

Von Hoffman

Angela Davis has been off touring Russia, collecting heroine medals and telling her adoring audiences that without the weight of Soviet public opinion she would never have beaten her murder-kidnapping conspiracy rap. Judging from the reports, she's not whipping up popular support for her erstwhile co-defendant, Ruchell McGee.

Lacking a sexy Afro and the other apurtenances of glamor, McGee remains the neglected loner he was on August 7, 1970, when Jonathan Jackson tried to liberate him and two other black convicts from a Marin County (Calif.) courtroom. Jackson, the judge and two of the cons lost their lives.

Yet, McGee the survivor, the quietly ferocious man is more compelling and interesting than the radical super star. It is he, not she, who poses the hard questions of our system of justice.

William F. Buckley Jr. and Nicholas Von Hoffman don't agree. You don't have to ask what they don't agree about—they just don't agree. That's good. The only common ground they seem to have is that both appear in the Emerald.

Bill Buckley represents the right—to say the least. He uses big words and long sentences but when he says something you know just where he stands on that particular issue.

Nicholas Von Hoffman is the resident left-winger at the Washington Post. He has a rare talent for cutting through to the truth of the situation even though some people would like to keep the truth clouded.

Both Buckley and Von Hoffman provide articulate opinions on the issues we all face today. You may not like either or both of them but they will set you to thinking.

Read Buckley and Von Hoffman in the Emerald.

Buckley

MIAMI BEACH — Ronald Reagan delivered what was in effect the keynote address at the Republican convention. It had everything. It ranked with the great performances of Walter Judd in 1960 and Clare Boothe Luce in 1948. It did cause listeners here and again to wince: and that is an interesting psychological datum.

An influential supporter of George McGovern, who greatly admired the professional performance, commented wryly that a few more such speeches were exactly what McGovern now needs. He had in mind the toughness of Mr. Reagan's criticism. What Reagan said, in effect, was that McGovern is an addeleated incompetent who emits little moonbeams that cause some of the children and the zoo sections of the academy to howl, but there is meanwhile a world to run and what it comes down to is that it is an act of great impudence for George McGovern so to distract the republic.

All-sided commentary