

Dick West

Spending a day with Coolidge, Fillmore

By DICK WEST
United Press International
WASHINGTON — Coming up next week is an NBC-TV special called "A Day With President Carter." It should help slake the curiosity of folks who have been wondering what it is a president does all day.
Mainly, however, documentaries such as this make us regret that television wasn't invented sooner.
If video tapes were available, the

network could intersperse "A Day With President Carter" with excerpts from "A Day With President Coolidge," "A Day With President Fillmore," and maybe "A Day With President Pierce."
Then we would be able to see how life in the White House has changed over the years. If it has changed. The best way to show the comparison probably would be through the split screen technique.
For example, one side of the

screen could show Carter doing whatever he does in the afternoons. Meanwhile, on the other side, we would see Calvin Coolidge taking a nap.
Coolidge, by some accounts, was one of the most ardent nap-takers ever to occupy the executive mansion. Did his nick-name "Silent Cal" apply when he was napping?
That is the sort of thing people thirst to know about their presidents — and is the type of question

that television documentaries answer so well.
"A Day With President Arthur" also would be ideal for television.
Although modern presidents are pictured as going full tilt from morning til night, Arthur apparently had some trouble keeping busy. Thus his day would have left a lot of time for commercials.
Historians tell us that for the sake of appearances he kept an "in" basket filled with presidential-looking documents. Whenever he was expecting visitors, his secretary would bring the papers into his office so Arthur could impress them with his involvement in government affairs and decision-making.
It is, however, "A Day With President Hayes" that would have offered television its most golden opportunity.
When 19th Century presidents traveled around the country, it was not unusual for enterprising promoters to rope them into product endorsements. Hayes was among the more gullible in that regard.
Once during a visit to Philadelphia, he and Mrs. Hayes appeared in an advertisement that pictured them discussing Mrs. Potts Cold Handle Iron.
Imagine what television would have done with willing souls of that nature.
Because she refused to serve alcoholic beverages, Mrs. Hayes was known as "Lemonade Lucy" which would have been a perfect commercial tie-in for the Florida Citrus Producers Association.
With the First Lady stirring up a pitcher of the stuff and the President delivering a spiel about the glories of lemon juice, it could have been bigger than Anita Bryant.

Gays seek social recognition

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try are asking for — sometimes demanding — equal treatment under the law and freedom from discrimination in employment, housing and social contact.
Goldstein attributes the changing status of gay organizations to a heavy dissemination of information by the media and gay rights organizations, discussions on TV, newspaper articles, and even rap sessions with the clergy on Sunday morning radio.
The results of this mass education have been small but noticeable.

ments have enacted some form of gay civil rights protection.
In January of this year, Miami became the first major southern metropolis to pass gay rights protections, prohibiting discrimination against gays in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations.
Opposition to the measure was heavy and was led by Anita Bryant, of orange juice fame. Local gay activists were angered by Bryant's vocal opposition even to the point of trying to organize a national boycott of Florida orange juice.
Despite growing acceptance of homosexuals, most states still have some form of prohibition of sexual relations between members of the same sex. Legal sexual activity is usually confined to heterosexual intercourse within the course of marriage.
Although many attempts have been made to legalize homosexual marriages, the courts still refuse to recognize such a union.
Goldstein listed four different views toward homosexuality that are prevalent in today's laws:
— 1) Homosexual acts performed

in private by consenting adults without force or coercion should not be the concern of the law or law enforcement agencies.
— 2) Homosexual acts must be punished severely by strong laws.
— 3) Laws should be available but should not prosecute severely. In a society where religious and political integrity is weakened, laws are the only way society can express its frustration about behavior it deems unnatural.
— 4) Homosexuality is not crime but a sickness, and individuals performing such behavior should be hospitalized or incarcerated in mental institutions instead of jails.
Texas' laws against homosexuality are not actually put to work in the courts very often, according to Texas A&M student legal adviser Chris Kling.
"In Texas, homosexual conduct is a violation of the Texas Penal Code," Kling said. It is a Class "C" misdemeanor and carries a penalty of up to \$200 fine. No time in jail can be levied for the offense.
The law defines "homosexual conduct" as deviate sexual intercourse with a member of the same sex. "Deviate sexual intercourse" is further detailed as being contact between the genitals and the mouth of another person, Kling said.
He added that a bill had recently been introduced in the Texas legislature to eliminate the offense of homosexual conduct altogether.
"Nationwide, sexual attitudes are becoming more liberal," he said.
The increasing confidence of gay rights organizations is indicated by the increasing number of demonstrations and legal suits designed to acquire more rights for gays.
The suit recently filed by the Gay Student Services Organization (GSSO) at Texas A&M is a good example of this. A&M is being sued by the group for the right to become a university-recognized organization and for the right to use university facilities for meetings and other club activities.

Goldstein wrote that, as of April 1973, police surveillance of "gays" in San Francisco's bars and public toilets has markedly decreased. The New York Police Department ended "entrapment" of homosexuals and issued a statement requiring that the term "gay" be used in all official communications and reports in place of any derogatory names for the homosexually-oriented person.
In 1972, John Lindsay, then mayor of New York, issued an executive order forbidding anti-gay bias in municipal employment. Since then, roughly 40 city and county govern-

ments have enacted some form of gay civil rights protection.
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Ross links present to past U.S. policy

(Continued from Page 1.)
is in the process of change and whose needs and concerns are evolving.
"I believe that when the United States forms its new Latin American policy, it should reflect the realities of 1976 and not the persisting attitudes of the past" Ross said.
The United States must remember there are dangers when it treats Latin America as a totality without recognizing the great differences and variations that exist in this hemisphere, he said.

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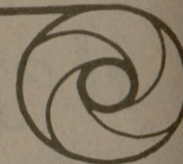
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Prof. J. Harvey Caddess, Dr. J. George Thompson, and Department Head Dr. Clifford M. Simmang will be honored April 23 at a dinner in the College Station Ramada Inn. To further honor these men, three endowed awards have been established to recognize outstanding mechanical engineering students.

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