

Slouch By Jim Earle

GOODBYE  
AND  
THANK YOU  
COL. JAMES WOODALL  
COMMANDANT 1977-1982



Weinberger keeps constant humor

by Art Buchwald

People are constantly asking me, "Who is the man with the most humor in the Reagan administration?" They are surprised when my response is "Cap" Weinberger, our secretary of Defense. "Cap" says things with a straight face that make you want to roll on the floor.

Just the other day he told newspapermen he is for a "protracted nuclear war." He doesn't want one of these hair-trigger wars which last 30 or 40 minutes. "Cap" said he has ordered everyone at the Pentagon to figure out not only how to keep a nuclear war going, but how to make sure the U.S. wins one when the missiles start flying.

Half the people in the Pentagon took "Cap" seriously. But those who knew what a deadpan comic "Cap" is just laughed and went back to doing the crossword puzzle.

The material for "Cap's" prolonged nuclear war" came out of a routine he did when he first took charge of the Defense Department and came up with a comic routine on "limited nuclear war."

He tried this one out in front of an armed services committee last year and had everyone in stitches. "Cap," without cracking a smile, said he thought a "limited nuclear war" with the Soviets was not only feasible, but essential so the U.S. would have time to fight a conventional war.

Cap said if we let the Russians know that we were only going to fight a "limited nuclear war" then they would agree not to use their big stuff to attack us.

The only ones who didn't laugh were our NATO allies who figured out if a "limited nuclear war was going to be waged it would be on their turf," and

even after Al Haig tried to explain to the Europeans "Cap" was only joking, they still didn't find the secretary of Defense's war routine very funny.

So Cap got his writers together and said: "I think my jokes are losing something in the translation. We're going to have to come up with a new monologue, and throw the 'limited nuclear war' stuff out."

One of the writers said: "I got it! What if you just stand up at the microphone and say you're no longer for a 'limited nuclear war,' but you've opted for a 'protracted' one instead? Say we're going to build offensive weapons that will make the U.S. prevail no matter what the Russians throw at us."

"That's pretty funny," Cap said. "Let's work on it. But keep it quiet or Johnny Carson will hear about it, and use it on his Tonight Show first."

The writers all went to work and came up with some memorable lines.

One was: "you show me a secretary of Defense who is not preparing to win a nuclear war, and I'll show you a secretary of Defense who should be impeached."

Another one which was a real crowd pleaser: When he was asked if a nuclear war was winnable, Cap replied, again with a straight face "I just don't have any idea; I don't know that anybody has any idea. But we're certainly going to give the armed forces everything they need to win one."

These are just a few samples of "Cap" Weinberger's humor. They may not sound as funny on paper, but when you see him standing up in front of the mike, looking like Woody Allen, delivering them, you could die laughing.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch

by Dick West  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — After a few days on the campaign trail, President Reagan has returned to his California ranch for the final phase of his current vacation.

I don't know how he intends to spend the time other than riding horses, but all of us could have a stake in his plans.

"Leisure should be relaxing," the noted psychologist B. F. Skinner told a group of his colleagues last week.

He recommended that older people give their brains a lot of rest. Putting the brain in neutral between mental exercises helps make up for the loss of intellectual power in old age, said Skinner, who is 78.

The idle brain theory is one vacation practice Reagan might do well to consider. But there are, as we know, a number of other ways to go about mitigating the ravages of time.

At the opposite end of the pole stands, or jogs, Edwin Paget, a retired speech professor who also is approaching 80.

He advocates keeping mentally fit by running up and down Pikes Peak.

The problem, according to Paget, who this summer made his 960th ascent of the Colorado mountain, is that most brain cells don't get enough oxygen to keep them percolating properly.

It takes vigorous and prolonged exercise by the rest of the body to maintain one's brain in good working order, Paget contends.

After a summer of scampering to the summit, Paget, his brain awash with oxygen, suggested that Reagan "jump down from his ranch horse and start running up steps for at least two hours every day."

"His administration needs new, bold ideas," the aerated septuagenarian opined. "More oxygen to his brain will help."

But Paget now concedes it is unlikely the president will act on his suggestion.

"Reagan is increasing the oxygen to his horses' brains rather than to his own," he laments.

At least we can take comfort in the fact that while the president is in Washington he will be associating with smart horses.

That is more than one can say for the environment he left behind.

Skinner did not indicate whether keeping company with smart horses produces the desired stage of relaxation. However, from the pictures I have seen of Reagan's equestrian outings, we can put our minds to rest of that.

Reagan's cantering on some of the best breathing mount appear to be relaxed to the point of intellectual stagnation. I doubt a couple of hours of running up and down the Rancho Caliente would be as cerebrally stimulating.

Moreover, his exposure to the amount of horse sense brought to the oxygenation of his steeds may be a plus for the entire country.

But if he continues to venture on the campaign trail during periods, his brain cells may never cover.



Letters: Student praises professor

Editor:

Most of the time people are complaining around here. I have certainly done my share of complaining. Texas A&M is neither all bad nor all good. However, I have a point of praise today (let's try a little positive reinforcement for a change).

Everyone who has been in college for a while knows that some professors are better than others. In fact, the differences in the quality of some professors over others is sometimes unbelievable. Some professors can be downright clods at times. On the other hand, some can be excellent (for instance Dr. O'Connor). The same goes for administrative members of the faculty.

There is one professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering who I would like to call attention to. This man has never been anything but the most fair in dealing with me. He has more faith in me than I do sometimes. He always treats me like an adult and with respect. In doing so, he commands my respect for him also.

Even when I have waited through a long line to see him, which happens a lot because he sees many students, I never felt that I was getting the rush treatment, or less than adequate consideration of what I needed. He has never treated me like a number, but more like an equal, even though he is a much greater man than I, and the kind of man I aspire to be.

I have never seen him put off a student because of being too busy with research. He has made a vast impression on me and a big difference in my life. Any success I have is partially due him because he believed in me enough to give a chance when the chips were down.

Sure, he's no superman, but he tries hard and that's good enough for me. He simply treats students as his main objective for being here, rather than a necessary bother. When you speak to him you get the idea that his concern comes more from the heart as a father than of the head like an administrator.

The man I am referring to (if you haven't already guessed) is Dr. A.B. Alter of the Department of mechanical engineering. This school needs more faculty like Dr. Alter. There are a few around (too

few). If this University had more faculty like Dr. Alter, it would do such a good job of educating its students that Texas A&M would be pre-eminent in every field faster than if it did a hundred times more research. Thanks for a job well done Dr. Alter.

John R. Turner  
Hart Hall

Dorm yell complaints

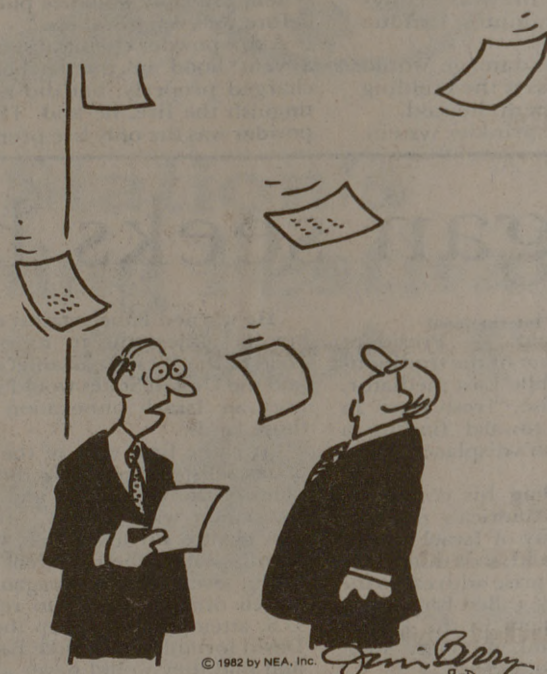
Editor:

Wednesday night the women of Mosher and Krueger Halls were "entertained" by the residents of Dunn Hall. As they crowded between our dorms, they

graced us with one of their dorm yells. This outburst contained undoubtedly the most vile phrases and words some of us had ever heard. "Pants" may be good bull, but this display of vulgarity definitely was not. Language this is not fit for any Aggie, and who engages in this sort of unbecoming grossness and calling himself a God certainly needs to learn something that name. "Get grody" has gone too far. Come on, guys; A&M once spoke of valry and consideration. Have these conditions died? We hope not.

Kelli J. Clemens  
Sally Davis  
469 Mosher

Berry's World



"It's a protest against nuclear proliferation and littering."

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper

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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, and 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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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