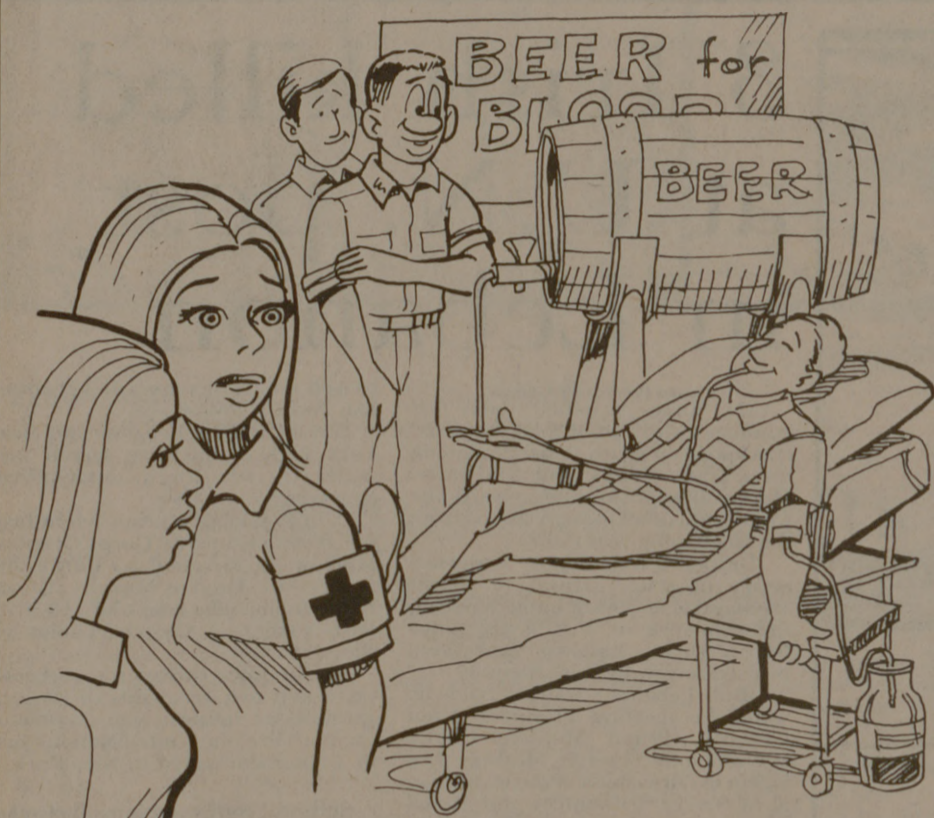


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I know we promised beer for blood, but at the same time?"

Carter's memoirs characteristic of him

by Wesley G. Pippert

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Former President Jimmy Carter's memoirs, "Keeping Faith," are a faithful self-portrait — paying attention to detail but lacking passion and not adequately communicating his vision for the nation.

In his 622-page book, published by Bantam Books, Carter admits few mistakes and makes little attempt to answer the critics of his style. This is unfortunate, because his style drew more criticism than his achievements.

Perhaps what is most lacking in Carter's book is a passionate description of his aspirations for the nation as well as a subjective account of his own motivations and lifestyle.

He does not reply to criticism that his speeches often failed to move political audiences. There is an irony here, for Carter often was electric when speaking to a black audience or teaching his Sunday School class at the Baptist Church.

Carter was among the most curious of all presidents. He was a more avid outdoorsman and a greater patron of the arts than any recent president. Yet this breadth and depth in his life do not show through in his memoirs.

He also was one of the most devout of all presidents, faithfully reading the Bible and praying unflinchingly each day, he used to say, and faithfully attending Sunday School and church, a Bible tucked under his arm.

Yet, despite its title, Carter's memoirs offer few statements about whether and how he integrated his beliefs with his Oval Office decisions. He wrote merely that he prayed "a lot — more than ever before in my life," especially during times like the Camp David summit on the Mideast.

He once said publicly he approached the presidency as "First Servant," not "First Boss," a remark he told this reporter drew scorn. His restraint and moderation in dealing with the Iranian hostage situation and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan probably reflected this basic view of how power ought to be used. Yet, unfortunately, there is no discussion of this in his memoirs.

During and after his presidency, Carter was criticized for his inability to deal with Congress and for remaining a Washington outsider throughout his presidency.

Carter conceded in his discussion of the allegations raised against Budget Director Bert Lance that there were "adverse consequences" to being an outsider.

"As one who had never been part of the Washington scene, I was not particularly eager to change my attitude after becoming president. This proved to be a mistake," Carter wrote.

"I did not see that one of the important avenues to this support and understanding was through the seemingly informal but highly structured social life of the nation's capital. Much of it seemed frivolous to me.

"Nowhere within the press, Congress or the ranks of the Washington power structure were there any long-established friends and acquaintances who would naturally come to our defense," Carter said.

Carter also admitted the error that some critics have pointed out: that he sent too much legislation to Capitol Hill at one time, instead of phasing it out.

But by and large, Carter's disdain for Congress is only thinly veiled. He said it was a "perennial temptation" for Congress to pass tax legislation that was "a Christmas tree full of goodies."

He also said that one of his unpleasant surprises in Washington was the "inertia of Congress, the length of time it takes to get a complicated piece of legislation through."

Other mistakes that Carter admitted:

—The handling of his Cabinet changes after his 1979 Camp David domestic summit meeting. He said by failing to distinguish between those who had wanted to resign and those he wanted to change, "the changes were portrayed as a great governmental crisis."

—A "costly mistake" involving Jerusalem during a 1980 U.N. vote that upset the Israelis and American Jews.

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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.

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 and 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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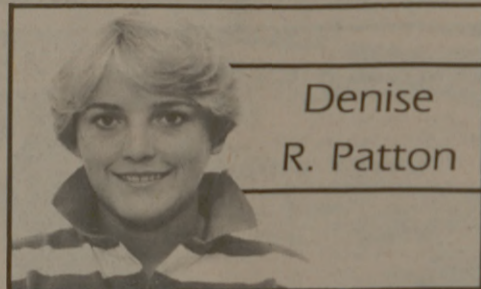
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Halloween tricks and treats



Denise R. Patton

Can you imagine Halloween without lots of candy? Although trick-or-treating has been banned in some communities in Massachusetts, the tradition lives on here at Texas A&M. Instead of worrying about mid-term grades and focusing on improvement, it seems like Aggies are worrying about what they are going to dress up as for Halloween. Some Aggies are concentrating not on what they will dress up as for Halloween, but on what kinds of tricks they can play instead of giving out candy.

There are many advantages to playing tricks, instead of giving out candy. For one, it would be just plain fun to scare someone, or to make someone laugh. You could also get rid of some of those odds and ends floating around your room.

For instance you could get rid of all of your mismatched socks. Put them in those little Halloween bags that are sold at Skaggs, and drop them in the pillow cases of the trick-or-treaters who come to visit you. Won't they be in for a surprise when they get home and open the bag? Unfortunately, you will not be around to see their expressions when they see that they "got a sock."

You could also spend the evening greeting your visitors armed with a can of

whipped cream to spray it in their faces when you open the door. This is a great trick because you receive instant gratification as you spray whipped cream on the trick-or-treaters and see the astonished expression on their faces.

On the east coast the trees drop their leaves by the time Halloween has arrived. Oh, the happy, nutty things you can do with dead leaves — you can fill a friend's car with leaves, and you can put them in little bags and hand them out.

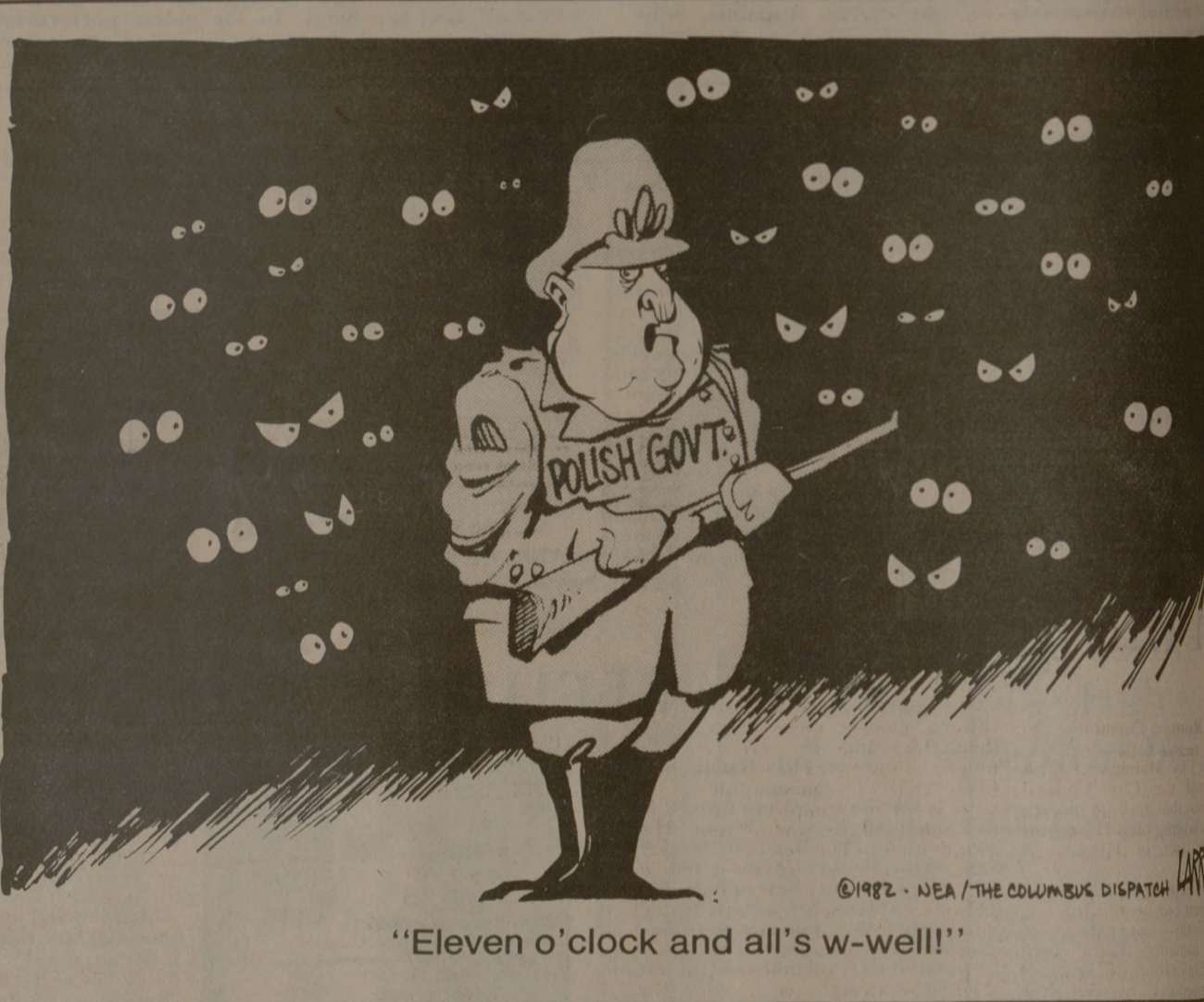
If you know anybody who lives in a house, then I would suggest that you toilet paper their house. One disadvantage of doing this to a friend could happen the next day when that friend asks you to come help clean up the mess. But, by all means go help clean. That way you will have a front seat to see the reaction of

your friend. Just another form of education.

Toilet papering a dorm room is a different problem — should you go with this option, you will be self limited as it is such a small room your cover is not very good. Another idea would be to see an entrance turn out in the wee hours of the night and toilet paper another dorm.

There is another trick that you can do although the trick-or-treaters will not even realize it is being pulled. Invite your callers into your room with milk and cookies, and keep a stream of bizarre conversation. Be sure you have enough cookies to make your visitors stay for a few minutes and watch them grow. The thought of the other houses having any candy left by the time you are there. Make them stay as long as you can.

The list of tricks goes on and on. Fortunately, I cannot disclose any of them. I will not have any of my candy in one night as you know from my experience that you WILL get it on your toes and be alert to the friends or enemies who will be trying to pull — and have a happy Halloween.



Letter: Distribution of income

Editor:

I went to listen to Mr. Ralph Nader on Oct. 19 and was greatly impressed by the man's central theme. Knowing he was addressing mostly college students, he stressed the importance of intelligent citizenship and discriminating consumerism, and his desire to see such citizens encouraged by our educational system, a desire that I deeply share.

Thinking back on what he said brings a particular phrase to mind, however. He mentioned a relatively more "equitable distribution of income" in the United States as a positive aspect of our economy over that of Brazil's economy, owing to the fact that Brazil harbors many coercive monopolies which have freed themselves from the marketplace through government collusion. I agree that consumers should be protected from coercive and market-free (alias choice-free) monopolies. I agree that this society should protect the rights of consumers from invasion by environmental pollution, or by hazardous working conditions.

In addition, I would also like to observe that the producer in this country also has the right to own what he produces. The producer also has the right to be shielded from claims on his wealth solely through desires for a more "equitable distribution of income" (in other words, coercion for the "common" welfare).

Individual rights do not stop with the consumer, and I am sure Mr. Nader

understands this. I think that the more general truth which may be gleaned from the comparison of the United States to non-free countries is that in this country,

a man is chained neither by force nor by a despot nor by force of a mob.

Frank Knicker  
306 Reed

Berry's World by Jim Berry



"No, the pipeline has not reached Europe yet, comrade. Why?"

by Kathy I  
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