

# Opinion

## The Battalion

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# Obnoxious Arizona governor Te deserves nomination to court fo

Ronald Reagan was n't happy when the Senate decided to reject his nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.



Sue Krenek

He was so miffed, in fact, that he told an audience that "If I have to appoint another one, I'll try to find one that they'll object to just as much as this one."  
It was a great attitude, an attitude that said, "If you don't play by my rules, I'll take my toys and leave." It banished wimpdom and brought the Rambo factor back to the White House. You could almost see Ronnie gearing up say nasty things about Mikhail Gorbachev's mother or invade Grenada again to demonstrate U.S. military superiority over sunbathing medical students.  
But Ronnie blew it.  
He nominated Douglas H. Ginsburg, the ultimate in generic judges, a man whose stint as a federal judge has been so brief that one law professor was moved to point out that the Supreme Court really isn't designed to provide on-the-job training.  
I really don't know what Ronnie was thinking. I mean, how can you object to a man who's only been a federal judge for 18 months? He hasn't had time to be objectionable about anything. And his specialty, antitrust law, hardly provides for any titillating rulings to get people riled up. You know, rulings on abortion,

women's rights, abortion, civil rights, abortion, the right of the goddess Communist media to slander our beloved country, and abortion.  
Like I said, Ronnie blew it.  
The perfect candidate was out there, lurking in the Arizona shadows. Insulting women. Insulting blacks. Creating random chaos.  
Ronnie should have nominated Evan Mecham.  
Mecham is the Republican governor of Arizona — until he gets impeached or recalled, anyway, and that seems like only a matter of time. Before he even took office, a recall movement had started, a sure sign that he'd out-offend Ginsburg on all counts.  
The beauty of it is that Mecham is an equal-opportunity offender. The gospel according to Evan would include such gems as:  
• It's OK for textbooks to refer to black children as "pickaninnies."  
• Arizona doesn't need a paid state holiday in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.  
• Working women cause divorce and the women's movement causes lesbianism. (Mecham agreed with that one after one of his appointees drew fire for saying it in the first place.)  
• Civil rights guarantees don't apply to homosexuals because of their "unacceptable" lifestyle.  
If none of that seems offensive, try this: Mecham's appointees include a man under investigation in connection with a slaying and an education adviser who said that "If a student wants to say the world is flat, the teacher doesn't have the right to prove otherwise."

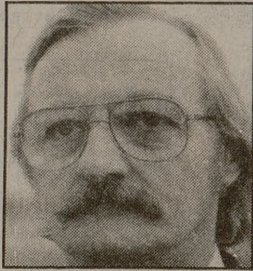
Mecham obviously has the same talent for making appointments as does Ronnie, the man who brought us James Watt. But would Mecham get the reaction Ronnie wants? Would the Senate object to him as much as it did to Bork? Yeah, I think so. After all, the Mecham Watchdog Committee has garnered more than 300,000 signatures needed to force a recall election. Evan Buck, the group's chairman, says of Mecham: "Never before has one man alienated so many people in such a short period of time."  
Mecham and his cronies share the Reagan administration's talent for embarrassingly inappropriate off-the-cuff remarks. The day after a party official referred to the recall movement as "Evan Buck and his band of homosexual agitators," a newspaper revealed that the head of the Mecham Fan Club was a convicted child molester.  
Mecham might even be able to join another group of the Reagan elite, the now-under-indictment government officials. He apparently didn't disclose a \$350,000 campaign loan. He's talking up a grand jury about that now, and even the Republicans are talking impeachment.  
Doonesbury has lampooned him. Bumper stickers blast him. (One popular one says, "Arizona needs a governor that is higher on the food chain.") But still Evan Mecham rolls on, insulting the masses in his own Neanderthal way.  
I don't know what Ronnie was thinking when he passed up this one.  
**Sue Krenek is a senior journalism major and opinion page editor for The Battalion.**

## Men will be boys

Some people just have never realized that Texas A&M has left the Stone Age. Unfortunately, many of them are Aggies.  
On Friday, four Aggeland photographers went to cover the raising of centerpole at the bonfire site. Two were male. Two were female. The male photographers were allowed to go about their business relatively undisturbed. The female photographers were harassed, cursed at and threatened until they left the perimeter.  
William Kibler, the adviser for bonfire, told *The Battalion* that students can be excluded from the perimeter only if they are not wearing a helmet or have no legitimate reason to be there. The Aggeland photographers were wearing pots. Their assignment gave them a legitimate reason to be there.  
Allegations of sexual harassment at bonfire are nothing new. Last year a female cadet filed assault charges against several students after she was attacked and dragged from the perimeter. Three years ago, *Battalion* staffer Kathy Wiesepape was dragged from the perimeter while taking photos.  
It's doubtful that harassment will end with this incident. But bonfire is supposed to reflect Aggie unity, not outmoded attitudes. It's time to ditch the mentality that says a woman's place is on the cookie crew or as a bonfire buddy. Because as Wiesepape wrote three years ago, real men aren't threatened by women who come within 20 yards of their bonfire.  
— The Battalion Editorial Board

## With government, Americans get what they deserve

It seems cruel to point it out in these times of incipient chaos, but the American people are getting the government they deserve.  
It is a government of stalemate, with a conservative, Republican president deadlocked on all fronts with a liberal, Democratic congress.



Donald Kaul

In foreign affairs, Reagan struggles to maintain a big-shouldered attitude in the Persian Gulf while Congress struggles to rein him in. On the political front, Congress has handed Reagan his head in response to his effort to remake the Supreme Court in his own image.  
The economic scene resembles a World War I battlefield with both sides entrenched in long-held positions. Reagan wants to reduce the federal deficit by cutting domestic spending to the bone, then cutting bone, while Congress believes higher taxes should be part of the solution.  
Both Congress and President Reagan have made noises of compromise recently, but the sounds all have been drowned out by the crack of political sniping.  
Well, what did we expect? We elected them. And they did not lie to us. The president has tried to do just what he said he would, and so has Congress. Whose fault is that?  
Ours.  
The American political system is virtually unique in the world in its ability to elect what amounts to two competing governments of diametrically opposed views. If the American people love President Reagan as much as his electoral majority would indicate, why didn't they give him a Congress that felt the same way about things?  
If we didn't trust Mr. Reagan to run things, why did we elect him? I don't know why. I don't live in a well-ordered, rational society; I'm an American.  
The economic turmoil we've seen in the past two weeks has changed the political landscape. Up until now the Democratic presidential field has resembled a circular firing squad. They haven't been trying to find a winner; they've been trying to pick a survivor. The Republicans, on the other hand, looked as though they were on their way to nominating an experienced politician of national stature who would ride a wave of peace and prosperity to victory. No more.

Historically, voters have turned to Democrats in hard times, and the stock market crash offers, at the very least, the suggestion of hard times ahead. The question remains: Which Democrat? None of them has yet seized the public imagination. Oh, let's be frank; they haven't even seized the private imagination. Some say that the new political reality might induce one of the missing party heavyweights — Mario Cuomo, Bill Bradley, Sam Nunn — to reconsider his options and make a late dash for the nomination. Perhaps, but that seems a dim hope, even now.  
The Republicans, in the meantime, are trying to close the compassion gap. In Republican circles compassion generally consists of feeling sorry that rich people have to pay higher taxes than poor people, but all the current GOP candidates are beginning to sound like Walter Mondale. If the idea takes hold among grass-roots Republicans, it's entirely possible that the Republicans will nominate Mario Cuomo for president and the Democrats' problem will be over.  
Not likely. Democrats are better advised to take comfort in this characterization of Franklin D. Roosevelt, made in early 1932 by Walter Lippman, the most respected political analyst of his time.  
He called Roosevelt "a highly impressionable person without a firm grasp of public affairs and without very strong convictions. . . . He is a pleasant man who, without any important qualifications for the office, would very much like to be President."  
Roosevelt grew to fill the office; so might one of the Democrats. Goodness knows, there is enough room for growth among them. There is a joke making the rounds these days, a pretty good joke:  
Gary Hart, Joe Biden and Paul Simon die on the same day and go to their reward. They are greeted by the Celestial Gatekeeper and assigned to their rooms.  
Hart opens the door to his room to find it populated by 1,000 rats. A deep voice comes over the loudspeaker: "Gary Hart, you have sinned and for your sins you are condemned to spend eternity in a room with 1,000 rats."  
Biden goes to his room and finds five lions there. The voice on the loudspeaker says: "Joe Biden, you have sinned and for your sins you are condemned to spend eternity in a room with five lions."  
Paul Simon goes to his room and finds Sophia Loren there. The voice on the loudspeaker says: "Sophia Loren, you have sinned. . . ."  
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BEN SARGENT  
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## Mail Call

### Why be rude to SMU band?

EDITOR:  
I feel somewhat compelled to write about the conduct of the crowd during halftime at the A&M-Louisiana Tech game. Our support of the SMU Mustang Band was something to write home about. I was proud of the way that the Aggies made the SMU band feel at home despite being asked at yell practice by head yell leader Doug Beall to be as loud as we could to drown out their music.  
We were not playing against SMU, and I don't think their band came to Kyle Field in an attempt to "blow out" the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. Why create rivalry where there is none?

Yell leaders, you represent Texas A&M, and many people outside of A&M mold their perceptions about our University through your actions. As responsible student leaders, you should make sure that you are representing Texas A&M in the best way possible. After all, that's why you were selected, isn't it? Remember, you are yell leaders leading a school to victory, not generals leading a country into war.  
David Mendoza '88  
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

## BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed

