

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Where is home of free & brave?

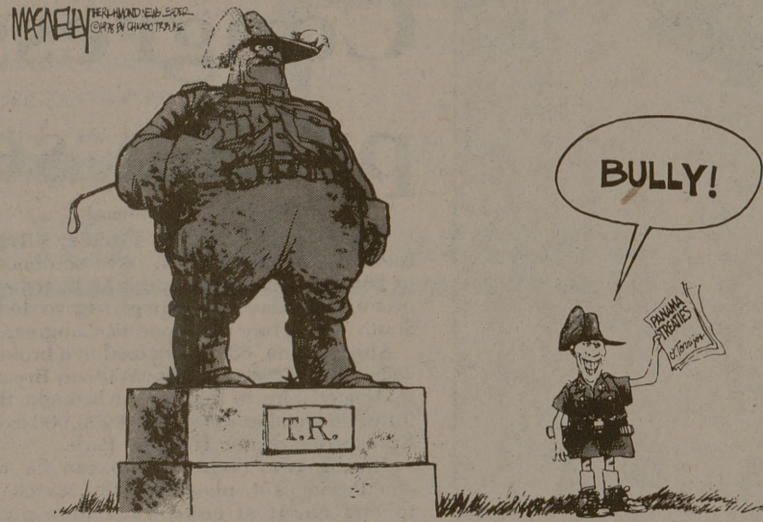
Now Mr. Carter has a diplomatic triumph, but it is a curious one. It seems once again Mr. Carter has buckled to the shim and fancy of a two-bit dictator. The passage of the Panama Canal treaties was heralded as the opening of a new era of relations between the U.S. and South America. The treaty was to be the start of a time of friendship, cooling of rhetoric, and of a partnership.

Readers Forum

Yet no sooner had the U.S. Senate completed action than General Torrijos started to live up to his reputation of being a "tin-horn dictator." Torrijos announced that not only was he prepared to seize the canal if the Senate went against him. But he also announced that the U.S. had no right to keep the canal open — in direct violation of the amended treaties — and his troops would uphold that right. They would do this by destroying the canal.

Of course Torrijos cannot be held fully to blame for the sad state of affairs we are in. During the ratification process Mr. Carter talked out of both sides of his mouth to get passage, trying on one hand to satisfy the Senate and on the other Torrijos. In doing so he made most of the United States rights under the treaty worthless.

Indeed the question of the treaties being in the best interest of this country is mute. For our "partner" refuses to respect even the words on them. However, what



should we have expected from one whose sense of honor and belief in the law is weak at best. Perhaps the only law Torrijos understands is a .45 automatic; that's how he came to power.

Mr. Carter said Gen. Torrijos was blowing off steam. This would fit the image of a small child who has just bullied his way. However, there is reason to believe that there is some bite to Torrijos's bark. Mr. Carter knew before the vote that Torrijos planned action against American forces in the Zone. Yet he continued to talk of the start of friendship. One can only wonder who was the biggest fool in this affair?

The question now is will Torrijos wait until the year 2000 as the treaties specify? Or will he tire of waiting before then and

force the issue on a weak and tottering President?

Finally, what type of precedent does this set for our other negotiations? Mr. Carter is scrambling for a strategic arms limitation treaty. The Russians surely must think that all they need to do is continue stonewalling. Then based on precedent Mr. Carter will give in. At this time the same cries of how a SALT agreement must be ratified to keep the credibility of the administration will be heard from the White House.

What the United States and its hesitant leader must realize is that we are the free world's leading power. That does not mean we must push others around or bully people. For a leader must command the

respect of his friends not through fear, but through admiration. It is only those who wish us or our friends ill who must fear us.

An analogy is that of a policeman. The U.S. is the senior partner patrolling the free world's beat. Today we have more help than 20 years ago. For example, West Germany and other countries are there to give assistance. But we are still the only country strong enough physically to lead. And as such the United States should not let a mugger in Panama or an Al Capone in Russia order and push us around. It sets a damaging precedent.

Sure that is a nationalistic stand. The facts of life are cold and hard to accept. But there is not and probably will not be another country who can protect our liberties or those of the free world.

It need not be left up to one's imagination to realize what would happen if the U.S. abandoned its role. That happened in the late 30s when a black-shirted, boot-stomping tyrant named Hitler was left alone by Great Britain and France. It is not hard to imagine what life, for even tiny Panama, would be like if we abandon our role.

That is what is truly alarming about the last few days events. We have given in to the threats of a dictator. As a nation we should never negotiate under a blatant threat or allow threats to deter our rights. If we do we are through not only as a free world's leader, but as the home of the free and the brave.

Oler is a junior political science major.

'Holocaust' — that none shall forget

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — It is always more encouraging to see a disease prevented than cured; to hear the affirmative used to answer the negative.

For that reason, despite sincere objections based on artistic merit or strict historical accuracy, NBC deserves credit for televising prime time to "Holocaust," the "docu-drama" that depicted the Nazi effort to murder all the Jews in Europe.

What was shown last Sunday through Wednesday began almost 40 years ago. The median age of the U.S. population in 1976 was 29 years. More than 100 million Americans have no personal recollections of the period when the maniac Adolf Hitler set off the frenzy of butchery that destroyed millions of human beings he proclaimed racially unfit or politically unacceptable to the New Order.

The argument is not that there is inherent merit in reminding people of that

time. Many people feel that compulsive dwelling on the horrors of the past serves no purpose except to perpetuate hate and bitterness.

Washington Window

But there is a constructive reason for showing "Holocaust" and, about the same time, the segment on the Nazi death camps broadcast by CBS' "60 Minutes."

The reason is that there is in this country a tiny but loud minority of arrested development cases who have discovered a way to get in the papers and on television. That is to dress up as reincarnated Nazis and to deify Hitler and his policies of genocide.

These stunted minds have attracted far more attention than their cause or their numbers merit. They do so by demanding the right to publicly celebrate Hitler's

birthdate (now past) by parading through a Chicago suburb heavily populated by Jews, and more significantly, by a relatively large number of survivors of the Nazi extermination program.

This demand has provoked an intense debate about the constitutional rights of Americans to espouse causes that offend other Americans, even to the extent of advocating the murder of fellow citizens.

Some debaters say what the American Nazis want to do is protected by the free speech guarantee of the First Amendment, no matter how gruesome the content of their message.

Opponents argue that the Nazis are expressing no opinions that require the protection of the First Amendment and in fact have forfeited their rights by inciting violence — shouting "fire" in a crowded theater, in the terms of Justice Holmes' opinion on the proper limitations of free speech.

Thus far, it appears the American Nazis

have the best of the legal argument. They may get to march in June — which in our win-conscious society might be taken by some to give credence to their point of view.

That is where the quality of response comes in. Some had hoped that they would lose their court cases and be restrained from parading. Others have suggested that the best thing to do is simply ignore the Nazis. But both of those solutions answer negativism with more of the same.

By depicting what happened in the late 1930s and 1940s in Europe, the television networks have shown just what it is that American Nazis want to glorify.

There really is no good reason to observe Hitler's birthday. But if some of our fellow Americans insist, NBC and CBS may have found the appropriate way to do it.

— V.S. Wulfson

Bus driver power

Editor:
This is in response to Mr. Fred Elbert's

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"YOU DON'T REALIZE HOW TOUGH IT IS BEING A GRADUATING SENIOR! YOU CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER TO BE OUT PLAYING OR STUDYING FOR FINALS!"

TOP OF THE NEWS

STATE

NASA contacts Skylab

Flight controllers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston prepared for a late-night radio rendezvous with the orbiting Skylab space station Monday, their second contact since the scientific mission ended four years ago. A radio command from mission control was relayed to the 25-mile high orbiting laboratory from a Madrid tracking station a few minutes after midnight Sunday and received an unexpected bonus when Skylab began transmitting data. If the craft is fully operable, NASA plans to order the 84-ton space station to change its orbit in late June or early July to decrease its drag in the very thin upper fringes of earth's atmosphere. That change is expected to keep the craft in orbit until the summer of 1980 when space shuttle astronauts may try to send the laboratory to a higher long-lasting orbit.

NATION

Space Congress opens

The three-day 5th Space Congress opens Wednesday at Cocoa Beach with Astronaut John Young, who was nominated to command the Space Shuttle's first orbital mission in 1979, among the speakers. Young is chief of the Astronaut Office at Houston's Johnson Space Center and is a veteran of space flights, two aboard Gemini spacecraft and two aboard Apollo spacecraft. Young will also take part along with astronauts Deke Slayton, Vance Brand and Joe Engle in a panel discussion Thursday night, moderated by Lee Schere, director of the Kennedy Space Center. Discussions will be held on space transport, technology transfer, energy, advanced technology and the future of space flight.

Satellite re-enters atmosphere

A non-nuclear Soviet satellite re-entered the earth's atmosphere Sunday and either burned up or fell into the ocean south of Africa, scientists said Monday. A spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command's Space Defense Center in Colorado Springs said the satellite, one of 4,550 orbiting the earth re-entered the earth's atmosphere about 6:30 p.m. CST Sunday. "There were no visual sightings so we don't know if any pieces of it came down in the ocean or not," said Capt. Tom Koch. "It is quite possible it burned up in the atmosphere." Officials originally estimated the satellite would have crashed somewhere north of Australia.

Vance returns from London talks

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance headed home to Washington Monday following a five-nation London conference that a U.S. spokesman said produced compromise proposals for the future of South Africa. Vance's return home marked the end of a 25,000-mile swing that took him to southern Africa, the Soviet Union and Europe. Vance made no statement on his trip, but an American spokesman said he and four other Western foreign ministers had agreed on compromise proposals for South West Africa, which is to become the independent nation of Namibia. Vance and the foreign ministers of Britain, Canada, France and West Germany met Sunday night and agreed that South Africa should turn over power to the black majority in the former German colony of South West Africa by the end of the year. A U.S. spokesman said the five ministers also agreed on a formula for the preservation of law and order in South West Africa.

WORLD

Jet survivors brought home

A south Korean relief plane dropped off its Japanese passengers and flew on to Seoul Monday, the last leg of a long trek homeward for the survivors of the Korean jet that strayed over Soviet territory and was attacked by MIG jet fighters. Officials said 58 passengers, most of them Japanese, disembarked in Tokyo before the Korean Airlines 707 relief plane took off again for Seoul with the remaining 54 passengers and crew. Yoshio Otani, a 50-year-old photography shop owner kept a diary of the ordeal. "The compass gave false readings four hours after the plane left Paris," said Otani. "When we got in over Soviet territory, the captain said he tried to talk to Soviet air control but he received no answer. All of a sudden it seemed like there was a rain-shower in the seats in the left rear. Then there was a lot of smoke and the plane began to dive. The pilot told us later we dropped from 33,000 feet to 5,000 feet." The pilot, who managed to straighten out the plane and land it on a frozen lake near the town of Kem, 230 miles south of Murmansk, was later taken into custody along with the navigator. The Soviets said they wanted to hold them for questioning as to why the plane had strayed so far off course.

New demands set by guerrillas

A new message purporting to come from the Red Brigades guerrilla group Monday in Rome named 13 ultraleftists whose freedom was denied for the life of kidnapped ex-Premier Aldo Moro. The message, received by newspaper office in Rome, Milan and Genoa, did not set any new deadline after the Red Brigades let a previous death ultimatum elapse in silence. "If this is not done, we will immediately draw the due consequences and execute the sentence that has been passed on Aldo Moro," the new message said. It demanded the release of Red Brigades founder Renato Curcio and several other standing trial on terrorism charges with him in Turin, plus some members of a Genoa terrorist cell and Cristoforo Piancone, a member of a commando group who was wounded in the fatal ambush of a Turin prison guard last week. The message, "Comunicazione No. 8," was the first time the Red Brigades has named the prisoners whose release is sought in return for Moro. Investigators said they believe the message to be genuine.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy in the early morning hours today becoming partly cloudy. Slight chance of thundershowers this morning. High today low 80's, low tonight mid-50s. High tomorrow near 80. Winds from the north at 10-15 mph, diminishing tonight. 20% chance of rain this morning.

THE BATTALION

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