

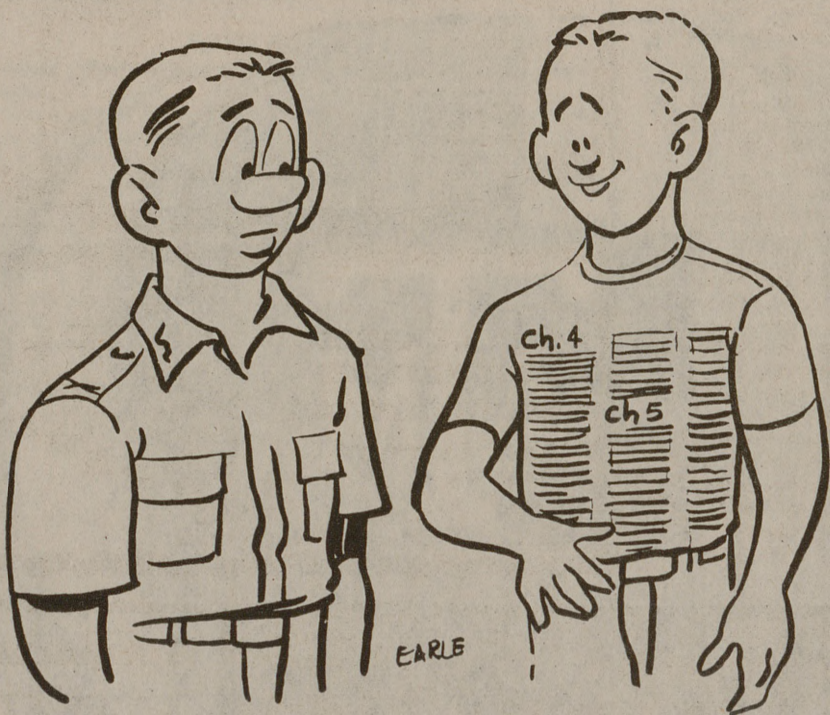
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"This will revolutionize the art of T-shirt design, especially for examinations, if he doesn't recognize I've got the test material covered here."

Reagan avoiding White House leaks

By HELEN THOMAS

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Welcome to Washington, Mr. President.

Only a month in office, and Ronald Reagan is already somewhat annoyed at the published "leaks" about his programs.

"We get surprised at some of the things we read in the newspapers," he recently told a coalition of conservative leaders.

"They seem to always be looking for splints in the ranks," he said, but added that he was "happy and enthused" about the team he has brought together to fulfill the promises of his presidency.

His complaints against the press come with the turf, and those before him often left the White House with bitter scars. Soon after he took office, John Kennedy said, "I'm reading more and enjoying it less."

Lyndon Johnson blamed the press often when reporters pinpointed his credibility gap. Richard Nixon's problems with the press go back to the first year he ran for Congress in the '40s, and they only grew worse through the years.

Gerald Ford managed to keep a philosophical view of the press, although his aides were mightily upset over stories that he was accident prone, bumping his head.

Jimmy Carter will tell his side of the story in his million-dollar memoirs. But whenever he met with groups of visiting editors, he complained about the White House press corps, which he said did not ask relevant questions. He held his last news conference in October 1980, some three months before he left office.

Reagan has held one full-dress news conference so far, and another is promised for next week. But he also has had a couple of sessions with smaller groups of reporters. Before departing for California he hosted a breakfast briefing for 125 out-of-town editors.

Since assuming the presidency, he is achieving what LBJ longed for: to be on the front page nearly every day with a photograph showing him at work or meeting with important leaders.

Reagan reads the Washington Post and

the New York Times in the morning. Also on his desk every morning is a news summary prepared from newspapers and broadcasts the night before.

Photographic opportunities with Reagan, those two- or three-minute smiling sessions, abound. The cameramen have found a president who understands what they're about, who knows lighting and who has patience with them.

But there is little or no give and take with the press, except on rare occasions. Reporters also are being kept farther away from him, but still within shouting distance. The president is insulated, so much so that he asked his friend, Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt, what was going on in the world outside the White House.

Despite occasional leaks, the Reagan administration is keeping control of the direction of the news out of the White House. The press has focused on nothing but the president's economic package in the last four weeks, and in many more weeks if Reagan has his way.

They have managed to do so by shunting other foreign policy subjects such as the Polish crisis, the civil strife in El Salvador, the Iranian hostage agreement review, out of White House news briefings.

White House press secretary Jim Brady is holding his own so far. A couple of times he has muddled through or come to a dead standstill when reporters knocked holes through his information, particularly on Reagan's tax proposals.

But he gets by with a lot because of his geniality. "I've shot myself in the foot; I don't want to blow my leg off," he laughingly told reporters when they nailed him.

Brady has access to Reagan and there is no question that the other top aides in the White House have programmed him on what he can and cannot say. But in terms of the climate in the press room, there is none of the hostility of some past administrations, and so far everyone seems to be feeling his way.

The president, meantime, is getting what is called in the trade "a good press."

A Te Deum for the Fall of 1972

Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part Guest Column giving one man's views of U.S. strategy and costs during the Vietnam War.

By RICHARD S. LE VIEUX

Two significant military operations took place in the latter part of '72. Those two operations were the mining of North Vietnamese seaports and major waterways, and the destruction of all military supply depots and energy producing units in North Vietnam by U.S. air power (military operations that had been vigorously recommended by the Joint Chiefs in 1964 and then re-emphasized in 1967). The mining of the North Vietnamese seaports was accomplished in less than 24 hours, cost less than \$1 million and resulted in no casualties on either side! And instantaneously, 85 percent of the expendable military supplies required for war against South Vietnam were no longer available to the North Vietnamese. Due to the vast amount of military supplies in and around the city of Hanoi, as well as the other 15 percent of military supplies still coming down the railroad from

Guest

Column

China, the psychological effect of no longer having enough military supplies was marked. Only by shock is such an effect achieved. So the famed Christmas B-52 missions came into being. In less than 11 days, and with a relatively low loss of 15 B-52s, 8 crew members known killed, 25 MIAs, 33 captured and 1,300 North Vietnamese (military and civilians) dead, the war was over. It was over because a war cannot be fought without military supplies. The seaports were useless. The railroads and highways were subject to constant interdiction by U.S. air power, for there was no air defense left against the B-52s and other U.S. aircraft which now flew whenever and wherever they wanted.

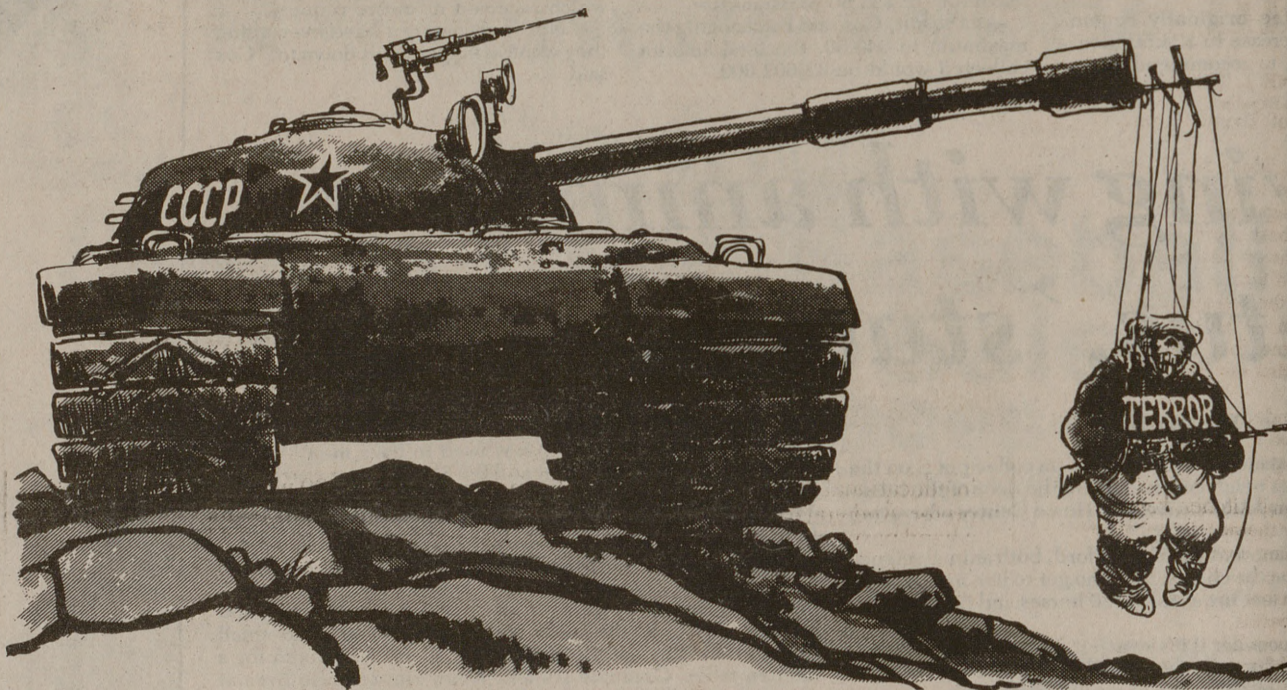
The Vietnam War was over. The Kennedy commitment was intact. However, only the POWs came home with honor,

America's living Nathan Hales. The rest of the Vietnam veterans did not, despite the fact that they had kept viable the Kennedy commitment at a cost of 45,926 killed and 303,100 wounded (most of which were proved unnecessary by the Mining operations and the Christmas bombings). U.S. citizenry has ever been so ungrateful to Military force which had set a standard of performance of duty never before equaled. And without that standard of performance of duty, the POWs would still be in North Vietnam.

North Vietnam required two long years to rebuild their military supplies which the Soviet Bloc provided in order to honor the commitment to a valiant comrade. Eager to resume their goal of conquering Southern Asia, North Vietnam did so in January, with the blessing of the Congress of the United States through the War Powers Resolution of 1973. Only this act and the high rate U.S. citizenry should be caused by morbidity.

A Te Deum for the Autumn of 1972 is long overdue. It is either that or we should listen to our Requiem separately.

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Staff notebook

Hostage movies: Captive audiences

By SCOTT McCULLAR

Battalion Staff

Well, the hostages are free and it may be all over but the shouting, but the screaming has hardly begun. The paperback books are just starting to hit the racks and that can only lead to the movies.

Movies are going to be made about the hostages and Hollywood is going to quickly run out of good usable titles; however, they will go on and use the unusable titles anyway. So, anticipating this slew of attempts is the following list of 52 movies (that's 52) that you will probably be able to see in ten years on late night television. (Many people get the credit for this, but I still get the money.)

1. Ordinary Hostages
2. Raging Hostage
3. Coal Miner's Hostage
4. When a Hostage Calls
5. What's Up Hostage?
6. One Flew Over The Hostage Nest
7. My Fair Hostage
8. Mr. Hostage Goes to Washington
9. Hostagemania
10. Deep Hostage
11. How Green Was My Hostage
12. Snow White and the Seven Hostages
13. The Electric Hostage

14. Hostage on the Roof
15. Return of the Pink Hostage
16. Hostages from the Deep
17. The Jazz Hostage
18. On a Clear Day You Can See a Hostage
19. The Best Little Hostage in Texas
20. The Hostage of Frankenstein
21. The Day the Hostage Stood Still
22. Hostage Gigolo
23. The Good, the Bad and the Hostage
24. Abbott and Costello Meet the Hostage
25. Hostage from the Black Lagoon
26. Son of Hostage
27. Godzilla vs the Hostage
28. Hostage II
29. The Hostage Strikes Back
30. Gone With the Hostage
31. Saturday Night Hostage
32. Urban Hostage
33. Hercules and the Hostages
34. The Sound of Hostage
35. Smokey and the Hostage (I and II)
36. The Incredible Shrinking Hostage
37. H*O*S*T*A*G*E
38. Kentucky Fried Hostage
39. Night of the Living Hostage
40. I was a Teenage Hostage
41. Twenty Thousand Hostages Under the Sea
42. The Amityville Hostage
43. Bride of Hostage
44. Beach Blanket Hostage
45. Hostage: the Motion Picture
46. Fist Full of Hostages
47. The Hostage and Mr. Chicken
48. Hostage On A Hot Tin Roof
49. Debbie Does Hostage
50. The Man with the Golden Hostage
51. I was a Hostage For the FBI
52. The Maltese Hostage

There are many more than this (unfortunately). Please don't submit them.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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Warped

By Scott McCullar

