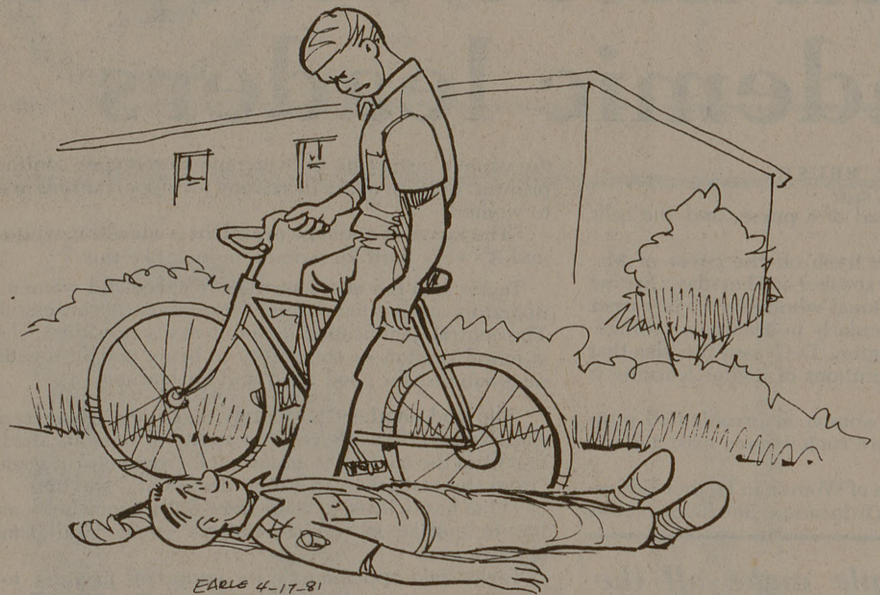


VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
APRIL 17, 1981

Slouch By Jim Earle



"When are you going to learn our system? When I'm riding on the sidewalk, I'm a pedestrian; when I'm riding in the street, I'm a vehicle."

Nancy Reagan: Love in a time of crisis

By HELEN THOMAS

WASHINGTON — Nancy Reagan has put her activities and the East Wing of the White House basically "on hold" while the president recuperates from his bullet wound.

When asked what Mrs. Reagan would be doing while her husband works at a light schedule and remains in the White House residence, her press secretary, Sheila Patton, said, "She'll be nursing him."

On March 30, on leaving a luncheon in Georgetown, the first lady was told that there had been a shooting, that the president was not hit, but that he was at the hospital. She immediately decided to join him and on arriving learned that he had been wounded.

She later said in an interview with Time magazine that she initially felt fright and anger. "Then all you're thinking is that you have to hold yourself together and not bother anyone."

She has done that, and she has been constantly at her husband's side since the shooting.

In the three months since the Reagans moved into the White House, they have known the joys and sorrows of holding the highest office in the land. They have known the adulation that comes to the president and his wife and the security problems that come out of the blue.

"Whenever I hear a siren, my stomach turns," Mrs. Reagan recently confided.

She had commitments early in April but sent her regrets, telling her aides she was afraid she would be overcome with emotion at sympathetic gatherings and she did not want to subject herself to that.

But she did get a new insight into the feelings of people all over the country who showered down with get-well cards, messages and hundreds of bouquets. She took

many of the cards, particularly from children, to her husband's hospital room and he got a kick out of them.

There is no woman's lib aspect to Mrs. Reagan. Like her husband, she believes in the old fashioned way about love and marriage, and opposes the Equal Rights Amendment.

She also takes her cue on gun control from him. And even after he was shot with a gun apparently purchased over a counter, he still told all visitors he is opposed to more gun control.

She feels the same way, saying in an interview, "You know Ronnie's position. He just doesn't believe that's where the problem is."

Each first lady sets her own style in the White House. Mrs. Reagan had spent most of her time, up to the shooting, getting her house in order. She has enjoyed her search for antiques in the White House warehouse, and the redecorating of the upstairs family quarters where the Reagans spend so much time.

Her outside activities have been relatively limited, although she is continuing to promote the Foster Grandparents Program. She also has created a new fashion sense with her expensive but timeless wardrobe and she is probably the best dressed first lady in a long time.

Although she does not have an office in the East Wing like Rosalynn Carter, she has a smooth running operation, and handpicked her staff after many interviews.

The Reagans' closest friends remain their Beverly Hills, Bel Air and Hollywood pals. And they are around often enough to keep them from getting homesick.

Mrs. Reagan's occupation was listed as "First Lady" on her income tax return. And that translates into: loving wife of the President of the United States.

Reagan winks at breaking law

"Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice... moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue." — Barry Goldwater

Now we know where our new president stands on civil liberties... and all of a sudden George Orwell's vision of 1984 doesn't appear to be too far off.

Goldwater's quote is even more scary today than it was in 1964, for then Goldwater had an iceball's chance in summer of becoming president. Goldwater posed no real threat to civil liberties because he was no real threat to capture the White House.

Now, the face has changed, the right-winger is in the White House — but the philosophy remains the same. Goldwater's message is scarier now because it's no longer the mindless chatter of an also-ran — today it's White House policy.

Ronald Reagan's hasty and ill-conceived pardon of two former top-level FBI officials should cause quite a bit of concern among those of us who cherish the Bill of Rights. The message Reagan is sounding is loud and clear: In his view, extremism is no vice, if it's in pursuit of what the government deems justice.

That philosophy resulted in the downfall of one president whose aides practiced what Goldwater preached. They decided

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

that the laws of the nation weren't binding on them because they felt they were acting in the country's best interests. The result: Burglaries, wiretapping, surveillance, and all in the name of the sacrosanct "national security."

The idea that the state must violate the rights of some to ensure its own survival is contrary to the principle of the government deriving its power from the people. Just as fallacious is the implication that the government must violate the rights of some to ensure the rights of all.

And yet by pardoning the two FBI men, Reagan is legitimizing their actions. He's acknowledging their wrongdoing, but he's giving justice a wink with the eye of executive clemency. Extremism — going beyond the law — in the defense of liberty is OK by him, as long as the lawbreakers are conscientious in their motives.

The rationale is just as outrageous as the

concept: "By pardoning the draft dodgers America was generous to those who refused to serve their country in the Vietnam War. We can be no less generous to two men who acted on high principle to bring an end to the terrorism that was threatening our nation," Reagan said in a statement.

High principle? Try "conspiring to violate the civil rights of others." How principled does that sound? If I found burglars in my home, I wouldn't commend them for their high principles, nor would I be especially secure in the presence of someone who gave the burglars their instructions.

But I forgot: Since it's the government that's doing the breaking and entering, OK.

And signs are that it may become more than OK. The President of the United States declares that these are high principled men. The high-principled fellows themselves say their pardon will be shot in the arm to the FBI's domestic intelligence programs. These high-principled fellows themselves say they'd value citizens' civil rights — and the law — should the government deem it necessary.

It may prove to be a fitting end to a presidential term when the next election rolls around in... 1984.

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Support Eyes of Texas A&M project

By LAURIE HOWARD
and JUDY MARCOTTE

It is the Aggie Spirit that is known worldwide and we are appealing to the Spirit of Aggieland in your hearts. Aggies have gained national acclaim for their loyalty to each other and their participation in the annual Aggie Blood Drive where they give more blood than do students at any other university nation-wide. The "Eyes of Texas A&M" Living Bank Project is a logical progression of one of A&M's many worthwhile traditions.

The "Eyes of Texas A&M" Living Bank Donor Registration Drive is a new project getting underway at Texas A&M. The Student Government, Alpha Phi Omega, and the Texas Aggie Medical Student Association are involved in a campus-wide attempt to develop a program by which Aggies may register to potentially donate their useable organs at the time of their death to those in need. This effort is coordinated with the Living Bank, a non-profit organization founded in 1968 and housed adjacent to the Texas Medical Center. Serving on the Board of Advisors of The Living Bank are numerous noteworthy individuals including Drs. Denton Cooley, Michael DeBakey, Christian Barnard, Truman Blocker, columnist Abigail Van Buren (alias Dear Abby) and Vice President George Bush.

As you know, the Aggie Muster is a cere-

Reader's Forum

mony symbolic of the great loyalty which binds Aggies to their school and to each other. Aggie Muster is a way for each of us to renew our loyalty and unity. As Aggies, let's unite and take this tradition one step further as we remember our friends before we die through registration for organ donation at the time of our deaths.

A&M is the first institution of higher education in the nation to sponsor a campus-wide donor registration drive. This project has been endorsed by many responsible for the prestige of Texas A&M. Several of these include Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert, former president Dr. Jarvis Miller, and Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services. Many students also have endorsed this project, including Mark Outlaw, 1980-81 head yell leader and Kelly Castleberry,

Corps of Cadets commander for the upcoming school year.

Medical advances in the field of transplantation have made possible the gift of an eye for fellow human beings. Vision can be restored through surgical procedures of corneal transplantation.

It has been estimated that this procedure could eliminate 15-20 percent of the blindness in this country. More than 13 million Americans suffer from the nation's fourth leading health problem — kidney disease.

So how can Aggies help in this worthy project?

Tables in the Memorial Student Center will be manned the week of the Blood Drive, April 20-23 to answer any questions. At that time, Aggies will also be given the opportunity to register. Additional forms can be obtained in the Student Government office, 216 MSC.

The willingness of Aggies to help others in need is truly a beautiful tradition.

Laurie Howard and Judy Marcotte working with the Eyes of Texas A&M Living Bank project.

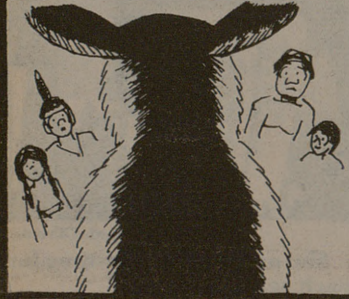
the small society

by Brickman



Warped

THERE ARE LEGENDS THAT MANY YEARS AGO A HUGE FURRY BEAST VISITED AMERICAN INDIANS.



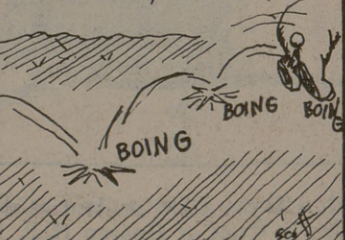
NEW EVIDENCE SHOWS THIS BEAST WAS KNOWN TO HAVE DISTRIBUTED GIFTS KNOWN AS "EGGS" TO THE INDIANS AND HIDDEN THEM AROUND IN THEIR VILLAGES.



NOW THIS LEGEND COMES TO THE SCREEN IN THE SUN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE "IN SEARCH OF HISTORIC EASTER BUNNY"



COMING TO: SNOOK, HEARNE, DIMEBOX, STOPPING FOR 15 MINUTES IN: ROSEBUD, GAUSE, PASSING BY BUS THROUGH THE TOWNS OF: CALVERT, MATHIS, ETC.



THE BATTALION

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Regents.
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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