the most important ingredient necessary to achieve success, a spirit — and in this instance, it was the true Spirit of Aggieland. Rest assured that this world of ours can't lose with young adults like this preparing to take the reins.

--F. Ken Nicolas

### Beat the Hogs!

Editor:  
Call it superstition, or whatever you will. But this year I am again feeling the same excitement and anticipation I felt the week before we played Arkansas in 1976. And everybody remembers that we wiped out the Hogs 31-10 that time.

I feel deep down that we're going to do it again. Aggies all over Houston are buzzing at the intensity and desire with which the team played at SMU. Their effort offensively and defensively was superb. They played with excitement. They were rewarded with a big win.

I don't know about the 12th Man at College Station, but I hope they feel the same excited anticipation we down here are generating. It's going to be "Revenge at the Rock" a la 1976 in return for 1977's last-minute Hog win! I can hardly wait to get there!!!

BEAT THE HELL OUTTA ARKANSAS!!!

--H.O. "Hank" Wahrmond, III '74  
Houston, Tx.

### 'Student' shocker

Editor:  
After laughing off the "Today's Student" as a total joke, I must admit that I was shocked to see some students actually lack the intelligence to recognize this so called newspaper as a piece of misleading Christian propaganda. By cleverly distorting the facts, the "Today's Student" has caused many readers to become misinformed on some very pertinent issues.

--Paul Schertz  
Bryan, Tx.

## TOP OF THE NEWS STATE

### FDA announces recall of goods

The Food and Drug Administration has announced the recall of an assortment of American-manufactured items from the consumer market. Shreveport Macaroni Manufacturing Co., Shreveport, La., is conducting the recall of 450 cases of egg noodles which were distributed in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas because they may be contaminated with insects. Also recalled were some clear plastic earrings, called the "Acu Ring," marketed in Pennsylvania and Maryland as an aid to weight control, because they were fraudulently promoted. And 30,000 balloon wedge pressure catheters made by the American Catheter Corp., Vincetown, N.J., were recalled because parts of them could become dislodged, enter the bloodstream and lead to a possible blood clot.

## NATION

### Energy spokesman appointed

Oklahoma Attorney General Dan Rambo is the newly-appointed federal energy spokesman for Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger has announced. Rambo will assume duties in Dallas next Tuesday as Region VI representative for the U.S. Department of Energy. In his new position, which pays a minimum of \$42,000, the 50-year-old Rambo will coordinate energy dealings among the department, the public and state and local governments. He also will administer the department's regional grant programs and coordinate regional planning activities. Rambo, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and its law school, was chief legal aide for former Oklahoma Gov. David Hall.

### Gas heater controversy settled

The Consumer Product Safety Commission in Washington voted Thursday to require manufacturers to equip unvented gas space heaters with automatic switches. The heaters have been linked to at least 10 air-poisoning deaths in recent years. The now-mandatory switches will operate by shutting off power when the oxygen content of a room reaches a certain level and signals an accompanying build-up of carbon monoxide which in small, unvented spaces can cause illness and death. The ruling substitutes for a ban on the heaters which was criticized because it would deprive low-income families of a relatively cheap source of heat. The heaters are used largely in southern and southwestern states in houses or mobile homes where no central heating is necessary. The agency said the ruling is likely to hike the retail price of the heaters by about \$10 and does not affect the estimated 7 million to 10 million heaters already in use.

### Carter-Mondale ticket in '80

President Carter said Thursday Vice President Walter F. Mondale will be his running mate again, if he seeks re-election. Carter replied "yes" when asked at White House a breakfast session whether press secretary Jody Powell had accurately reflected his views when Powell said Mondale would be in the No. 2 spot if Carter decides to run in 1980. Mondale has kept a low profile since the Democrats in Minnesota went down to defeat in last week's election, and there has been some speculation that the Republican sweep in his home state and in the Midwest might make former Minnesota senator Mondale a liability. But Carter is very high on Mondale and, like no other president, sees his vice president for lunch once a week, as well as at all high policy meetings.

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