

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## The Duke's memory will not wane

By BRIAN BARNETTE

John Wayne is dead. The words are hollow, unreal. John Wayne dead? The Duke? It's inconceivable. We've seen him take a hundred bullets, a thousand punches, and still get up and finish the fight. Like Old Man River, he just kept on rolling on.

He was born Marion Michael Morrison. Johnny Carson once asked him if anyone had ever called him Marion when he was a kid. "Just once," was the reply. That was the Duke — the quintessential tough guy, but with a sense of humor.

As an actor, he personified the strong, forthright hero, a man of action willing to fight for his beliefs, for his country and for his fellow man. Through his films, he took part in every war our country has fought, including Viet Nam. He always embodied the simple virtues of courage, honor, and patriotism. In his private life, he was the same. He was a man who lived by his convictions, who spoke his mind clearly and without apology to those whose opinions

differed from his. Over the years, the character and the man merged and became one.

He had acted out his death a half-dozen times during his career of 200-plus films. We saw him felled in battle by sniper fire in "The Sands of Iwo Jima" and "Fighting Seabees," drowned in mortal combat with a giant squid in "Reap the Wild Wind,"

### Reader's Forum

skewered by a Mexican lancer in "The Alamo," gunned down by the psychotic rustler in "The Cowboys," shot in the back after winning a suicidal gunfight in "The Shootist," wherein he played, ironically, an aging gunfighter dying of cancer.

And yet, in real life, he seemed immortal. He had a cancerous lung removed in the mid-60s, and was back before the cameras in a matter of weeks. He had licked the "Big C." He not only returned

to work, he made over a dozen more movies and won an Academy Award. Last spring, he underwent major heart surgery and was on his feet in no time talking about a new script. Last January, his stomach was removed, but he seemed to be on the road to recovery.

Then came his appearance as a presenter at the Academy Awards. Suddenly we realized what his latest illness had done to him. The gaunt figure at the podium was uncomfortably reminiscent of Hubert Humphrey in his final months. The once robust, ageless giant now looked every bit of his seventy-one years. But still he had faith. We believed that, like the naval commander he portrayed in "Wings of Eagles," he could and would overcome his physical problems through sheer will power.

But soon there followed the announcement of the discovery of more cancer. Courageously, selflessly, he volunteered for experimental treatment, so that others might benefit from his illness. He spent

his seventy-second birthday in the hospital, surrounded by his family.

Now, two weeks later, John Wayne is dead.

And yet he lives in the hearts and minds and memories of millions. He lives.

One of my earliest memories is of John Wayne as Davy Crockett in "The Alamo." Over the years, innumerable characters and scenes have become indelibly etched in mind: the brash young gunman in "Stagecoach," the uncompromising cattleman in "Red River," the vengeful Indian fighter in "The Searchers," Davy Crockett pushing over the horse in "The Alamo," the brawling, bawdy rancher in "McLintock," the remorseful father in "Cahill." Above all, the climactic battle between the "one-eyed fat man" and the outlaw gang in "True Grit," a piece of pure cinema with mythical overtones. Through his films, he gave us countless hours of joy. As long as his films endure, he will.

John Wayne dead? Hardly.

## Communist Chinese admit false elections

By PAUL LOONG  
United Press International

HONG KONG — When China's legislature meets again, probably in late June, it is likely to look hard at how its members were chosen to represent the country's 900 million people.

The National People's Congress — theoretically the highest organ of state power but in fact subordinate to the Chinese Communist Party — currently has 3,497 deputies from 30 provinces and regions and from the armed forces.

They are supposed to be elected by the people. But it hasn't worked out that way. China now admits that officials arbitrarily assign candidates to local assemblies, which in turn pick the deputies to parliament.

Sometimes voters get only one candidate. And the practice of voting by a show of hands effectively deters voting for opposing candidates put forward by the local authorities.

In a frank admission, the People's Daily, published by the Communist Party, said, "The People's Congresses turned out to be more formalities. Some were not even that."

The newspaper said candidates were "nominated in the name of 'democratic consultation.' As a matter of fact, they were selected and decided by a few individuals." "Because delegates to People's Congresses had no relations with the electorate, the people were in no position to exercise their rights to supervise, dismiss and elect them," it said.

The country's legal system has "failed to lay down specific laws and procedures for exercising supervision and dismissal."

All this has to change, the Communist Party paper said.

The People's Daily said elections should "fully express the will and wishes of the masses," and secret balloting would eliminate the "corrupted practices" of voting by show of hands.

Another proposal was for "a greater number of candidates than elected delegates" so voters can have a choice.

All levels of the country's assemblies should also have more delegates to reflect the growth in China's population, it said.

The National People's Congress, which is expected to meet soon although no date has yet been announced, is likely to accept the party suggestions. A question is how thoroughly the recommendations can be carried out at the local levels, where party officials sometimes only pay lip service to central directives.

Despite the recommendations for wide representation in the national legislature, a full-fledged Western-style democracy will not emerge in communist China.

The democracy China is talking about is "socialist democracy" in which the Communist Party, as the guardian of the proletariat, has absolute power over all other bodies.

## Will President Carter find Garden of Eden or Park of oppression in Korea?

By DAVID E. ANDERSON  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — When President Jimmy Carter took the oath of office in 1977, he placed his hand on a Bible opened to chapter six of the Old Testament prophet Micah.

A year later in South Korea, a conservative Presbyterian minister was indicted by the government for preaching a sermon based on the words of that same prophet.

In the gulf between those two events lies the delicate dilemma facing Carter as he prepares to visit South Korea following the Asian economic summit meeting in late June.

Increasingly, U.S. church leaders are seeing the visit as not only test of Carter's commitment to religious and human rights but as a unique opportunity for the president to put his own religious faith into practice.

"You are a Baptist, Mr. Carter, and the Baptists wrote a proud chapter in the history of political and religious liberty in the United States," Dr. Donald W. Shriver, president of Union Theological Seminary, wrote in an open letter in the current issue of Christianity and Crisis.

"What are you going to do, as an American President, to enable the Korean people to write such a chapter in their own history?" he asked.

At issue is South Korea's dissident movement, protesting the lack of democracy and what many see as the increasingly harsh repressive actions of Korean President Park Chung Hee.

South Korean government officials have maintained that political and religious rights must be curtailed in the interest of national security and an alleged threat to

the government by the forces of North Korea.

The movement is generally led by Christians, many of them educated and trained by U.S. missionaries, and U.S. church officials estimate there may be as many as 400 Christian political dissidents in South Korean jails.

Some 12 to 15 percent of South Korea's 35 million people are Christian.

The current drive for religious and human rights in Korea was sparked by a March 1, 1976 demonstration at the Seoul Cathedral in which 12 dissidents issued a Declaration for Democracy and National Salvation.

Since then a number of Christian leaders, seminary professors and lay people have been either indicted or jailed by the government for protesting the lack of human and religious rights in Korea.

Most recently, the Rev. Cho Wha Soon, a Methodist woman minister, was sentenced to five years in prison stemming from her leadership of the Urban Industrial Mission and for protesting the firing of 126 women workers who were seeking to improve the working conditions in Inchon City's textile plants.

She was arrested in 1978 after police broke up a prayer meeting at the Urban Industrial Mission in downtown Seoul.

In late April, a group of 37 Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries working in South Korea sent a message to Carter urging him not to even come to Korea, arguing that "any potential advantage to the United States would be greatly outweighed by embarrassments, concessions and exploitation of the prestige of the American presidency."

According to the missionaries, Park's regime is "now in a situation of declining domestic political support and is faced with widespread economic discontent."

They said he "badly needs and desires the enormous boost he would receive from a meeting with the U.S. President."

Shriver, however, said that "a lot of Koreans want you to come — but on certain conditions." Those conditions, the seminary president said, included meeting with jailed and released critics of the regime.

Shriver said there was a chance that the government may release some political prisoners as a gesture of goodwill in advance of Carter's visit, including two graduates of Union Theological Seminary — Dr. Timothy Moon and the Rev. Hyung Kyu Park.

Moon, is a professor of the Bible, a poet and the Korean translator of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Letters and Papers from Prison." Carter has sometimes used Bonhoeffer, executed by the Nazis for his opposition to the Hitler regime, in his Sunday school class teaching.

"At this moment he sits in a Seoul prison in an unseated cell, deprived of writing material, decent food, books and a light bulb as bright as 60 watts," Shriver said of Moon.

"Even as window-dressing, that would be a gesture of justice," Shriver said of the possible release of Moon and Park. "But in or out of jail, will you ask to see them?" Shriver asked.

### Letters to the Editor

## The Aggie concept works

Editor:

Many times we hear reference to "the A&M family" and I understood this to mean the body of students, faculty and staff at Texas A&M University. During a recent serious accident, which happened out of town and involved one of our sons, we discovered that there is much more to that concept.

While at the intensive care unit at the Brackenridge hospital in Austin, we received telephone calls from College Sta-

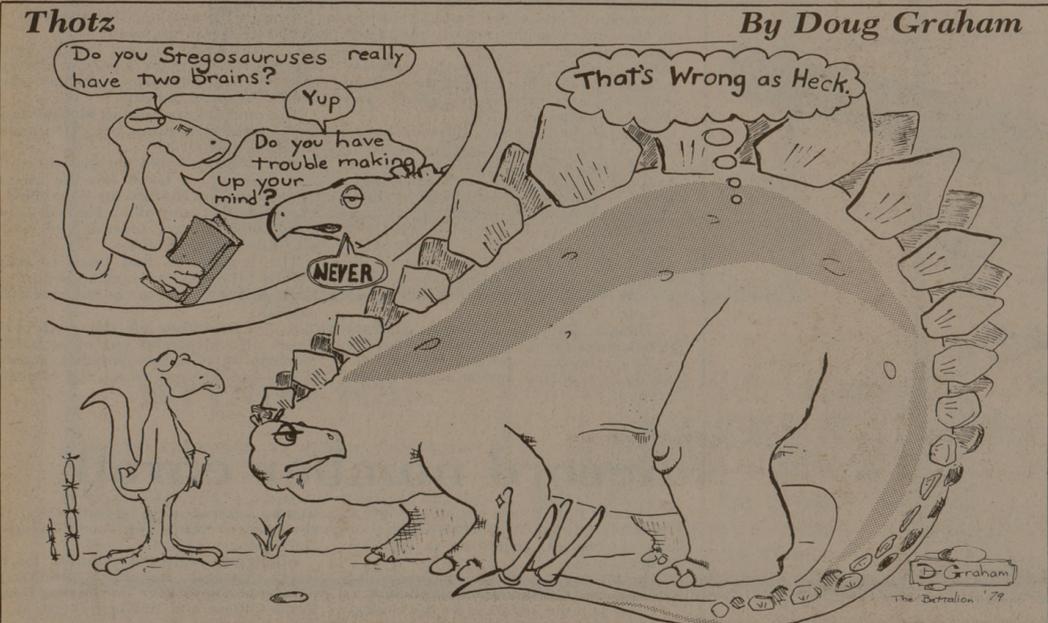
tion, telegrams, offers of prayers, encouragement and real support in difficult circumstances. Several people traveled four hours just to show they wanted to help and let us know that they were available for whatever assistance we needed.

The local Aggie club in Austin, represented by resident B.M. "Honk" Irwin and its past president, K.E. "Dutch" Voelkel, visited us in the hospital and offered any help we might need for transportation

or anything else. All the blood we needed was provided through the blood donations from our own A&M students.

It is a great family, our A&M family, and knowing that this family is ready to help you when the need arises gives one a real warm feeling. It is great to be part of this family.

—Pieter Groot  
Asst. Vice President  
Academic Budgets



### Writing the editor

The Battalion welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. However, to be acceptable for publication these letters must meet certain criteria. They should:

- ✓ Not exceed 300 words or 1800 characters in length.
- ✓ Be neatly typed whenever possible. Hand-written letters are acceptable.
- ✓ Include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld on request.

Letters to the Editor  
The Battalion  
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College Station, Texas 77843

## TOP OF THE NEWS

### CAMPUS

#### Defensive Driving course offered

The National Safety Council's Defensive Driving course will be offered in Room 401, Rudder Tower on June 15 at 5:45 to 10 p.m. and June 16 from 8 a.m. until noon. The course is free and open to the public. Anyone interested in the course may call 845-1515 to preregister.

### STATE

#### Alan Erwin resigns utility post

The man regarded as consumers' advocate on the Public Utility Commission, Alan R. Erwin, announced in Austin Tuesday he will resign the \$44,200-a-year job at the end of June. Erwin, 33, said he does not want to be reappointed to the three-man commission when his four-year term expires Sept. 1 and decided to quit a few months early to promote a fictional book he has written about a 1980 power blackout. A former Beaumont newspaperman, Erwin was picked by then Gov. Dolph Briscoe in 1975 to serve on the new state agency created to regulate statewide telephone rates and electricity rates for areas not subject to city council control. "I'm afraid familiarity breeds contempt and I don't think I'd have a ghost of a chance if I wanted it," Erwin said when asked why he did not seek reappointment to the Utility Commission.

### NATION

#### Billy's house to be auctioned off

A year ago Billy Carter seemingly had it all — a brand of beer names after him, organizations willing to pay him well for speaking stints and a brother in the White House. However, the beer turned out to be a bust, and anti-Semitic remarks he made brought a sharp decline in his personal appearances, plus he landed for a month's stay in a Navy hospital for alcoholics. Now, in what seems the last straw, his new six-bedroom, six-bath brick home in Buena Vista, Ga. is going to be sold at auction next month because he reportedly defaulted on an unsecured loan. Carter has claimed, because virtually all of his personal and business financial records have been subpoenaed by a grand jury investigating loans to the Carter peanut warehouse, he has had to delay some of his personal business — including the payment of taxes.

#### GM recalls 19,500 more autos

General Motors Corp. in Detroit has announced two separate recalls involving 19,500 passenger cars and trucks assembled by its Buick, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, Pontiac and GMC Truck & Coach divisions. GM said the largest recall involves 15,300 1979 model full-size, mid-size and small passenger cars and light duty trucks equipped with cruise control. The vehicles were assembled during January 1979. On some of the recalled vehicles, the brake stoplight and cruise control switch which is operated by the brake pedal may have been assembled with an incorrect lubricant on the actuating plunger, the company said. GM said the defect could result in premature wear on some of the switch contacts, causing the rear brake stoplights to stop working. In addition, it said, the cruise control, if activated, would go back to its set speed when the brake pedal is released unless the car had been brought to a complete halt. The second recall involves some 4,200 1979-model Chevrolet Monzas, Pontiac Sunbirds, Oldsmobile Starfires and Buick Skyhawks assembled in February 1979 and equipped with the 231-cubic-inch, V-6 engine. GM said the engine oil pressure switch on the vehicles may have a random internal electrical short which could result in the engine starting by itself when the ignition switch is turned to the "on" position. If the transmission selector lever is in drive or reserve when the engine starts, the vehicle may move unexpectedly, GM said.

#### Kissinger arranged visit for Shah

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Monday in Cuernavaca, Mexico he personally arranged Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's visit to Mexico "to show that some of us don't forget those who have stood by the United States." But the exiled shah was last seen Monday in a fortress-like compound of four mansions in the swankiest suburbs of Cuernavaca, where he was driven upon arrival from Nassau and there has been no official word on his whereabouts since then. The shah, Empress Farah, one of their sons and six other people spent the night in the compound, a source said. The shah told reporters at the airport he planned to spend "a few months" in Mexico but did not say exactly where. One federal security agent told reporters outside the compound the shah had left early Monday morning, but he did not know for where, nor whether the ousted monarch planned to return.

## THE BATTALION

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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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