

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I like to leave room for freedom of expression."

Reagan has hazy foreign policy

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is a pragmatist on foreign policy. He creates it as the need arises.

There is little cohesion and most of it is articulated by his diplomatic and defense advisers rather than Reagan himself. His aides say that is the way it is going to be. It will not be so clearly stated as to bar flexibility.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters they will never see a foreign policy address by Reagan per se. He indicated that the building blocks are speeches by Secretary of State Alexander Haig before the United Nations, and Reagan's address to the International Monetary Fund, a broad brush exhortation to the underdeveloped nations to put their houses in order and to return to a heavier reliance on free enterprise.

But other than laying down a hard line against the Soviet Union, with ample threats to boot, Reagan's foreign policy in many areas of the world has yet to be articulated. It is negative and offers no new roads to peace and improving the quality of life in many areas.

To the friends of the United States abroad, there is usually a promise of military assistance. Such is the case in bolstering the government in El Salvador against the rebels.

The Senate has approved the administration's proposal to repeal the Clark amendment, which barred the United States from supporting any faction in Angola with aid, or covert CIA intervention. It still must be acted on in the House.

In a recent interview, Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeri said that he had a commitment from Haig that the United States will defend his government against attack by Libya. Within hours, Haig stressed to American television audiences that promise did not include combat troops.

In the Middle East, the United States will show the flag with demonstrations and maneuvers involving B-52s aiming at targets in the desert. The aim also is to scare off Libyan strongman Moammar Khadafy from attacking the Sudan or any other neighbor.

A show of force does not a peace make, although it might temporarily deter aggression.

Over and beyond the outbreaks in the Middle East, and the patchwork that follows, is the lack of a coherent policy for all to see and understand. It also keeps possible opposition off balance.

The assassination of Anwar Sadat pointed out the fallacy of depending on personal relationships in place of policy, although there is every expectation that his successor, Hosni Mubarak, will follow in his footsteps in continuing the Camp David

peace process. Israel's Menachem Begin has promised the same.

The promise of the sale of sophisticated radar planes to Saudi Arabia has put Reagan's ability to make good on that promise. He has an uphill battle in the air to block defeat of the sale and its terms either way.

Meanwhile, Reagan has put in his chips, including his personal prestige, to win this foreign policy initiative.

A defeat of the sale could decrease the ability to conduct foreign policy in the Middle East, and may embarrass the president who needs friends to walk a so-called tight line in that troubled area.

Former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford have called for a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist. Carter said the two could go hand in hand in a simultaneous gesture.

Carter also told reporters that he was disturbed by the "military" image of U.S. ign policy with no "balancing" with simultaneous efforts for peace and humanitarian aid to block proliferation of nuclear weapons.

So far, there has been no big demand for Reagan to explain his overall foreign policy and the time will come when he must rally the country behind him.

Columbus discovers use for press agent

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The first serious challenge to Christopher Columbus' No. 1 ranking came from historians who claimed the Vikings were the first Europeans to reach the new world.

Then, as the nation was celebrating Columbus Day this week, up cropped evidence that Chinese sailors got here even before the Vikings.

Despite all the detraction, however, credit for discovering America still is generally given to Columbus, a consensus that caused Roll Call, the Capitol Hill weekly, to conclude that "Columbus had a better press agent."

Actually, there is nothing in the logs of the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria to confirm that the crews Columbus recruited for his 1492 voyage included a public relations consultant. Therefore, I think we can safely dismiss any suspicion that his achievement was in part a public relations job.

Indeed, the very fact the Columbus was willing to tackle the project without the services of a media adviser is further testimony to his fortitude.

There is, however, no doubt that the situation was ripe for a hype, as modern publicity gimmicks are called.

Knowing what we do now about the art of exploitation, let us try to visualize what the discovery of America might have been like if Columbus had had a flack aboard. For the sake of hypothesis, we shall call him Sammy.

CC: According to my charts, we are now less than two nautical miles from the jumping-off place. I guess it's about time we were turning around and heading back to Spain.

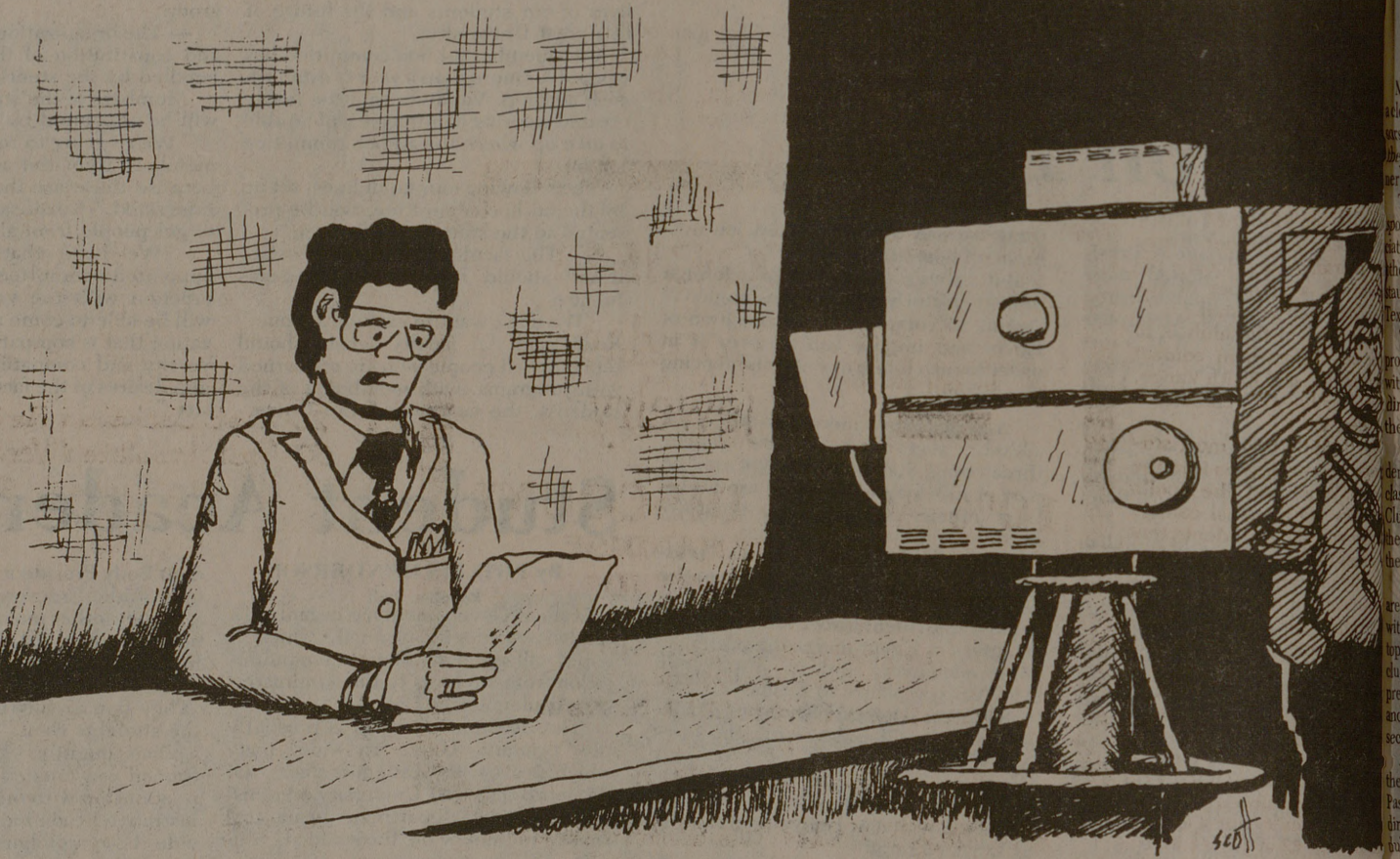
Sammy: Chris, baby, those network news directors are all big world-is-round freaks. If you turn back now, you won't even get so much as a five-second mention after the 27th commercial on the evening news.

CC: Round, smound. The important thing is that I have lived up to my commitment to the queen. In return for her financial support, I vowed to keep sailing westward until I found a new trade route to Asia or reached the jumping-off place, whichever came first.

Sammy: I know that, Chris, but this is your big chance. Put yourself in my hands, big guy, and I'll have you in history books all over the world.

CC: What profits it a man to go down in history if he also goes down the jumping-off place?

Sammy: I never promised you a rose garden.



THE SUPREME COURT TODAY DECLARED GUN CONTROL UNCONSTITUTIONAL ON THE BASIS THAT IF ONLY CRIMINALS HAVE GUNS, ONLY THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN WOULD DIE IN ACCIDENTAL SHOOTINGS...

It's your turn

Society protests engineering article

Editor:

Pursuant to your article, "New Engineering Degree Offered" on October 2, we, the Telecommunications Society, feel short lived by your standards of excellence pertaining to journalism.

We do not feel the impulse to patronize your inauspicious rhetoric. If we, being astute and indigenous in professional prose and academics, had uttered such assonant nonsense, we would have been run out of Texas A&M University and the Lone Star State of Texas with wet towels. We have been educated to be competent.

No professional journalism staff has ever assaulted the analytical sensibilities as much as these blossoms of academic prose and professionalism, who stand as living rebuke to John Stuart Mill's proposition

that universal literacy would bring eudaemonia. The rhetoric is gruesomely consistent.

Are we not and are you not people of reputation? The most reputable telecommunications consultant in the industry is a man by the name of James Martin...not "Lewis Martin." We, therefore, protest vehemently about the impetus of our specialty degree.

To set the record straight, you will find no aberration in our exegesis of our specialty program. The specialty degree in telecommunications emphasizes students' understanding in the engineering, design, and management of telecommunications systems. The program asserts itself in dealing with the correlation of voice, data and facsimile as a function of transmission engineering, satellite communications, teleprocessing, and other modes of the communication media. We, therefore, cannot dispel our feelings.

This is not thrown upon you personally, but we feel your readers and general public were impolitic as to the article of October 2. Let us all strive for "quality" not "quantity." Write that down lest you forget. As you introspect your mind, you will find subconsciously that we are people of high moral standards and academic excellence.

The Telecommunications Society

Liddy response

Editor:

It is unfortunate that we have among us

those right wing idiots who totally suppress an admitted felon, G. Gordon Liddy, and label those who disagree with him as the path to communism and moral decay. I'm referring to an editorial in the Battalion in which Cleon E. Dean invites all blooded moral American Aggies to join the "Aggie Youth for a Moral America."

The purpose of the organization according to Dean is to "put back moral fiber in the American spine and to eradicate those elements which would try to tear down American greatness."

Dean is under the misconception that something is morally wrong with America. One of the basic problems with this country today is people like Jerry Falwell and Dean who try to force their Victorian morality down the throats of the "majority" of Americans who believe morals should be up to the individual person.

Dean, suppose I am an "immoral communist" who deserves to be eradicated (death in a Nazi concentration camp would be fitting) because I disagree with Falwell Liddy and you.

I do have one last wish that I hope granted before I am eradicated and that for God to save this great country and its unique system of government, which guarantees freedom for all, from morose idiots who are trying to legislate their ideas onto us all.

Frank Faller

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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.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

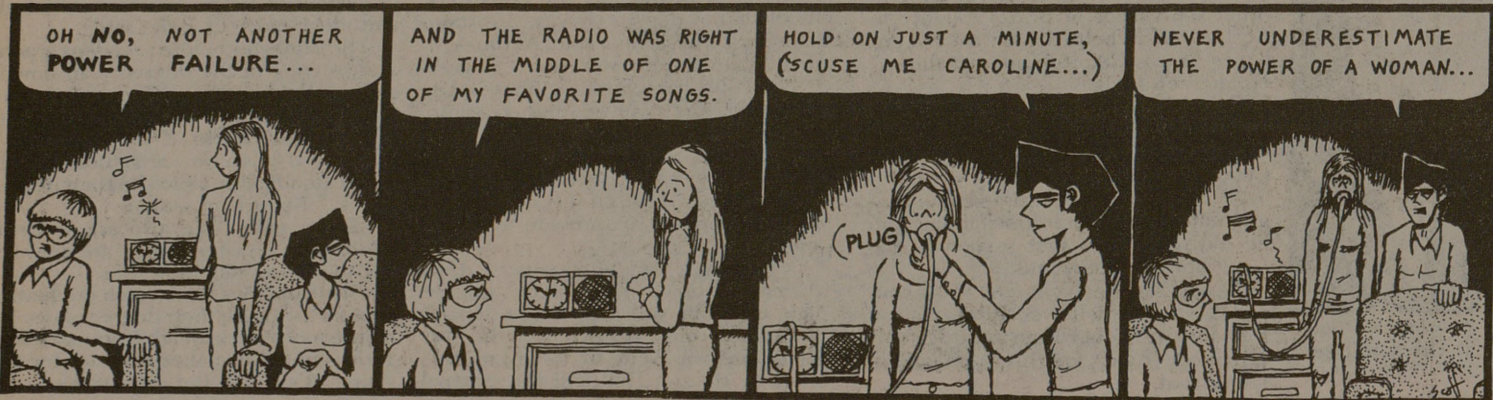
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Warped



By Scott McCullar