

opinion

Letters: Grenada invasion wise

Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to President Reagan for his swift and wise decision to support our Caribbean neighbors in the fight against Communist aggression in our hemisphere.

In his speech Thursday night, the President cleared up several points on Grenada and on our Marines in Lebanon. Most importantly, I believe, he noted the discovery of three warehouses full of Cuban and Soviet weaponry. He also noted that our Marines in Lebanon must be partially accomplishing the goal to achieve peace or else the incident on Sunday would not have happened. There is no way that nations can negotiate with murderers. The rebels in Lebanon just must be driven out.

Finally, summarizing a letter the President read from a Marine's father — with all the talk about civil rights, his son recognized that no rights come without first accepting responsibilities. The father said that he is glad his son is taking responsibility for our rights by being in Lebanon.

Stephen Johnson

Identify medics

Editor:

All right Battalion photographers! Medics with the Texas A&M Emergency

Care Team don't have names? While telling us all who damaged his knee in P.E. class (26 Oct., 1983), how about making a little more personal identification of the volunteers who came to his aid? Those are the same volunteers who stand by all day in the ambulance squad room waiting to aid the injured.

Those medics have spent a considerable amount of time learning and practicing the skills necessary to render professional quality emergency medical services, free of charge, to the students and staff of Texas A&M, and they deserve more recognition than a general notice as Emergency Medical Technicians.

Chris Eford

Butt out of place

Editor:

This is an exception to a letter I wrote the week of October 17.

This is a letter of praise and a letter of disapproval.

The praise is for the Battalion and its staff. The Battalion staff present stories of interest and different areas of concern. These include events happening on campus, throughout the state, and across the United States. And don't forget what goes on in the Middle East and other important strategic areas.

Now, the disapproval is for the Butta-

lion and its anonymous staff. The prime area they focus upon is what happens on campus. What is printed are putdowns and criticisms, including language that is worse than that spoken by General Patton, in front of Old Glory. The Battalion has no place at Texas A&M and represents no benefit for the students. Please, do us all a favor — leave!

Gavin Jones '86

Walkers dangerous

Editor:

This letter is in response to Mr. Stephen Weiss' letter of October 24.

I do not know if Mr. Weiss is a full time pedestrian or if he rides any sort of two wheeled vehicle. From his letter I can only guess that he does not ride a moped or motorcycle.

I ride a moped around campus most of the time. (I also walk to class when it is not feasible to ride.) I find constantly slamming on the brakes to avoid pedestrians who insist on their rights of way frustrating, if not dangerous. If a pedestrian steps in front of me closer than the minimum stopping distance, say 22 feet at 20 mph, that person had every good chance of being injured. This situation is even more dangerous if a car or truck is following behind, because chances are that driver did not see the pedestrian, or

me, in time to stop.

In order to safely stop, I must be able to see the person who is about to cross. I am unable to see the person if he/she steps from between cars parked along the road, emerges or steps from a crowd of people heading a different way, or steps from the sidewalk on a day with poor visibility.

Mr. Weiss' suggestions are well intended but unreasonable. First, there is nowhere off campus to accommodate all the cars and bicycles. Second, reducing the speed limit to 5 mph is extreme. I ride a small vehicle and have some difficulty remaining upright without my feet dragging on the ground while going 5 mph. Can you imagine the difficulty a much heavier 750 hp motorcycle would have going 5 mph? The bigger motorcycles require more speed for the drivers to balance them without their feet on the ground.

The main problem is lack of communication and manners on both the pedestrian's and driver's part. It is very difficult to look out for a large number of people who decide to jaywalk, or on the spur of the moment, to cross at a crosswalk or corner. Drivers do not know, often until the second before, that a pedestrian will cross. Sometimes pedestrians just turn the corner. Drivers do pay attention to their driving. Maybe pedestrians ought to pay attention to their walking.

So, pedestrians, pause a moment be-

fore you step on to the road, especially bad weather, look to make sure the of the vehicle sees you and is

I do not mind that driving on requires extra consideration from ers. Fewer people are hurt than

Regina

Abbott supports

Editor:

We would like to express our support for The Fighting Texas Ag commander Preston Abbott on his statement that Brown should be shot, do not lie, steal, or cheat, not those who do.

Tracey Dietz
John Giam

Letters too grim

Editor:

If these letters to the Editor only information someone has at A&M, they probably think we're in downtown Beirut.

Come on Ags, things aren't all that

Richard V
Graduate

Straw votes increase interest in politics

by Arnold Sawisak
United Press International

WASHINGTON — When Florida Democrats gathered for their state convention last month, the smart money was on former Gov. Reubin Askew to walk away with the presidential straw vote party officials had scheduled.

Straw votes are a political gimmick exploited this year by state and local politicians to provoke interest in their conventions and other events. In terms of the 1984 elections, they have no official status, but they do seem to increase attendance at party functions.

They also have some meaning for the candidates. Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., wanted to demonstrate last summer that he had appeal outside his own state and so he went all-out to beat former Vice President Walter Mondale in the Wisconsin Democratic convention straw vote.

Mondale was the favorite because he, like Hubert Humphrey before him, comes from neighboring Minnesota and was identified with the strong populist-liberal tradition that dominates the Democratic parties of both states. But Mondale didn't pay enough attention to Cranston's efforts in Wisconsin and got a nasty shock when the Californian won the straw vote.

In Florida, Mondale was trying to pull off a variation of the Cranston feat in Wisconsin. He didn't have to — or want to — win, because that might have mortally offended Askew loyalists, who constitute the establishment of the Florida Democratic Party. But he did want to finish a strong second and to leave Sen. John

Glenn, D-Ohio, in the dust.

He did both, getting more than 800 votes compared to Askew's 1,053 and Glenn's 400-plus.

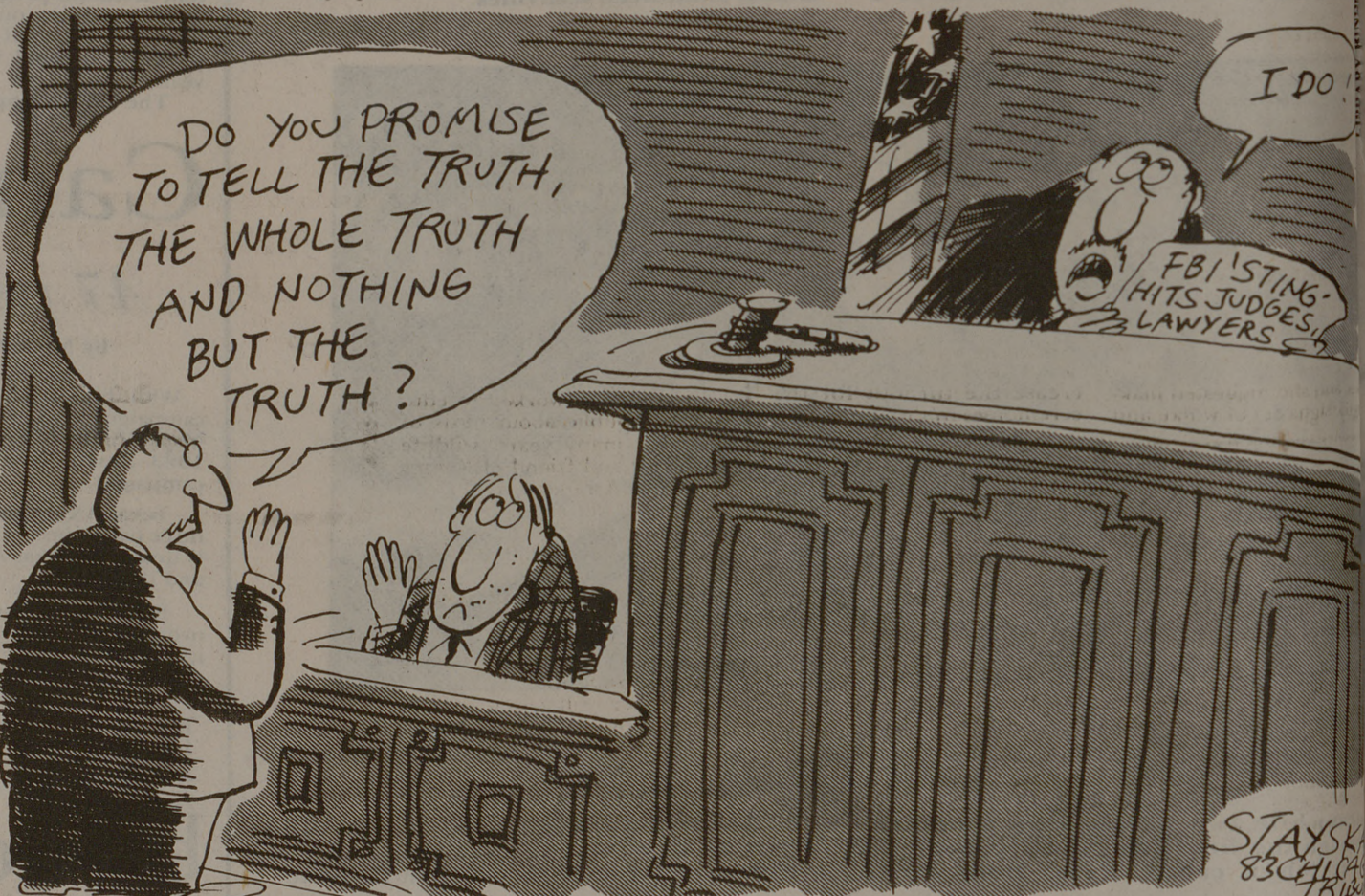
In the process some interesting facts of political life in 1983 were revealed.

First, Mondale got far more mileage out of his alliance with organized labor than anyone had thought possible in a right-to-work state in the South. Florida is not known as a state where labor has had major political influence, so it was assumed that Mondale would get little out of his endorsements by the AFL-CIO and the National Teachers Association at the convention.

Wrong. Especially in the big city counties, such as Miami's Dade, union activists — teachers as well as blue collar types — arrived well-organized and delivered some large blocks of votes to Mondale. As someone pointed out, there might not be unionized steelworkers or automakers in many states, but they all have teachers and government employees, many of whom are union members.

A second fact was pointed out by Askew himself. He estimated after the vote that 3 million people had moved into Florida since he left the governor's seat in the mid-1970s.

The people who remembered him as governor were intensely loyal, but there were plenty of delegates to the convention who knew Askew only by reputation. His hold on them was only through state party officials who worked hard on behalf of the state's favorite son.



Beach Boys and Nazis shatter Watt's dreams

by Art Buchwald

We all saw James Watt ride off into the sunset a few short weeks ago. Unfortunately we didn't hear what he said to his horse.

As he rode up the winding trail he said, "Well, old Paint, our work is over. I knew it would only be a matter of time before the Nazis, the Commies and the environmentalists got my job. I'm not saying it doesn't hurt. I had great plans for this country form sea to shining sea. But I knew the Beach Boys would finish me off sooner or later."

Watt reached the top of the trail and looked out over the massive mountain range.

"I had great visions for this land, Paint. I wanted every American to have a strip mine he could call his own. I wanted to sell off the wilderness areas and make them into thriving real estate developments which produce jobs and taxes.

"I dreamed someday we could cut down all the forests to provide wood for the lumber people who love this country as much as I do. I wanted to drill into the deep brown earth and offshore blue waters for gas and oil, to supply our fuel needs for the next 50 years.

"I longed to take America's most valuable heritage and protect it from the bird lovers and the Indians and the Democrats who don't believe in progress and economic growth. I needed time to sell off the outer continental shelf.

"Just think, Paint. If I'd had a few more years we would have had bulldozers down there in the valley, oil rigs in the hills, and all of that snow on the mountain could have been turned into acid rain.

"I dreamed that everyone who entered

a national park would be charged a fee for setting up a tent and fishing in a trout stream.

"I was going to build motels and souvenir shops so the park service would pay for itself. No more would the wilderness become a free lunch for every black, woman, Jew and cripple."

Watt and his horse started down the trail. He was singing "I'm an old cow hand who wanted to give away this land."

He stopped by a mountain spring. "Look at that spring there, Paint. Nobody uses it. Nobody even knows it's there. If I were still Secretary of the Interior I would dump hazardous chemical wastes in it, where it wouldn't do any harm to anyone. You see those deer over there? They're eating federal foliage. Even they think they're entitled to a free lunch."

Old Paint neighed. Watt rubbed his nose. "But don't worry, fellow. We lost the battle but we didn't lose the war. I'll go back to private life as a lobbyist and a fund raiser fighting for what I believe in. There are thousands of patriotic Americans out there willing to pay \$1000 a plate to fight for their oil and gas leases. Now that I'm a private citizen I can say what's on my mind. We'll beat the reds, the pinkos and secular humanists yet."

Suddenly a man on another horse came riding over the hill.

"Why it's Bill Clark, the president's national security adviser. What are you doing out here, Bill?"

"The president has appointed me the new Secretary of Interior."

The Battalion

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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 telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are 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 (409) 845-2611.

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Berry's World



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"Mind if I join you?"