

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 1, 1980

## Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Imagine that! Mount Aggie erupting!"

## Rural, minority votes are the key to Texas

By ROLAND LINDSEY  
United Press International

AUSTIN — The battle between President Carter and Ronald Reagan for Texas' 26 electoral votes is centered not on the major population centers of Dallas and Houston, but in the citrus groves of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and in the scrub brush small towns and cities Lyndon B. Johnson called home.

Strategists for both campaigns agree that it is the vote of rural Texans, along with that of the Mexican-American population that is concentrated in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, that are the key to Carter's chances of overtaking a substantial Reagan lead and again carrying the state in November.

Republican presidential candidates in recent years have managed strong showings in the urban centers of traditionally Democratic Texas, but only once — with the election of William P. Clements in 1978 as the state's first Republican governor in 105 years — has the GOP been able to crack the Democratic domination among rural voters.

"We feel strongly that we need to do better in the rural areas than we have done on the average," said Ernest Angelo, manager of Reagan's successful primary campaigns in Texas in 1976 and this year.

"We have about 90 percent of the counties organized, and that means we have a lot of people willing to be identified with the campaign."

But Democrats contend the rural Democratic tradition will prevail.

"My father taught me three things when I was growing up," says state Comptroller Bob Bullock. "The first was, 'Don't vote Republican.' The second was, 'Don't vote Republican,' and the third was, 'Don't vote Republican.'"

Public opinion polls in Texas showed Reagan leading Carter by margins of about 2-to-1 before the Democratic National Convention, but the president has whittled Reagan's lead now to about 8 percentage points.

"If Reagan keeps talking, he may be behind in a couple of weeks," said one state representative from a rural area of Central Texas.

"Basically what it looks like is, Texas is going to be a horse race," said pollster George Shipley of Austin. Shipley contends voters have not yet focused on the presidential campaign, however, and polls taken before mid-September may be meaningless.

"The polls in Texas are misleading because

they show many traditional Democratic constituencies, such as workers and Mexican-Americans, leaning to Reagan, but history tends to show that on election day they will fall back into the Democratic column," Shipley said. "I think Texas is up for grabs and it could go either way."

Shipley said his surveys taken since the Democratic convention indicate Reagan is facing a credibility problem concerning his economic proposals — "of those who have opinions, a slight majority do not believe Reagan can do what he says, and that is his credibility problem."

Clements is directing the Reagan campaign in Texas, and is utilizing a mammoth telephone bank operation to identify GOP voters and get them to vote on Nov. 3.

The Republicans hoped to raise enough money to finance the telephone operation and the remainder of the state campaign in one huge fundraiser — a dinner in Houston featuring Reagan, Bush, Gerald Ford and John Connally.

Carter backers fought bitterly during the primary campaign and national convention with Texas supporters of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., but leaders of both sides joined at a campaign kickoff to proclaim the state party is united and ambitiously campaigning for Carter.

"I was a Kennedy supporter and I'm still a Kennedy supporter," said Marc Campos, president of the Mexican-American Democrats. "But our commitment was to the Democratic party and to the Democratic nominee."

"We have a good record to sell for President Carter. His record of Hispanic appointments is the best of all the 38 presidents combined, and we think we're going to be able to turn out the Mexican-American votes in South Texas and in the urban centers based on the president's record."

"I think we've found out in the last two elections in 1976 and 1978 that the Republicans dumping a lot of bucks into Mexican-American areas doesn't work. Polls may show it about 65 to 35 for Carter now, but on election day you can count on 80 percent of the Mexican-Americans to vote Democratic."

Labor leaders, blacks and representatives of leading women's organizations have joined the Carter team in Texas in an effort to offset Reagan's popularity in conservative areas such as Dallas and West Texas and the appeal of Texan George Bush in his hometown of Houston.

## Legal vacuum exists for those unmarried football widows

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — It was reported the other day that a man in Cleveland shot a woman who blocked his view of a television set while he was watching a football game.

I seem to hear you yawning. "Ho hum," you are saying. "So what else is new?"

OK. It is true that incidents of this sort have become all too common in our society. But this case is different.

These people weren't married.

In other words, the shooting points to a whole new maze of legal trails to blaze.

The legal rights of married women with respect to football have been pretty well delineated by the courts.

One landmark ruling gave a wife whose husband absorbed three games on Thanksgiving the right to have him declared legally dead. Another upheld the right of a wife suing for divorce to name Howard Cosell as a correspondent.

But the rights of women who live with football fans "without benefit of clergy," as we used to say, still fall within the gray area.

That aspect of the relationship is back where the question of property rights was before the famous "palimony" suit against actor Lee Marvin.

Marvin vs. Marvin established a precedent for the party of the first part to receive a financial settlement from the party of the second part upon the dissolution of their relationship.

Similar precedents clearly are needed with respect to the strain football telecasts impose on unmarried couples.

I mean, shooting someone simply isn't the answer. That approach to the problem seldom is justified no matter what the provocation.

What is needed are court rulings that would let both participants in a live-in relationship know where they stand in relation to televised football, herein known as the party of the third part.

Had the Cleveland couple had access to legal

remedies, the party of the first part might have taken so drastic an action as standing in front of the party of the third part, and the party of the second part might not have felt constrained to reach for a shotgun.

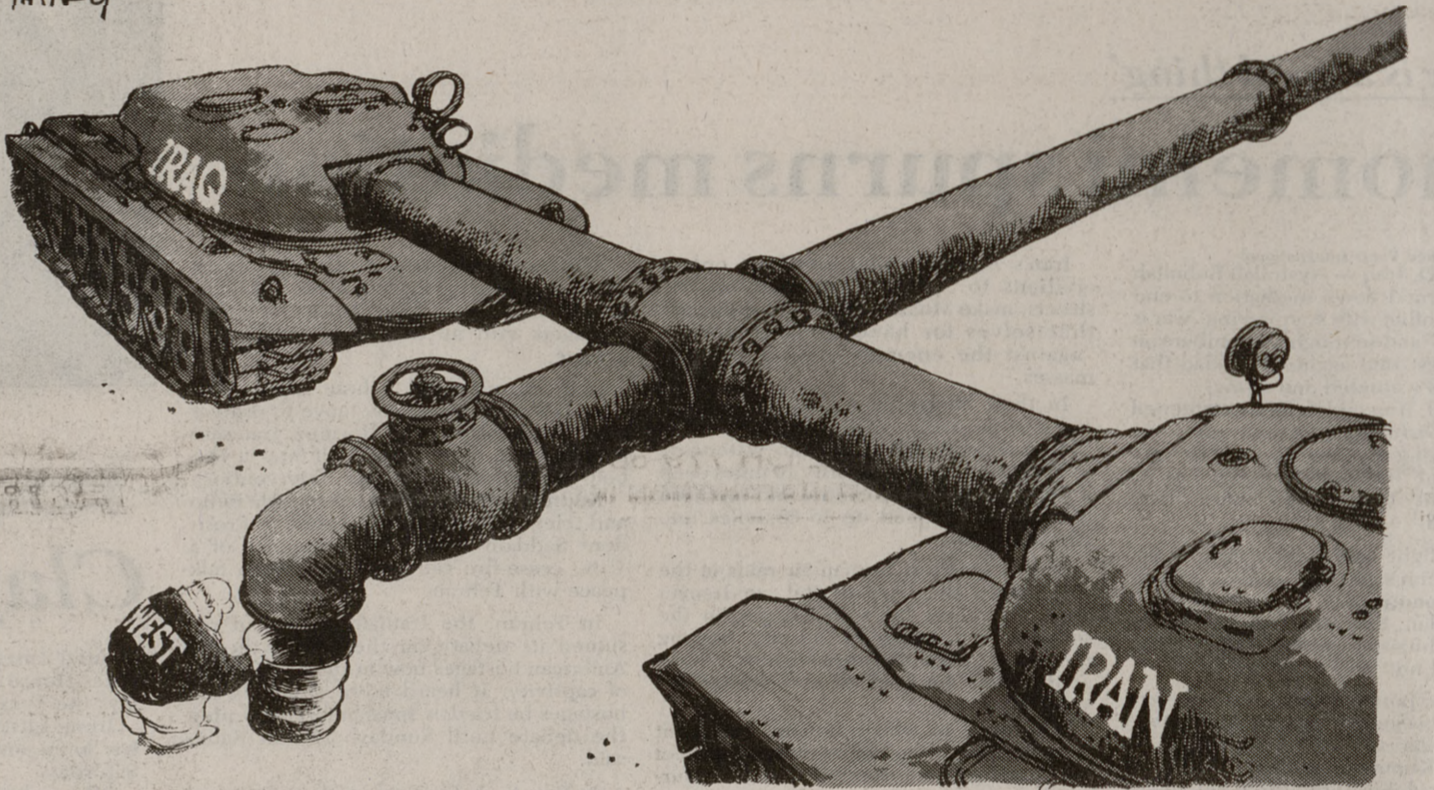
One feminist I know told me that in the present legal vacuum unmarried women are pretty much left to their own devices while football alienates their lovers.

"We are forced to improvise counteraction," she said. "No woman enjoys coming between her lover and the television set, but sometimes that is the only way to get his attention."

My personal feeling is that single women who live with football fans should be accorded the same legal status as married women. It would include the right to confront him with extraneous material during commercials and require him to acknowledge her existence at the time.

Some women also seek the right to turn games that encroach on the dinner hour. Let's not take justice too far.

MARVELL THE CHIMPANZEE LEADER © 1980 BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



It's your turn

## Performers love Aggie concert crowds

Editor:

This letter is in response to Albert C. Gross' letter, which appeared in the September 25 edition of the Battalion. I have been to a few Town Hall concerts in the last three years and I would like to suggest that the Aggie "crowd" is far from rude. On the other hand, our crowd is fast becoming very well known among artists and their booking agents by virtue of recent shows such as The Beach Boys, The Oak Ridge Boys, Pablo Cruise, Mel Tillis, Anne Murray, Ronnie Milsap, and most recently, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers Band. All of these artists have been nothing less than delighted with the A&M "crowd." Anne Murray told the audience they were the best audience she had ever played for. Ronnie Milsap has told other audiences that there is no audience anywhere like the one at A&M. Larry Gatlin, his brothers, and the rest of the band, began raving about how great the audience was on their way down the steps of the stage. Later, in the dressing room, they said they hoped to play here again in the future. This type of response from artists is invaluable to Town Hall in bringing other popular artists.

As for the hecklers in question, I personally apologized to Gatlin for their actions during the intermission, whereupon Larry replied that it

had been a relatively minor incident, and he even took a moment to pat himself on the back for his handling of the situation. Incidentally, two intoxicated males and one female were removed from the Coliseum at intermission and, as I understand it, they were not students at this university.

I guess my whole point in writing this letter is to let the A&M "crowd" know how big a factor they are currently playing in our booking of concerts. In fact, those A&M students are our strongest selling point. It is really great to be able to tell an artist he or she is about to play in front of the best audience they have ever seen, see the questioning look in their eyes, and then see them shaking their heads in disbelief as they walk off the stage. For those of you who saw Anne Murray or Larry Gatlin among others,

you know what I mean. Thanks Aggies! Keep up the good work.

Michael Parkman '81  
Chairman, MSC Town Hall

### Correction

A story in Monday's Battalion about the Peace Corps contained some errors.

Peace Corps volunteers serve a two-year term, not one of three years, as the story indicated. Mike Bowker should have been reported as saying that, for a prospective employee of the World Bank, two years of work at a bank in a foreign country's capital might be a better qualification than two years of experience at a home town bank.

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## Warped



By Scott McCullar