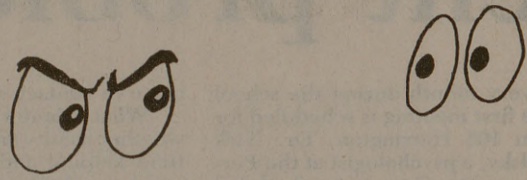


## Slouch By Jim Earle



"Now that you've perfected a flour bomb, would you promise me that you won't use this room for future tests?"

## Moderates beginning to make their point

WASHINGTON — Of all the animals in our political zoo, none have been more scorned than the creatures that call themselves "moderate Republicans." In the days of Democratic dominance, true conservatives derided them as "me-tooers." Since 1964, they have been predictable losers in Republican conventions. In Detroit last summer, they were bystanders at the Reagan coronation, so impotent they were not even good targets for conservative jibes.

One highly credentialed moderate, Sen. Howard H. Baker, Jr., of Tennessee, saw his presidential bid collapse early in the year. Another, Rep. John B. Anderson of Illinois, was routed so thoroughly that he left the GOP for a foredoomed independent candidacy.

Having undergone so many humiliations, these creatures became masters of self-deprecation. When they chose a label for themselves in this Congress, it was "gypsy moths." "Us moderates," said Sen. John C. Danforth of Missouri, "are such vanilla characters, we put you to sleep."

But as they say, what goes around, comes around. And the moderate Republicans are sensing accurately these days — and asserting plainly — that they have a vital role to play in the future of the Reagan administration and the Republican Party.

The frantic negotiations that led to formulation of the latest round of budget cuts were different in one respect from those of last spring. This time, the goal of the White House operatives — a goal they did not reach — was to satisfy the gypsy moths, not the Southern Democratic boll weevils, on the equity of the President's proposals.

They understood that Democratic resistance to Reagan's austerity measures was increasing, and their only hope of success lay in holding Republican ranks intact — including the two dozen House members and the handful of Senators who consider themselves political moderates.

By coincidence, the week that ended with Ronald Reagan's speech to the nation began with a massively less publicized "moderate manifesto" by Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa, a 38-year old third-termer who is characteristic of the breed in his combination of brains, good manners and innocuousness.

The occasion of Leach's address was his acceptance of the chairmanship of the Ripon Society, an academically oriented group of moderate Republicans formed back in the Kennedy years and now boasting a national membership of 2,500 hardy souls.

The best recommendations for the mod-

erate Republicans have always been the quality of their ideas and the quality of their people. Leach embodies that tradition. A foreign service officer who resigned on principle to protest Richard Nixon's "Saturday Night Massacre," he made his manifesto an exceptionally clear statement of the moderates' principles and policies.

In barest outline, he called on the Reagan administration to: balance the arms buildup with an equally serious bid for arms control; recognize that military intervention cannot be our basic approach to Third World disputes; reassert American concern for human rights; limit further tax benefits to the energy industry and prevent further cuts in education and basic research; fight monopoly distortions of free enterprise with vigorous anti-trust enforcement; protect the historic Republican commitment to environmentalism against the "aberrations" of James Watt; reassert Republicans' commitment to civil rights and equal justice; and reject the social-issue conservatism of the New Right.

If all this sounds to some people like asking Ronald Reagan to stop being himself, Leach can not only invoke a pre-Reagan Republican tradition but explain why he supports the main goals of the Reagan administration and hopes for its success. "We have a major stake," he said, "in making the Reagan administration the best possible administration, because he has set such a positive direction for conservatism that if he can avoid the extremes, he can establish a generation of Republican opportunity."

Of all the elements of Reagan Republicanism, moderates probably feel most comfortable with the emphasis on decentralization of government. As Leach pointed out, "The real divisions today in the Republican Party are not between liberals, moderates and conservatives; they are between pragmatists and ideologues... It is local government where pragmatists have always dominated."

In a quiet way, Leach's speech was a timely reminder that the moderates are still around — not just in Congress but in state capitols from Iowa to Pennsylvania and Vermont, where they will play a major role in determining the GOP's fate in the 1982 and 1984 elections.

Leach got invitations to discuss his views on CBS, public television and the Cable News Network — and a request to stop by the office of Vice President Bush. Just want to be sure there are open channels of communication to the administration, Bush said. The moderates are making their point.

## Warped



## RV selection disillusionions cadet

Last week was a very tense time for many Juniors in the Corps. It was the time for the Ross Volunteer applicants to find out if they were accepted. Now this is something that many of them have looked forward to since their fish year. Their first exposure was the ghostly men in white marching in for Silver Taps. Later you find out that they are the cadets wearing the white and yellow cord and you gain a respect for them. They are the "Cream of the Crop" as a well-used cliché puts it. The Honor Guard of the Governor of Texas, true Aggies.

Yet their actions of last week not only shook my confidence in the Corps, but destroyed my whole view of those members of the Ross Volunteer Company. The words ring in my ear of the man who is their namesake, Lawrence Sullivan Ross, "soldier, statesman, and knightly gentleman," this is what makes up true Aggies. But the senior members of the Ross Volunteer Company, through their actions, forgot all these traits. They have lowered themselves so low as to be down on a Frat level, if not lower.

I'm talking about the selection process they used to "select" the new members. It wasn't fair at all, when they are chosen by friendship alone and not the true ideals behind the Ross Volunteer Company. But not just that, their one main action which brought this to light was that of refusing two

## Reader's Forum

applicants based solely on the outfit they are in, not on their true qualifications. They simply refused to review any applicants from that outfit. The question I ask myself is how they, and this is directed towards each and every senior member of the Ross Volunteer Company, could belittle their own organization and lower their own standards as to refuse someone based only on what company they are in and not even look at their qualifications?

Now I'm not writing this on my own behalf, but the two individuals that I am writing this for are both in my outfit and one is the First Sergeant. Both of them are ideal cadets and set a high standard for not only themselves, but those who follow them. They live the Aggie code in all they do and in short, are true Aggies.

It hurt when I found out the reason they were passed over. All because of what outfit

they were in, not anything to do with qualifications, just their outfit. This is the way Aggies are! They don't hold grudges against someone for something other than what they have done! Do they? I sincerely hope not!

Now I'm not living in a dreamland where all Aggies are perfect and good. I know that reality that's impossible, but I at least hoped I could find some semblance of "Good Ags" here who call themselves Aggies and Cadets in the Corps, who oppose the processes and such, just lowered themselves even further than that. Gone is the respect I had for those men who were once rated so high, gone are the ideal standards they once stood for. The Aggie who have put a stain on the name of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the Class of '82 Ross Volunteers. I wish your "Frat" the best upholding A&M traditions, but Silver or Aggie muster will not be the same, I know that men of your caliber are involved. I only hope those in the class of '82 will see the mistakes of those before them and change.

Name withheld

Editor's note: This letter was submitted by a junior on the Corps who asked that name be withheld because of possible discriminations.



## It's your turn

## Student gives view on Greek issue

Editor:

Please consider this viewpoint concerning the infamous "Greek Question."

Attending Baylor for one year, I saw how the presence of Greek organizations can affect a student body: they promote stratification into status levels and create stereotypes to inculcate for acceptance. To me, the single most attractive aspect about Texas A&M four years ago was the general absence of classification in a diverse student body and the acceptance of individuals.

Inherent in the Greek system is the emphasis on the superficial aspects of one's character and the principle of exclusion/rejection. Was the "Quota Victim's" quality of personhood really projected or analyzed at those few rush parties? Is that what the judgement was based on? Who was the judge?

As with almost everything, Greek organizations have good points. Their community service projects, if effective, cannot be dis-

credited. They give their members a "place," an identity, on a large campus. (Note: "their members" ... It seems that one's identity should be formed from within, rather than externally. Certainly, one's "place" should not be acquired at the expense/exclusion of others.)

One should ask what services the Greeks would perform for the Aggies. It's true: all campus-recognized organizations don't serve the entire student body, but they do have open membership (with the exception of Honor Societies). No one is hurt by these clubs' existence, and they don't impose status levels. (Exception: The Corps ...

Although the Corps' status system should not be condoned, it is a "given" at Texas A&M; it is the basis of our tradition and not the subject here.)

With the recognition of the Greek organization on campus, the Aggie Spirit would deteriorate. We would be condoning the principles of their system: elitism and exclusion, which Texas A&M does not need. We are not the Greeks and the GDI's, nor Theta's rather than Chi O's. We are the Aggies. All inclusive.

Ellen Pendergrass '83  
700 Domin

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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.

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