

Reagan's troubles coming from right

by Clay F. Richards
United Press International

WASHINGTON — One of the biggest problems President Reagan will face in the crucial 1982 election year will be the right wing of his own party.

Week by week conservative political and religious groups have stepped up their pressure to deliver on the promises Reagan ran and won on in the 1980 campaign.

During his first year in office Reagan asked his conservative faithful to lower the volume and give him a chance to get his economic package in place and his administration organized.

They honored that request, but have now told the administration they aren't going to wait any longer, even though their actions could seriously jeopardize Republican chances at the polls this fall.

Reagan has tried to get out the word that he does not want to become involved in battles with Congress over school busing, prayer in the classroom and abortion because he believes they are "no win" issues. No matter which side he takes, Reagan will alienate a large segment of the voters, his backers in the White House argue.

The conservatives aren't buying that argument. They argue that these issues involve basic, fundamental "family values" and the president's strong involvement in these areas will win the

overwhelming support of most Americans.

One thing that has angered conservatives the most is that the president has appointed moderate Republicans and even some Democrats to top administration positions and they are subverting the Reagan revolution.

What is wrong with people like Secretary of State Alexander Haig, White House chief of staff James Baker and Vice President George Bush, they argue, is that they are masters of the art of compromise.

They are also concerned because some of the strongest conservative voices in the administration have left, giving more power to the moderates who remain. Just in the past two months they have lost three of the strongest conservative voices in the Reagan inner circle — political director Lyn Nofziger, foreign policy adviser Richard Allen and domestic adviser Martin Anderson.

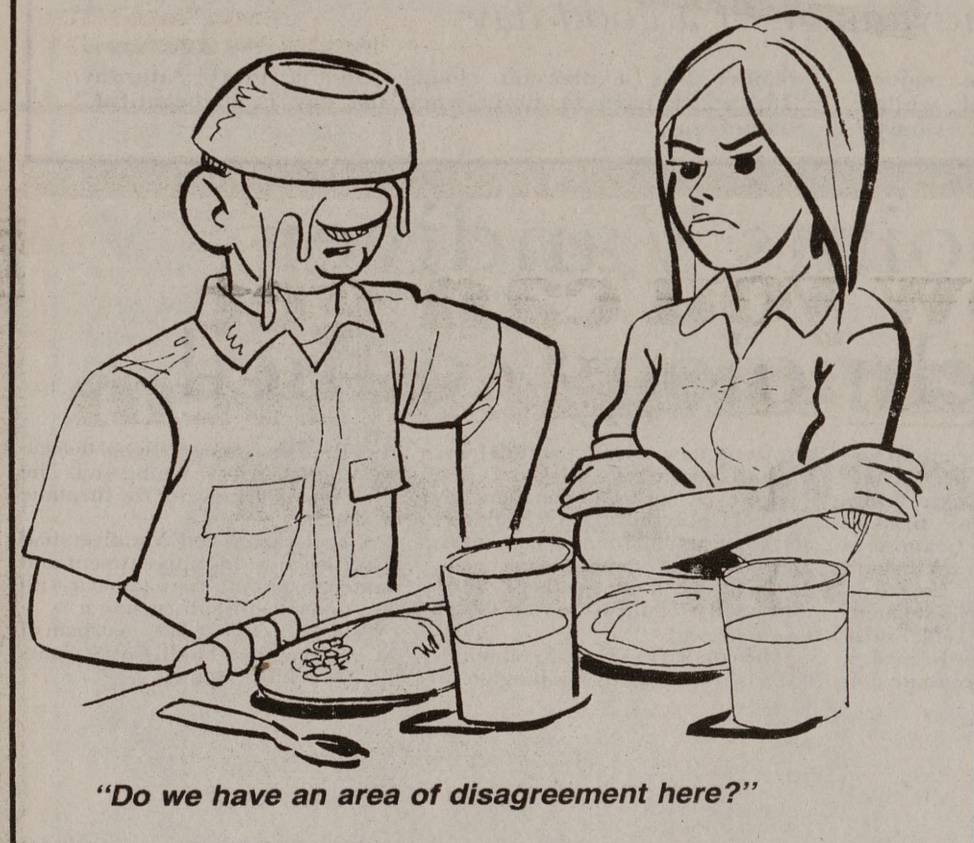
The New Right believes the strong mandate given Reagan in the 1980 election means there is no longer any need for compromise — that he has carte blanche to install the kind of conservative government he promised.

They also know it may be a long time before another true conservative can be elected to the White House and time is slipping through their hands.



Slouch

By Jim Earle



The Lighter Side

A bridge over troubled crabgrass

by Dick West

WASHINGTON — The wonderful folks who brought you designer outhouses have just published a collection of blueprints for do-it-yourself covered bridges.

"I believe our new book will have its own special niche for the homeowner looking for something special he can make for his home," says Janet Strombeck, the co-author.

Yes, and it also will be nice if the homeowner has a brook, a millpond or at minimum a birdbath in his yard.

Without some kind of body of water to span, a homeowner who builds a 40-foot covered bridge, however tastefully designed, on his property is going to have a bit of explaining to do. Probably to the cops.

I mean, a 40-foot covered bridge spanning, say, a petunia patch is the sort of do-it-yourself project that raises eyebrows in the neighborhood.

At least it does in my neighborhood.

But I don't wish to discourage anyone from buying a copy of "Bridges and Cupolas," the latest creation of Sun Designs of Delafield, Wis. So I am suggesting a possible status-lifting tie-in.

One of Sun Designs earlier publications was titled simply "Privy." It contained floor plans for a couple of dozen "classic" outhouses — some of the most elegant structures ever likely to grace a garden path.

The models bore such la-de-da names as "Chalet," "Marblehead," "Knob Hill," "Viking" and "Yacht Club." In short, these outhouses had everything but indoor plumbing.

Even so, the construction industry being what it is today, the market for such edifices is necessarily limited. Septic tanks, by contrast, abound.

The landscape beyond urban limits is liberally dotted with septic tanks. Thus, there is a rich potential for upgrading their sites.

Now answer me this: How many homeowners do you know who have co-

vered bridges over their septic tanks?

Very few, I'll wager. So the idea of appropriate and esthetically pleasing exterior decorating ideas that are appropriate and esthetically pleasing is a

Once again, Sun Designs has teamed up with labels. Its bridges are named as "Rubicon," "Sumida," "TaiPan" and "Sumida." The latter is a pretentiously dubbed "Capistrano" "Alberta," "Mandarin," etc.

As the blueprints specify, the responsibility of the owner-builder is to erect the structure properly. "I am par with a cupola named 'Capistrano' so at his own risk."

But a septic tank over what is rustic, wooden span design "North Fork" is indisputably class.

A septic tank, admittedly, is not the River Kwai. It is, however, sufficiently liquid to provide a means for erecting a bridge on its own. Sewage disposal may find its own special niche.

Letter: Law should require motorcycle helmets

Editor:
There was an unfortunate accident involving a motorcycle and a car that occurred Tuesday afternoon on Scarlett O'Hara Drive in College Station's east side. The driver of the motorcycle was flown from St. Joseph's to Houston's Hermann Hospital.

The motorcycle driver was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident. Had he been wearing one, the injuries he sustained may have been lessened. The way Texas state law reads today, drivers over 18 years of age are not required to wear helmets. What kind of law is that? Do our Texas legislators believe that someone over 18 years of age will sustain less injury? I should certainly hope not. In retaliation of this law, I beg you Aggies to write to your Texas state legislators and representatives and have them repeal this poor law.

I know I can speak on behalf of you Aggies that we wish a good, quick recovery for Bryan Lane.

Richard J. Gosselin '85
Highway 30

Setting a good example

Editor:
Well boys and girls, they're at it again. Once more the men of the Corps have demonstrated their leadership and maturity. Let me explain the incident behind this high praise.

Monday afternoon (Feb. 15), while walking near the library, I noticed several patches of freshly poured concrete, well-marked by signs and barricades. And, lo and behold, there was a member of the Aggie Band (a sophomore in full uni-

form) bent over and writing in the concrete. Upon closer inspection I saw that he had written "Aggie Band '84." What an outstanding, impressive example he set. I immediately felt an urge to spray-paint "TAMU" on the library wall or, at the very least, break a few windows to demonstrate my ability to be a childish vandal.

Thanks again, guys, for demonstrating your leadership and exhibiting the finer qualities of academic life.

Steve Silver
South College

Editorials are educational

Editor:
I have been reading The Battalion since I came to Texas A&M. I must say, however, that I learned more from Tuesday's editorial page than I have ever learned in four years of college. But please, let me convey individual credits where they are due.

First I would like to thank Bonnie B. Langford for her incisive views on abortion. I can sleep better at night knowing abortion is the Christian thing to do. I guess that it's a good thing her parents are agnostic or she might have gone through what Mr. Coppedge (resident biological scholar) so vividly portrayed.

Yes Woodrow my man, I truly appreciate the knowledge that all "scientists" agree on when conception begins. I didn't even know "scientists" agreed on the days of the week, but then, I've led a sheltered life.

And to Otto: What's wrong with Ted Kennedy?

And also to Steve: Why ruin a perfectly awful bunch of editorial page letters

with an intelligent and knowledgeable observation?

And finally, the main reason for this gem of wisdom, to Dr. George Raczkowski: Why sir, are you wasting your talents as an M.E. prof.? You should be in the state department helping to reorganize some of our sub-par diplomats. I really hated to find out they are no match for the Russians. But then, I've led a sheltered life.

Mark Stubbs '82

Be more tolerant

Editor:
This is in response to Mr. Crowder's letter which asked Christians to refrain from exercising their right to speak in public. Mr. Bland Crowder seems to think the Rudder fountain area is his private lunch-hour patio. He then goes on to express his "concern" for other beliefs whose members may feel "offended" by the Christian PA system. I can only speak as a Moslem, but I think all religions are tolerant of one another. I suggest Mr. Crowder follow their example and respect other people's rights. Our friend has forgotten that his private opinion has been respectfully printed in my lunch-hour newspaper.

Abdelaziz O. Alkhowaiter
1001 Harvey

Should be in the yearbook

Editor:
I would like to comment on yearbooks in this letter. I would like to know why we

(Texas A&M University at Galveston) are not in the University's yearbook, the Aggie Inland.

I am tired of being an Aggie and not being in the University's yearbook, rather in a small, high-school-quality yearbook. Which in fact is smaller than my high school yearbook — and costs as much as the Aggieband!

I am an Aggie and proud to be one. But to be an Aggie and not be in the

University yearbook, well frankly that type of ostracism! (Not to mention insult, also embarrassing.)

When I go to visit my brother on the main campus and then go and see the yearbooks, well, it makes me angry. If there's anyone out there who can give me a decent, logical, sane answer to my question, please reply.

Mike Benson

The Battalion

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

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

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 100 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they exceed that length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length, but will make every effort to preserve the author's intent. Each letter must also be accompanied by 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: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone 2611.

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