

# Reagan At Midterm: The Challenge Ahead

As we prepare to go to press, President Reagan is putting the finishing touches on his annual State of the Union message to Congress. At the mid-point of his term, the president faces challenges far greater and more urgent than those he faced upon taking office. The real challenge of the Reagan presidency began when the 98th Congress convened earlier this month.

In his address to the joint session of Congress, the president will, no doubt, point to the accomplishments of the first two years of his administration. He will point to lowered interest rates and inflation and progress in arms reduction negotiations in Geneva. The president is entitled to boast of the accomplishments his policies have achieved. Even his staunchest opponents in the Congress will concede that the president's economic policies have curbed inflation.

Detractors will point out that it was the recession, and not the administration's policies, which have brought down inflation to the lowest point since 1973. Although there are more Americans working now than at almost any time in our history, there are also more workers unemployed than at any time since the Great Depression.

The federal deficit is in the hundreds of billions of dollars, our Social Security system of benefits is on the brink of bankruptcy and 12 million American workers are without jobs. These are the challenges that face the president and the 98th Congress. Solutions to these problems will not come easy, but the challenge must be met. The way in which the president and Congress address these problems will affect America well into the next century. History will judge the Reagan administration and the 98th Congress by the manner in which they respond to these challenges.

## Go (Lady) Patriots!

Although it may bruise a few male egos, we don't mind admitting that the best basketball being played in these parts this winter is being performed by a group of young women who call themselves the Lady Patriots.

We don't understand why they aren't just the Patriots, but we're thankful no one has suggested calling them the Patriotettes.

The Lady Patriots are currently atop the standings with a record of 10-1. Any doubts about the squad's talent were erased by Monday's win over Big MAC leader Erwin High School. The Madison High girls were in control throughout the contest, dealing the Squaws (not the Lady Warriors) their second defeat of the season. Madison became the only school to defeat Erwin twice this season.

The best thing about the Lady Patriots, to this observer, is not the talents of any one outstanding player. Although it is certainly true that the team's center, Tammy Brown, is a powerful rebounder and Denise Thomason is a deadly outside shooter, neither girl dominates

play. The Lady Patriots are a fine team, with emphasis on team. Along with Brown and Thomason, the team features the defense of Teresa Norris, the sure ball-handling of Robin Frisby the inside shooting of Amy Knisely and a strong benchful of reserves.

When one facet of the Lady patriot attack lags, another comes forward to save the game. On any given night, any of the starting five may be the leading scorer.

Assists are an underestimated statistic in basketball. The point scorers and rebounders grab all the headlines. In Monday night's contest, Denise Thomason not only lead the team in scoring with 18 points, but she also assisted on at least half a dozen other baskets scored by her teammates.

Coach Ricky McDevitt has put together a fine group of athletes and taught them to work as a team. We think they can go all the way to the state championship. Whether they can do it remains to be seen, but win or lose, they're winners in our book.

## Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



### WELL, I "BATTED" .500

Last week I predicted the Dallas Cowboys would eke out a victory over the Washington Redskins Saturday in the NFC finals. Final score: Redskins, 31; Cowboys, 17.

Well, I didn't say I WANTED the Cowboys to win. I just thought that Tom Landry's team, which had defeated the Redskins twice during the regular season, was more experienced and a bit stronger. When I picked the Cowboys to win, I didn't know that Danny White, star quarterback and punter, plus being the leader of the team, would be injured and unable to play the second half.

Like Jimmy the Greek, and the majority of the so-called "experts," I was wrong. This wrong pick gave me a zero percentage. I never claimed I was an expert. Some friends said they agreed with me while others said I was dumb.

However, my stock rose when the Miami Dolphins defeated the N.Y. Jets Sunday 14-0 for the AFC championship. I had picked the Dolphins to win. The game was played in the Orange Bowl in pouring rain on a soggy field. The Dolphin defense, best in the AFC, was brilliant, led by A.J. Duhe, great linebacker. Don Shuler's team is hard to beat. They had twice defeated the Jets during the regular season. This correct prediction gave me a percentage of .500.

So it will be the Washington Redskins vs. the Dolphins next Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Super Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

I'm going out on the limb again and predict the Redskins will defeat the Dolphins. (however, I have my fingers crossed).

### MOUNT OLIVE CHOIR FINE

The Mount Olive Choir, of Mars Hill, presented a SERVICE IN SONG Sunday morning at the First Baptist Church here. The choir was composed of eight women and two men, plus a pianist. Manuel Brisco was the director. The sanctuary was almost filled, including several members of the Presbyterian Church, who worshipped with us, due to furnace trouble. The program was enjoyed by all those present.

### LOCAL MEMORIES

I'll mention a few "Old-Timer" items which many people still remember around Marshall:

Do you remember when local fishermen enjoyed fishing off the Upper Bridge leading to the cotton mill?

And....

Local men and boys walked down to "Rocky" below Marshall to swim in the river almost every day.

Many local students would run down the hill from the Marshall school behind the courthouse and run back up the hill in time for afternoon classes in order to eat lunch at home.

Nearly every Sunday afternoon (and also on Saturdays) youngsters would play football on the large lot next to the railroad just below Main Street on the Redmon road.

When the movie theater on Main Street was crowded at night and many stores remained open for business. In addition to movies, there was various entertainment in the theater including beauty pageant and boxing bouts.

"The Mad Musicians," a local band, would give "concerts" at night from the former News-Record office's mezzanine floor. Ping-Pong matches and boxing bouts were held in the newspaper's top story. And tap dancing lessons were held there under the expertise of Beale Fletcher. Maria Fletcher was a student who later became Miss America.

Baseball, not softball, was the leading sport during the summer.

And a Marshall businessman gave his wife \$500 to get her hair "bobbed."

A local policeman, in order to stop speeding on Main Street, put down a board with nails in it on the street. The plan worked, too.

Marshall's chained rock on the mountain near the courthouse was the main identity by outsiders of the town. Rumors spread that if the chian should break, the town would be demolished.

The Marshall Businessmen's Club had letterheads which read: "The town that is a mile long, street wide, sky high and hell deep." The letterhead also read: "Where businessmen slide down to work on the seat of their pants."

And, according to Ripley's column, Marshall had more business, for its population, than any town in the United States.

I can remember many more interesting facts of how things used to be, but guess I'd better put out my close on this line for now.

## Letters To The Editor Policy

The News Record welcomes letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, letters must be signed and the writer's address and telephone number, if available, must be enclosed. The News Record will not publish letters that are

unsigned. Letters must also contain no libelous statements. Third party letters will not be published. Letters should be kept shorter than 1,500 words.

## Your Elected Representatives

### In Raleigh . . . .

Governor James B. Hunt  
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

State Senator Robert S. Swain  
Rt. 5 Box 1112  
Gashes Creek Rd.  
Asheville, N.C. 28804

State Senator Dennis Winner  
67 Stratford Rd.  
Asheville, N.C. 28804

State Rep. Liston B. Ramsey  
P.O. Box 337  
Marshall, N.C. 28753

State Rep. Charles Beall  
Rt. 3 Box 322  
Clyde, N.C. 28721

### In Washington . . .

Senator Jesse A. Helms  
4213 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John East  
5107 Dirksen Seante Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman James Clarke  
Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515



## Steve Ferguson

### Service With A Smile

First of all, I'd like to thank my "pinch hitting" ghost writer who sat in for me last week. I'm considering a lawsuit for plagiarism since he used my name, but my lawyer says its bad publicity. "Where's your sense of humor?" he says.

This week, I will attempt to clear up the ridiculous stereotype of the wimpy desk clerk at a motel. Mainly because I'm one (minus the wimpy, of course).

I work at an Inn here in Madison County, but I can't tell you where because I'm not supposed to mention Wolf Laurel's name. You wouldn't believe the hassles we go through just trying to answer the phone. Here are my favorite examples of calls I get all the time.

Example 1: "Good evening,

Wolf Laurel." "Is this Wolf Laurel?"

Example 2: "Good evening, Wolf Laurel." "Is it going to be snowing on March the 9th?"

Example 3: "Good evening, Wolf Laurel." "Can you give me the ski conditions at Beech?"

Example 4: "Good evening, Wolf Laurel." "Hey, you're not going to believe this, but some fool here told me this was a dry county! Ha ha ha ha!"

Example 5: "Good evening, Wolf Laurel." "Is there going to be school tomorrow?"

The list goes on. My all time favorite call is the one I get on a busy Friday night when 275 people are staying at the Inn, the mountain has 200 employees working furiously, there are 500 people on the ski

slopes and hundreds of cabin residents scattered across the resort, and this guy has the nerve to call up and ask: "Is Pete there?" And I'm supposed to know who Pete is.

And there are hard to please customers. Service with a smile is my motto, so when he asks for extra towels, I get 'em. He wants his TV adjusted, I adjust it. He wants his pillow fluffed, I fluff it. He asks for a newspaper, I bring it. But there is only so much a patient desk clerk can put up with. He asks for change, so I shoot him. I have my pride, you know.

I have to pick a little bit on the boss, too. She occasionally consults me for advice, even if it means calling me at home. "Steve, the motel is on fire!"

"Just tell the guests we're

having an in-room weinie roast." or:

"Steve, we've been robbed!"

"Don't worry, the IRS deducts for robberies."


or:

"Steve, TV 13 is here taking pictures."

"Hold everything! I'll be right there!"

Yes, being a motel desk clerk is more than just a job: it's an adventure. I've been a referee to break up fights, a daddy to lost little children, a ski instructor to Floridians, and a Daniel Boone to keep the fireplace going. You see, it's not the shy, tender little guy you see on television.

Now if you'll excuse me, it means calling me at home. I've got to go find my toupee and my wire-framed glasses. I've got to go to work, you know.



## THE NEWS RECORD

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## Living And Growing

By CARL MUMPOWER  
MSW  
"IMPOTENCE"

Last week, we looked at this topic from the male perspective. This go round, it's the lady's turn. Yes, that's right, there is such a thing as female impotency. The term may not be technically correct, but the concept is. Some women have very real problems when it comes to an inability to develop and maintain sexual interest.

The first question might be, what are some examples of female impotency? A flagging interest in sexual involvement may be one. An inability to lubricate might be another. Difficulty relaxing and achieving an orgasm might be still another. As with men, problems in these areas on an occasional basis are normal. It becomes an issue for exploration when a pattern of consistent problems in one or more of these areas develops.

Again, as with men, these types of sexual difficulty are most often emotionally rather than physically based. That doesn't mean you shouldn't get the latter checked out, only that you are probably dealing with affairs of the heart and mind instead of a mechanical breakdown in the machinery.

When we are talking about emotionally-based female impotency, we are not talking about frigidity. Men may too

that term around to dump her spouse or intimate partner is going to feel more emotionally and physically responsive. And there is the key. Emotions and physical intimacy are partners. With the vast majority of women, both are necessary components of sexual interest and receptiveness.

If there's a breakdown in sexual responsiveness of the types mentioned earlier, it may women who feel loved, cared for, and appreciated by

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