

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
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## Slouch

By Jim Earle

## Ask hostages how they would have handled the situation

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan and his advisers sense a growing national mood for a tougher approach to terrorism.

The stories of the freed Americans after 14½ months of Iranian captivity have created an atmosphere of national anger and hostility toward any reconciliation.

Asked if relations with Iran would warm up, Secretary of State Alexander Haig said, "No. 'Let terrorists be aware that when the rules of international behavior are violated, our policy will be one of swift and effective retribution.'" Reagan told the liberated Americans and their families.

There is no inclination in the administration to be specific about what form the retaliation would take. "Studied ambiguity," Haig described it.

"It's a new firm direction," said counsellor Edwin Meese.

But few international episodes are the same. If Americans were seized in the future, Reagan would be faced with the same dilemma that consumed President Jimmy Carter: Is national pride more important than the lives of Americans?

Perhaps the freed hostage who said if he ever went back to Iran "it would be in a B-52" did

capture the imagination of Americans used to action.

For Carter, the safety of the Americans came first, although had the ill-fated rescue mission been carried out, he conceded it could have cost the lives of many of the hostages.

At what point glory may also be the question. Would the hostages have preferred bolder measures to speed their return. In recent weeks, some said they used the election of a much tougher Ronald Reagan to warn Iranians.

Reagan also warned of a "limit" to U.S. patience. Certainly, Carter found that out as the weeks wore on to months. Americans who supported his peaceful approach became more and more restive that the United States was helpless in the face of such provocation.

In the case of the seizure of the men aboard the American intelligence ship Pueblo, it took President Lyndon Johnson nine months to secure their release, and all of it was done with quiet diplomacy and little publicity.

The hostage crisis was another story, no day passed when Americans were not reminded that some of their own were being held by fanatics. But Carter's patience was infinite and his search for peaceful solutions continued throughout the entire process.

Carter made many mistakes, and paid a heavy price for it. But he was saddled with a

tradition of friendship toward the shah that went back to 1953 when the United States put him on his throne. He was also burned by a U.S. policy, particularly in the Nixon years, giving the unpopular monarch a blank check for anything for his arsenal.

Carter justifies his actions in the early months on grounds that if he had acted precipitately he would have put in jeopardy the lives of 40,000 other Americans in Iran who were safely.

For a time, the Reagan administration is dangling the idea that it might not honor commitments made to Iran to win freedom for the hostages. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., called them a "bunch of bums" who should "go to a short pier."

But that lasted only a couple of days. It dawned on the policy makers that the nation word was involved and that there would be many more such deals in the future if the United States reneged on its pledge. And Reagan administration officials began to say the United States would abide by the terms.

In the aftermath of the "celebration of freedom," there will be much soul searching. Perhaps it would not be a bad idea to ask former hostages themselves to Monday morning quarterback their long ordeal and to each how he would have handled it as president.



"Would you believe that I have been asked twice this semester if I would be interested in being a donor for a hair transplant?"

## NCAA action fights jocks' non-education

By PATRICIA McCORMACK  
United Press International

Jokes about dumb college jocks may be the latest endangered species — the result of new action by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Jocks on campuses from coast to coast no longer will be as dumb as some in the past who allegedly attended college to play sports but seldom went to class. Their "college status" was verified, it has been charged, by "doctored" academic records.

Such stuff has been the meat and potatoes of charges about athletic scandals along the academic trail. But delegates to the NCAA convention in Miami for the first time recently voted to require college athletes to complete 12 bona fide college credits each term to stay eligible for varsity sports.

As a result, only genuine students will be cast as varsity sports players.

The action has been described as the centerpiece of new NCAA rules.

Other parts of the get-tough, stay-clean NCAA rules for member institutions: — Steer schools from using grade inflation to ease impact of the requirement. The colleges and universities are required to publish standards for measuring progress in class.

— Put college officials on the line. College presidents and chancellors are to be responsible for certifying that athletes on their varsity teams are academically eligible.

— Forbid use by college athletes of extension and credit-by-examination courses from other schools.

— Rule out athletes escaping tough policies by taking fringe courses during summer at some easy school. The new rule requires athletes to get approval of academic officials from their school before taking summer courses at other colleges.

— Require junior-college students with a grade point average of less than 2.0 in high school to graduate from the junior college before becoming eligible for varsity sports in a four-year institution.

Walter Byers, executive director of the NCAA, said the rules were in response to the

scandals that included evidence of fraud on transcripts — such as grades for courses never attended.

The NCAA, worried about image problems in an era of increasing reports of scandals, last year considered commissioning a \$70,000 independent probe of the problem nationwide. That never came about.

In a related development, this week's "Chronicle of Higher Education" reports on eight instructors at Los Angeles Valley College who were suspended for up to 20 days without pay for permitting student athletes to enroll in more than one class at the same time.

The "Chronicle" said: "An investigation by the Los Angeles district attorney's office showed that the grading and attendance irregularities occurred during the summer of 1979, mostly within the physical education department.

"The eight instructors, whose identities were not disclosed, also will not be allowed to teach summer school this year, and the students involved will lose credits for some of the classes."

Among motions defeated at the NCAA convention were these: — A motion that called for payment of \$50 a month to all athletes. For "incidental expenses."

— A motion to put a lid on athletic scholarships, paying only for student's tuition costs. Other money to athletes would be in the form of grants and awarded strictly on the basis of need, according to the motion. Those arguing against such a policy said it is unmanageable and unfair.

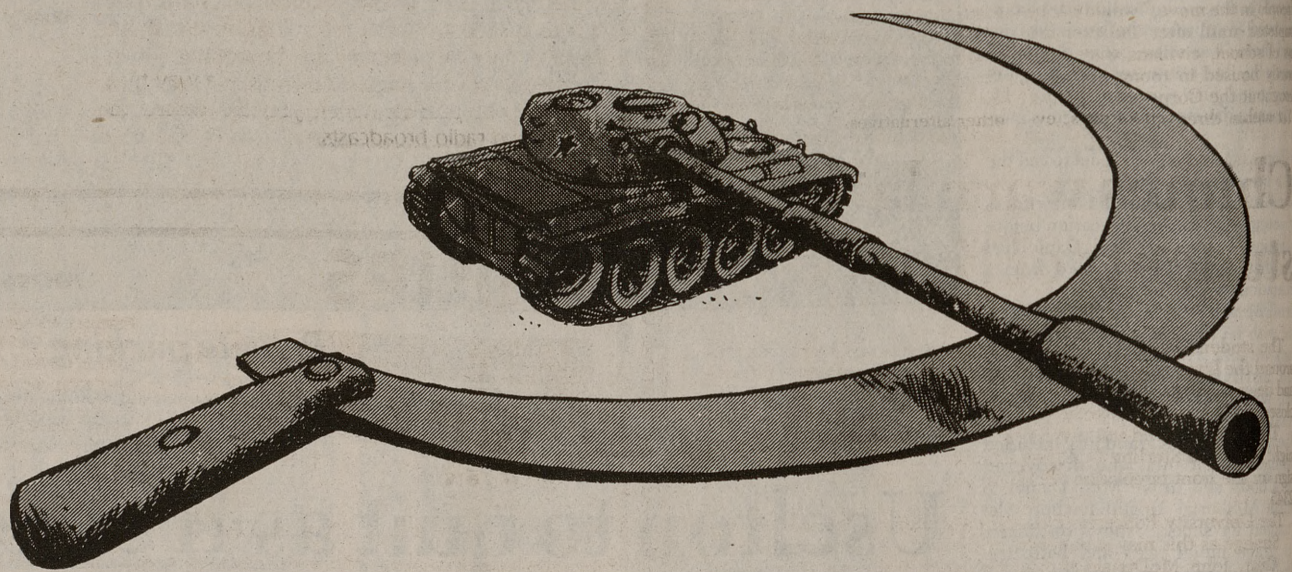
On another of the college sports fronts, the traditionally all-male NCAA voted to set up — for the first time — women's championships for institutions with the largest sports programs, the "division 1" institutions.

The NCAA also voted in a four-year plan to establish policies to govern both men's and women's sports programs.

This vote brought a "power play" charge from the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

For a long time there has been antagonism between the NCAA and the AIAW.

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Resorts could be used for senior citizens

## Skiing business to warm up and out

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — You think you've got troubles, just be thankful you are not a ski resort operator.

First comes the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies with a report that the world is heading into a warming trend certain to cause "altered distribution of snow and ice."

Then comes the magazine American Demographics with bad news of the type that even snow-making machines can't alleviate. Quoth the January issue:

"Skiing will soon become a declining industry. The median age of active skiers is only 26, while the median age of the general population has already turned 30 and will reach 35.5 by the year 2000."

And by the turn of the century there will be 2.5 million fewer people in the 25-to-29 age group, it says.

It remains to be seen how the ski industry will cope with these adverse conditions. But if my livelihood depended on hillside utilization, I would get in touch with Edwin Paget.

Having devoted 1980 to luring infants out of the crib and into athletic competition, Paget is

now bullyragging the rocking chair set.

Fresh from his triumph, if that is what it was, as producer-director of the world's first "Baby Olympics," the retired North Carolina speech professor, who never lets anyone rest, has devised a new physical fitness promotion called "Two Years of the Great-grandparents."

"My plan is to inspire great-grandparents to increase their activity to the point of running up to 15 miles a day, plus swimming and stair-climbing," Paget threatens.

As a reward for all this exertion, he holds out the prospect of living to be 150 years old — if climbing all those stairs doesn't kill you first.

I can't say whether the superannuated will respond to Paget's intimidation any more willingly than toddlers did to last year's "Baby Olympics." But at least Paget, who is pushing

80, will be picking on someone closer to his age.

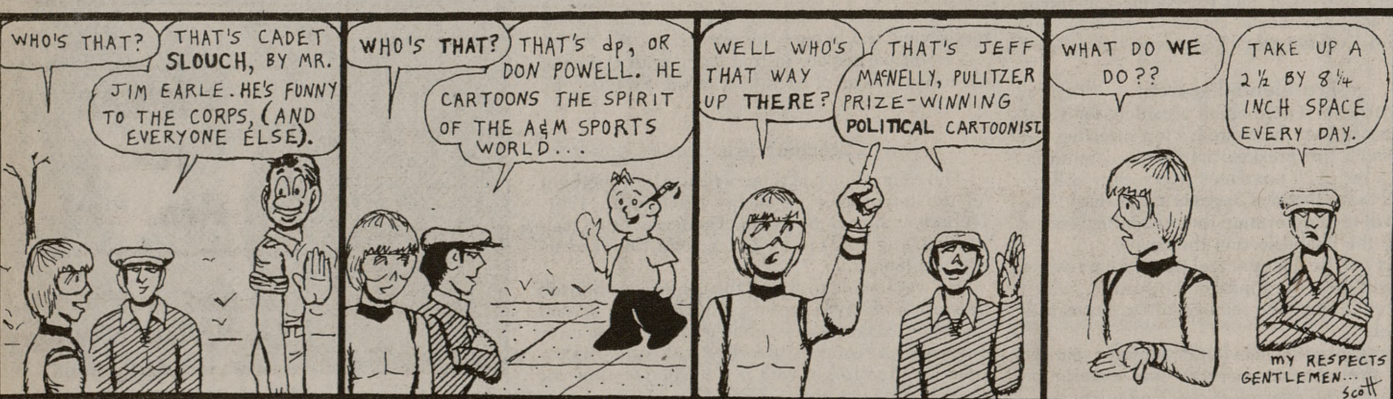
In sum, he seems the ideal man to rescue the ski industry from a fate worse than Chrysler.

To survive the predicted demographic changes, ski resorts obviously will need to lure older people out on the slopes. Paget's program for great-grandparents seems a good place to start.

As the snow melts from the predicted climatic changes, resort owners can't expect steps where chair lifts once operated. They should attract thousands of 150-year-old climbers on weekends.

Maybe that sport won't be as exciting as giant slalom. But those "apres stair" parties — something to look forward to.

## Warped



By Scott McCullar

## THE BATTALION

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