

## Straight Talk



(Straight Talk appears Sunday and Wednesdays in The Leader. It is a forum for readers to comment on activities in the community. The Leader reserves the right not print libelous comments or ones that are not in good taste. Also, all calls are subject to editing to remove redundant wording. Those who make calls are asked to keep their comments as short as possible.)

### Teachers

In response to "Teachers" printed May 30, I think you hit the matter on the head when you said you

worked 8 hours a day, five days a week. I would like you to consider a teacher's day: 7:30 report for bus duty (even if not for duty you must be present if the kids are there); 8-noon classes; noon lunch (maybe 15 minutes, the little monsters are still present and must be supervised); 1-3:30 classes; and 3:30-3:45 bus duty. But I don't want you to think the teacher's day ends there. There are teacher meetings once a week after classes that can last as little as an hour or as much as two hours. There are occasional teacher-parent meetings. There are always homework assignments to grade, tests to make out, tests to grade, daily planners to be made out a week in advance outlining the scheduled assignments for the upcoming week. This has to be turned in to the administration each week and reviewed between teacher and principal. (Remember now, this is all being done after class hours.) My experience as a teacher's daughter leads me to now that most teachers put in 12 hour days. And 12-hour days for 8 months (your figure) using 22 workdays per month is 2,112 hours per year. Your 8-hour days and 40-hour weeks for 50 weeks (two weeks vacation don't forget) is only 2,000 hours a year. That is 112 hours less than the average teacher. Now, let's face the facts of life — everyone wants more money. Including yourself. Everyone feels like there are worth more than they are being paid. And we are all always trying to better our situations. Let's address the quality aspect. Teachers are professionals. You say your kids are not being

taught anything? Look at why. Quality teachers are being drawn away from the market because of the money. Anyone who has the intelligence to be a teacher, the perseverance to graduate from college, could graduate from any number of fields. Why should they choose a field where their highest aspirations could only be \$18,000 or so (and that is after a number of years) when they could enter the market (with that same degree) at a job starting at \$18,000. Yes, good quality teachers are leaving the market and yes education is slipping, life is better elsewhere. Quality

profession so he could make a lucrative income, I feel that teachers are entitled to about everything they can get and more.

### Thanks

I would like to thank the city administration for getting the arrows painted on the street at Adams Boulevard and West California. Traffic flow there is much smoother now. And also I'd like to thank The Leader for providing this column as a service to our community.

### Cleanup

I am a mother of a ballplayer who plays for Ruston Dixie Baseball, and I feel that the spectators who come to these games ought to pick up their Coke cups, candy wrappers, dirty Pampers and whatever and put them in the trash and not wait until the boys are through playing ball at 9:30 or 10 o'clock and let them do it for them. So please, put your trash in the trash bags, not on the ground. Thank you.

### Indy Jones

This is to the people who went to see "Indiana Jones" and didn't like it: As for the Satan worship, you'll notice that good won out in the end and Satan worship was defeated. So try to watch the movie more closely.

My father and I went to see "Indiana Jones," a movie about a boy, a man and a woman who had to find a sacred stone in this temple, where they were sacrificing. I think it was a very good movie, and I'd like people to watch it and see what they think. That's all.

## Letters to the Editor

### ESA Zeta Rho chapter thanks support

#### Editor:

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Ruston community for its support during our 1984 Epsilon Sigma Alpha state convention. The theme for the convention was "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" to tie in to Ruston's Centennial.

The Holiday Inn was most accommodating and helpful throughout the convention. The Chamber of Commerce provided much support before and during the convention. The mayor's office responded with keys to the city for convention chairmen.

Many businesses provided various items for the tote bags that were given out at registration. Merchants gave very nice door prizes and money. Even "Alabama," who were staying at the Holiday Inn, donated two T-shirts.

We borrowed flag stands from the VFW for the weekend. Cook Baptist Church allowed us to borrow their Christian Flag.

Ruston has the atmosphere of southern hospitality and really responded with this hospitality during the 1984 ESA convention.

Thanks to everyone who helped us put on a great convention.

Sincerely yours,  
Zeta Rho Chapter  
Epsilon Sigma Alpha

### If greed continues everyone will end up with nothing

#### Editor:

My concern about Louisiana's public schools has now increased to frightening proportions. To think that our children are being left under the care of a group who are as immature and childish as the teachers who gathered around the Capitol two weeks ago.

With all respect to the good teachers, I wonder, is this any example for our youngsters? Screaming like spoiled children, "We want a raise, NOW"? Well, I want a raise, too, but I have to wait until my work is up to par before I get one. All the tantrums and bellyaching in the world won't get me more money.

Just because Edwards promised them money to buy their votes is no reason why I should be taxed and taxed again to give them this totally unmerited pay raise. When will it stop? Will every candidate for governor promise the state workers and teachers pay raises to get their votes?

Just remember, someone has to pay for these raises and it's going to be you and me. Someone is spreading a myth that it's okay to tax businesses because "they make all the money". Well, I have a small business and I'd be happy to make what teachers and state workers

make with as many benefits and holidays and as little responsibility.

Keep in mind that the majority of businesses are small businesses, and small businesses employ the majority or the workers. If we continue taxing the businesses, consumer prices will rise, fewer new jobs will be created and unemployment will result. Then we'll have even less tax revenue than ever.

We must recognize that it's the young adults and small businesses who need a break, not teachers and state workers. If this insane greed for more money and more free benefits continues, we'll all end up with nothing.

"You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong."

Suzanne Broussard Whatley  
555 Spanish Town Road  
Baton Rouge

### Recall petition circulated against EWE

#### Editor:

Time is now, for the tax-paying citizens of Louisiana to have our say in the choice we have for the Governor of our great state.

A petition is now being circulated to recall our recent elected governor and replace with someone who will represent all the citizens of the state and not just a selected few.

It seems that our recent elected governor may have received his majority votes by making commitments to the voters that he could no way fulfill without the moral and financial support of the taxpayers in which he did not have.

Why did the governor have to spend \$14.5 million? Was it in order to tell the taxpaying citizens, he would be a much more efficient governor and that the state would be in a much better position with his presence or was it in order to blindfold the tax-paying citizens, to some of the special interest deals where millions of dollars of tax money, yours and mine was spent to improve privately owned property during his previous administration.

After Edwards and his "fat cats" stated that they had spent \$14.5 million plus to get a job that legally pays about \$292,000 for a period of four years (about \$50 for each legal \$1, it would pay) we were convinced that they would have to have a tremendous cash flow through the state treasury in order to remember the "fat cats", and fulfill the commitments made during

his campaign for election.

In order to raise billions of dollars, yours and mine, to fulfill some of the wild promises made during his campaign for election, our "dictator" governor called a very expensive special session of the Legislature.

We are concerned that we may be able to improve our state government by a change. At least we have the opportunity to try by signing the recall petition that is being circulated now, throughout the state, one thing for sure we can't do any worse.

E.S. Roark  
West Monroe

Leo W. (Bill) Wroten  
Farmerville

### Resident says Tip O'Neill needs to be investigated

#### Editor:

I think a special prosecutor should be appointed to investigate Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. for his sleazy activities. The following are only a few.

He and other House members spent Congress Easter recess 1983 in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan. While there, he was an embarrassment to the delegation by some of his remarks to Chinese leaders regarding relations with Taiwan. Later, members of the delegation had to explain to the officials that O'Neill did not speak for Congress or the Democrats on the issue. This could be confirmed by contacting Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wisc.

There is a building being built in Boston in the House Speaker's home district that could wind up costing the taxpayers a quarter of a billion dollars. To quote William Clinkscales GSU director of oversight "the structure is unneeded and uneconomical". The building is known locally as "Tip's Tower" because it was pushed through by the House Speaker for his home district.

For someone who is constantly criticizing the President for the large national debt, he has done little to curb his spending. For example, \$31,949 for his chauffeur of his Lincoln to carry him to and from work.

Graig E. Hammett  
1303 Sherwood Drive  
Ruston

My comment is about the movie "Indiana Jones." I'm so glad that I wasn't the only one who felt that way about the movie. That was one of the sickest movies I have ever seen supposed to be for children. I was ashamed that I even went to the movie, especially after they were sent. In part of the movie, they were trying to force Indiana Jones to drink blood, and in doing so they were telling that the Hebrew god would fall, and they would all worship his god. Right then and there I started praying for forgiveness for ever going to the movie. I am so disappointed that anything like that would be a movie, especially when you're dealing with children. And to see what children were put in in the movie itself, it was sickening. I wish something could be done about the movie.

## Ten Years Ago

Forestry industry history in northern Louisiana was represented by Rustonian Davis Hunt as president of the Southern Forest Products Association in its 60th annual convention in New Orleans. His father, Alex T. Hunt Sr., was a past president of the Association as well as of the Southern Pine Association. A native of Arkansas, Alex Hunt Sr. was himself the son of a lumberman and married into a Louisiana lumber family when he wedded Alverne Davis. The Hunt Lumber Company, which which Davis Hunt was vice-president, became affiliated with Willamette Industries of Oregon to bring the plywood industry to Lincoln Parish in conjunction with the J.T. James Corporation.

No-fault automobile insurance was being debated in the legislature in Baton Rouge. Strong support was being given to a bill that would have provided for compulsory first-party self-insurance in a \$15,000 package to take care of medical expense and economic loss. No-fault coverage for property damage was omitted in the bill as experience in other states had shown it to be subject to abuse. Ultimately, Louisiana settled for optional add-on self-insurance against damages caused by uninsured drivers, which in other states was made compulsory. The Louisiana House rejected a bill to allow DWI second offenders to keep their drivers licenses if they could show they needed their car to drive to work.

President Richard Nixon, under increasing pressure from the Watergate investigating committee to deliver White House tapes that might show just when and how he first learned of an attempted cover-up, was being defended by the New Orleans Times-Picayune. Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski asked the federal courts to reject claims of executive privilege in the face of what he said was "circumstantial and direct evidence" that major contributors to the Nixon reelection campaign in 1972 had been promised federal jobs in return for their gifts. Former Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew, who had already resigned under pressure, agreed to repay the government eleven hundred dollars for the \$175,000 worth of improvements that had been made to his private home at government expense.

James Earl Ray, confessed assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, sitting in solitary confinement on a 99-year sentence claimed that he had pleaded guilty only because he had been coerced into doing so.

## Heritage:

### President Reagan's trip to Ireland traces family roots

By HELEN THOMAS  
UPI White House Reporter

Nancy Reagan was on the telephone with her son Ronald several times to discuss her trip to Ireland before the presidential journey.

He wrote a magazine article in Signature after his trip to Ireland on his father's family tree. He preceded his father on a search for their Irish roots to Ballyporeen in County Tipperary and met people his parents are looking up on their tour, particularly Father Eanna Condon who is an expert at explaining the local lore.

Sheila Tate, the first lady's press secretary, said that Mrs. Reagan remembers the first time the family took a trip to Ireland. Their son Ron was 12 and had more interest in seeing Mohammed Ali box in Dublin than in tracing the family's heritage.

The Reagan's daughter Patti has not set a date for her wedding. But the betting is that she will definitely not march down the aisle in the White House.

"She'll regret it some day," said one of the first lady's aides.

That's the stuff that White House history is made

### Backstairs at the White House

of, not to mention the vicarious enjoyment of the rest

When President Reagan went to the "Little Sisters of the nation for some of the spectacle.

Crack CBS television cameraman Jerry Adams will be filled with some harrowing memories when he returns to the Normandy beaches to celebrate the 40th anniversary of D-Day, marking the allied invasion of Europe. This time he will be going with the president of the United States.

The first time was in 1944 at the age of 19 when he parachute-dropped with his buddies in the 101st airborne behind the Nazi lines.

Adams, who has been with CBS for 19 years, was wounded in the war. A lot of his friends did not survive the longest day.

of the Poor" on Mother's Day to visit the elderly, he did not go empty handed.

While he was at the home, the president wrote a check for \$500 as a charitable contribution.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan told reporters it would be difficult to estimate next year's deficit until he knew the outcome of the November election.

"Do you have any doubt?" he was asked.

"Not me," he replied.

Nancy Reagan's appearances on television with Joyce Nalepka, president of the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, stimulated hundreds of telephone calls from around the country, from parents who want to organize local chapters, said Sheila Tate, the first lady's press secretary. She said that there were 236 telephone calls the first two hours after one program was aired, and the same number in the same time after the second in the series of five broadcasts.

When the Reagans return from their 10-day European swing, they will hit the deck running. They will have a "fish fry" in the backyard for members

of Congress, a state dinner in honor of the president of Sri Lanka and they will make a side trip to New York.

When they returned from China they took a few days off to rest at Camp David from the grueling journey. But the president's tour of Ireland, England and a few hours at Normandy is not expected to be as taxing and he has some breathing space in between the events.

He also has become more used to summitry and will be meeting familiar faces on the trip, having met most of the leaders in Washington and at previous summit meetings.

The European jaunt will be Reagan's last trip abroad this year, barring a summit meeting with Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko and that does not seem to be in the cards, considering the chilly atmosphere between the two superpowers.

The president showed off his prowess by lifting weights and taking a few punches at a punching bag on his trip to Colorado Springs, Colo., where he visited the U.S. Olympics Training Center.

He also showed his stamina by standing in the hot sun for two hours while diplomas were being handed out to the cadets graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.