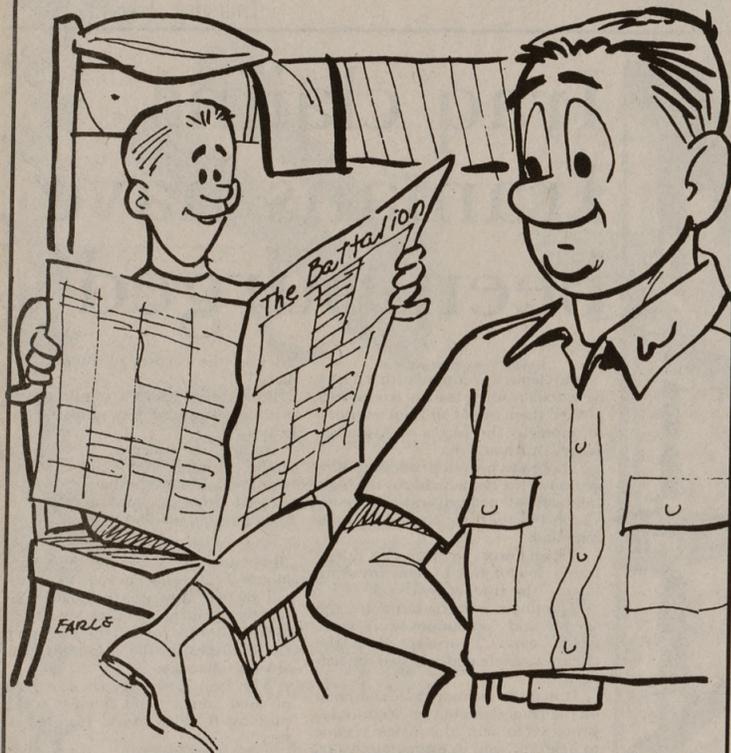


Slouch By Jim Earle



"I wonder what the attitude toward walking on the grass would be if oil was discovered under the MSC?"

One small dividend for man or military?

by Art Buchwald

When Neil Armstrong landed on the lunar surface many moons ago, and said: "One small step for a man; one giant leap for mankind," I'll have to admit I was worried. I couldn't believe that the United States would invest all that brainpower and money just to find out what made the universe tick.

I recall turning to my wife, or somebody like her, and saying, "There's got to be a military dividend in all this."

My wife, or whoever it was, is a romantic by nature. "Why does there always have to be a military dividend in everything?" she demanded. "Why can't we use scientific achievements for peace instead of war?"

"We could if THEY would," I told her. "There is only one reason the Soviets want to get into space and that's so they can conquer us on earth."

"So, why did Neil Armstrong just say what he did?"

"Because the military never tells anyone the real reason they send someone up in a rocket. If they had Armstrong say: 'One small killer satellite for a man; one giant killer satellite for mankind,' it would have just tipped off the Russians we knew they were going to use the sky for military purposes. This way they think we just landed on the moon because no human on earth had ever done it before."

"Maybe we do plan to use space exploration for peace," my wife said.

"Women live in a dream world. Even if that was its original purpose, no military establishment worth its salt would ignore the opportunities of space for waging all-out war. Just think, in our lifetime there will be weapons poised up in the heavens aimed at any target on the globe. Man, by

just pressing a button, will be able to send them hurtling down on us at the speed of light."

"Is that your dream world?" she asked.

"Of course not. But we have to face reality. The nation that dominates space will dominate the world. Do you think we're going to continue to spend billions of dollars on a program which doesn't have any strategic defensive value? We're not idiots. Mark my words. In a few years from now we're going to send up a space shuttle with a tiny military package in it. Then the Soviets are going to send one up with a larger military package. Then we're going to send one up even bigger than a bread box. And before you know it, the only thing that will be allowed on space vehicles will be military equipment."

"Hip-hip-hooray," my wife said.

"Of course we won't use ours unless they use theirs. We don't want to start a war. We just want to deter one. What better deterrent than a satellite bristling with atomic weapons flying over the Soviet Union every 24 hours. It might finally bring about the dream for peace that all mankind has been waiting for. Once we have parity in the heavens, we can all sleep better on earth."

"So that's what you think this space program is all about?"

"They many not have had it in mind when they started it. But now that we know what we can do in space, we've got to make it pay off militarily, or it won't make any scientific sense."

And so the other day when I watched the space shuttle land, and knew the tiny military package on board was safe, I, like all Americans, breathed a sigh of relief.

I said to my wife, or whoever was with me: "Fasten your seat belt, baby. It's a whole new ball game."

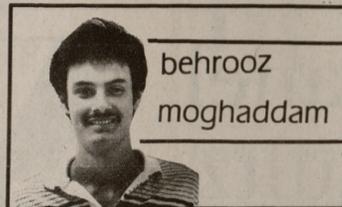
East-West pipeline and Poland

The United States administration of Ronald Reagan has extended its ban on the use of American technology in the construction of the Euro-Soviet pipeline. Officially, the President's objective is to pressure Moscow vis-a-vis Poland. That the gesture is symbolically noble is indisputable. However, that the practical effects are constructive is at best doubtful.

For a variety of reasons, since World War II, of all the eastern European satellite states, Poland has been the most indispensable to the Kremlin's security needs. Historically a popular route for invading armies, Poland for centuries has posed a military dilemma to the Russian state. World War II was the last war in which Polish territory served the role of a springboard for western armies moving against the eastern giant; the Kremlin is determined not to allow a repeat performance.

A less dependent Poland would also threaten Soviet interests insofar as the potential for a domino effect of liberation movements enveloping eastern Europe would substantially increase. The American equivalent can be found in Reagan's preoccupation with the Communist menace in Central America.

Now, add to this two more sensitive ingredients and the Polish/Soviet picture is nearly complete. First, next to the USSR, Poland is the largest military force



behrooz moghaddam

in the Warsaw Pact. And secondly, perhaps more importantly, following Russian annexation of Polish territory in World War II, the Red Army's persecution of Polish nationalists during the war, and finally Stalin's installation of a totalitarian communist regime, the Poles have unequivocally developed the most anti-Soviet taste in eastern Europe.

The effect of all the evidence is unswerving Soviet intransigence wherever Poland is concerned. No American demands or policies, short of war, will be heard in the Red Square. Rather, I think the reverse is more likely. As more and more public attention is directed at Polish independence movements in the west, the greater the Soviet paranoia will be. Paradoxically, the outcome may well be less freedom for the Poles and heightened Kremlin scrutiny and control over the Polish government — both part of an attempt to preclude the resurgence of

Solidarity or similar domestic movements for not only Poland but all of Europe if cautious diplomacy is to replace the frightening (to the public) outbursts. The present pipeline is an example of the latter. In the meantime, relations between the United States and her major ally at a new low. The latter are offering American lectures on the risks of dependence on Russian natural gas, particularly when that gas will satisfy more than five percent of their overall needs. And they are angry as the nation's policy threatens needed jobs at a time of high unemployment in all of western Europe.

The end result has been to put against the Soviet/Western economic alliance. And, as national intensifies in the allied capitals, solve to complete the pipeline and fight a war of economics and if necessary is stronger than ever. In summary, for all practical purposes the administration's policy has been ineffectual but counterproductive. Poland is as repressed as ever, if not so, while the alliance is strained to its limits.

I do not mean to suggest the ought to forsake the Polish cause simply that this particular pipeline in fact facilitate its end.



Letter: Middle East history important

Editor:

Terry Duran's explanation of the word terrorism in the context of the middle East conflict leaves one with the distinct impression that the columnist knows little or nothing about the history of the conflict. Did it ever occur to you Mr. Duran, to do some research on how Israel was created and why the Palestinians are fighting it? Have you ever heard of the Stern and Irgan gangs or the Gier Yassin village massacre and the King David Hotel bombing?

Until 1948, Palestine had an overwhelming Arab Muslim-Christian majority composed mainly of poor uneducated farmers who had heard nothing about the Zionist dream of a homeland for the Jews until it came knocking down their doors and blowing up their homes. Scared and confused, they ran with nothing but the clothes on their backs and whatever they could carry in their hands. The Palestine Liberation Organization, whom you simplistically write off as a bunch of terrorists, are none other than the sons and daughters of the aforementioned farmers, now much better educated than their fathers ever were and more able to demand their rights as a free people.

After waiting 20 years begging for justice first from the United Nations and then from the country that portrays itself as the guardian of the "free world," they got nothing but a few tents, blankets and

a suggestion that they make do without their homeland. Today, the Palestinians are a dispersed but well-educated and motivated people, 60 of them attend this University, and many more attend universities in almost every country in the world. Ask any one of them and they will tell you that the PLO is the vanguard of the Palestinian people's struggle. The tactics of the PLO are merely the tactics they learned from the Zionists, who first used these same tactics to take Palestine in the first place. And the Israeli army, (not a task force, as you suggest, but an

army of close to 60,000 troops), presently surrounding Beirut is led and controlled by the same man who made terrorism fashionable in the middle East.

Finally, bear in mind that destroying Arab cities and slaughtering Arabians en-masse will only intensify the Palestinian struggle and increase the price of retribution from the Israelis — all who support them.

Nabil Al-Khouri
Class of '82

the small society

by Brickm

HOO-BOY!
EVERY TIME
I GO
SHOPPING...

I GET THAT UNDERPAID,
OVERCHARGED FEELING -



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The Battalion

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Columns and guest editorials are also 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 (713) 845-2611.

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