

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY  
OCTOBER 28, 1980

BARBRA STREISAND & WILLIE NELSON  
THE DUET PEOPLE FINALLY DO IT WITH EACH OTHER...

BARBRA & Willie



INCLUDING SUCH HITS AS:

- : I AM A WOMAN IN LOVE WITH A RED-HEADED STRANGER-
- : BIG NOSE CRYING IN THE RAIN-
- : MAMAS, DONT LET YOUR BABIES GROW UP TO BE THE WAY WE WERE -
- : WILLIE, YOU MADE THE PANTS TOO LONG -
- : YOU DON'T BRING ME LONGNECKS -

## Reagan doesn't need total victory tonight

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — From the beginning of the campaign, Jimmy Carter had wanted Ronald Reagan where he now has him: in a head-to-head debate, with no third candidate, and the election hanging in the balance. Reagan and his managers were not eager for such a confrontation. They used John Anderson as a shield to avoid one, until it became clear last week that ducking the debate was too dangerous a tactic in so close a contest as this one has become.

If you presume that candidates always know what is best for them, then the debate ought to put the lock on Carter's re-election. But, as Gershwin wrote, "It ain't necessarily so."

Carter wants Reagan in debate because he believes fervently that he can demonstrate in that forum that the challenger's ambition to be President of the United States is preposterous. Carter recalls that in his first debate with President Ford, he felt — and looked — far more nervous than he expected. Now, as the incumbent himself, Carter believes he can blow Reagan out of the water; show him up as an empty-headed spouter of conservative clichés, with no comprehension of the hard realities of the world.

Carter brings strong weapons to the fight. He is knowledgeable on the entire range of issues that will come up for discussion. He is precise — both in facts and in expression. He knows the names and numbers, he selects his words with care, and his sentences are sparse. Together, the qualities of knowledge and precision translate to authority — the kind of authority people seek in a President. At least, that is what Carter believes.

He is sure he can punch holes in Reagan's arguments and thereby destroy the credibility of Reagan's candidacy. On domestic, economic, environmental and energy questions, he believes he can cite past Reagan statements and stands that will expose the challenger's naivete — or force him to recant. On foreign policy, Carter thinks he can do much more:

show that Reagan is prone to give fast, ill-founded, over-simplified answers that not only spell error but danger.

But Reagan is not without armor against this attack. In all the important, non-verbal areas of the contest of public confidence, Reagan has the advantage. Presuming the old actor does not get stage-fright in his biggest TV part, Reagan has the physical presence, the size, the looks and, most important, the voice to dominate the proceedings. It is a supple, deep and trained voice, the more authoritative in contrast to Carter's breathy squeaks.

Carter is no slouch at playing to the camera — remember his one-hour press conference on his brother Billy's liaison with the Libyans — but Reagan is the master of the art.

Over the years, he has gone up against a variety of foes, presumably more knowledgeable than himself, from all corners of the political spectrum. Whether the opponent was Bob Kennedy or Bill Buckley, Reagan has never been bested. This year, he handled challengers like Anderson and Howard Baker Jr., with all their expertise as Washington insiders, as easily as Tug McGraw would strike out Little League all-stars.

That line points up a big strategic advantage Reagan carries into the debate. In seeking to destroy Reagan's credibility, Carter's attack is bound to be personal. Reagan's rebuttal can be depersonalized: "Let's talk about the record, Mr. President," he can say. "Let's talk about inflation and unemployment and the decline in real income. Let's talk about what has happened in Iran and Afghanistan and the rest of the world."

The bottom line is that Reagan does not have to win all the debating points in order to "win" the debate. He has only to remind viewers of the way most of them already feel about the Carter presidency, and stay calm and unflappable in the face of the incumbent's assaults.

### Warped



## A headlong plunge toward somebody's warped ideals

Editor:

You, the readers of this article, are not the people who need to read it the most but since I know of no other way to state my views to the masses, I guess you all are elected. This is a commentary on my views of a few problems I've seen at A&M and a report to a few "Old Ags." It is my hope that those of whom I speak will at least think about these words.

I've seen many changes in my four years at Texas A&M, some good, but the majority of which leave an impression that those in control are oblivious to the true needs of the students. I say this because I see this University in a headlong plunge toward someone's warped vision of greatness. Bigger is not necessarily better, contrary to the beliefs of the Board of Regents.

To them I say: keep a smaller enrollment and a higher quality of education, rather than tell me that the class I need to graduate already has 400 students in it and I'll have to take it next semester.

Keep the green areas of the campus greener than cover them with asphalt, so I'll have someplace to look at or play football on without being run over by a car.

Keep an eye and an ear open to the students rather than the "Old Ags" and their money. It's our university now and not theirs. Last and most, keep a distance from the school and let it evolve as it did for its first hundred years as a

### Reader's Forum

unique friendly university. Do not rush it lest we fall into the big college rut where "friendly" is a slogan made up for public relations leaflets.

To the "Old Ags" I say: keep an eye on your past, but don't believe that the solutions to your problems are the solutions to ours. The times have changed, and so have the problems that confront this University. Keep your ideas on how to change traditions to yourself. They'll change with the times but not to suit your petty likes and dislikes. Keep your money if you just want good seats at football games. You don't need to spend \$10,000 just to get 50-year line seats anyhow, especially if you leave at half-time. Spend instead for love of Texas A&M and the things you learned here, so that your children will have at least as good an education as you received. Keep also, away from Coach Wilson. I'd rather watch a 4-5 team coached by a man with guts than a 6-3 team coached by an alumni yes-man. Let him be, and the wins will come. (Remember Bear Bryant!)

Oh yeah, to our "elite" in the sky-boxes, if you want to sit in the air-conditioning, stay at home and buy some scholarships for worthy

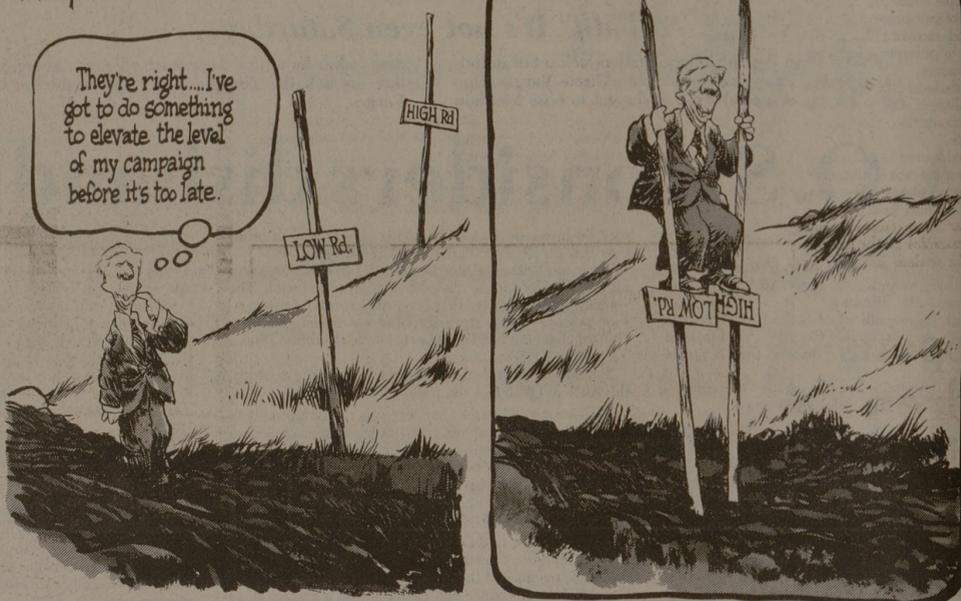
students. That's what this place is all about anyway, isn't it?

My last message is to a very special "Old Ags" about his meddling in an organization very close to my heart. To Col. Woodall I say: The Corps of Cadets is one of the finest organizations in the world, and it is unique in its discipline and traditions. It has turned out some of the finest officers in the world, mainly on the strength of what those men learned while in the Corps. Somehow, your policies have destroyed some of the ways discipline was learned. The Corps of Cadets is fast becoming a thing of the past as you whittle away at the very base of its ability to teach and experience "The Old Ags Way." If changes need to be made, let the cadets make them. The Corps is, of course, supposed to be a self-run, self-contained organization. I don't want an ROTC unit anyhow. I want you to allow us to turn out a better quality officer than our services could ever hope for rather than paper men for a paper army.

I guess that my thoughts are here, where you believe them right or wrong. I realize things change, but let's not rush them. Hopefully though, one thing will never be forgotten: "Beat the hell outta t.u."

Scott M. Rice

MAGNET THE CHRONIC NEWS SERVICE © BY SCOTT MCCULLAR



### Surveying the mood of the country

## Election report from East Plodding

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Reporters on the campaign trail have brought us a multitude of reports on the pre-election mood around the country. Even so, voters who have been in a coma these last two months could be unaware of the political climate.

For their benefit, here is an all-purpose recapitulation:

EAST PLODDING, USA — Spry, 87-year-old and half-sloshed on cooking sherry, "Aunt Mossy" Dalperdang sat at her kitchen table combing mud turtles out of her cat's tail.

"Ay granny," she cackled in the idiom of this picturesque New England whaling port, "this is the most exciting presidential race I can remember, and my memory goes clean back to the time Bryan beat McKinley in '96."

"Some folks are so eager to vote they can't wait 'til Nov. 4," said Hiram Goldang, tax assessor and poet laureate of this picturesque mid-western farming community. "That is why so many absentee ballots are being cast."

Elrood Bangleshake, veteran lighthouse-keeper, said interest in the election was extraordinarily keen in this picturesque western

mining town due to the passionate devotion people feel toward the candidates.

"I've never seen such strong convictions," he said. "They're either all-out for Carter, or gung ho for Reagan or fervently undecided."

Bangleshake said East Plodding was about evenly divided among the three, with the undecided element favoring independent John Anderson.

"As long as they remain undecided, you can't count Anderson out," he said. "It's when they start making up their minds that Anderson gets into trouble. Usually, they decide to vote for somebody else."

Audie Belle Youall, Jimmy Carter's local

campaign manager, said the Democratic candidate's chief assets were the economy and energy problems.

"People realize that without Carter's on deficit spending and taxes, inflation could be as high as 10 percent," she said.

As for energy, she said the president's voluntary fuel conservation had captured the hearts and minds of this picturesque West Coast grapestomping center.

Owly Sue Cranny, local director of Ronald Reagan campaign, listed foreign environmental issues and equal rights women as his big attractions.

### THE BATTALION

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