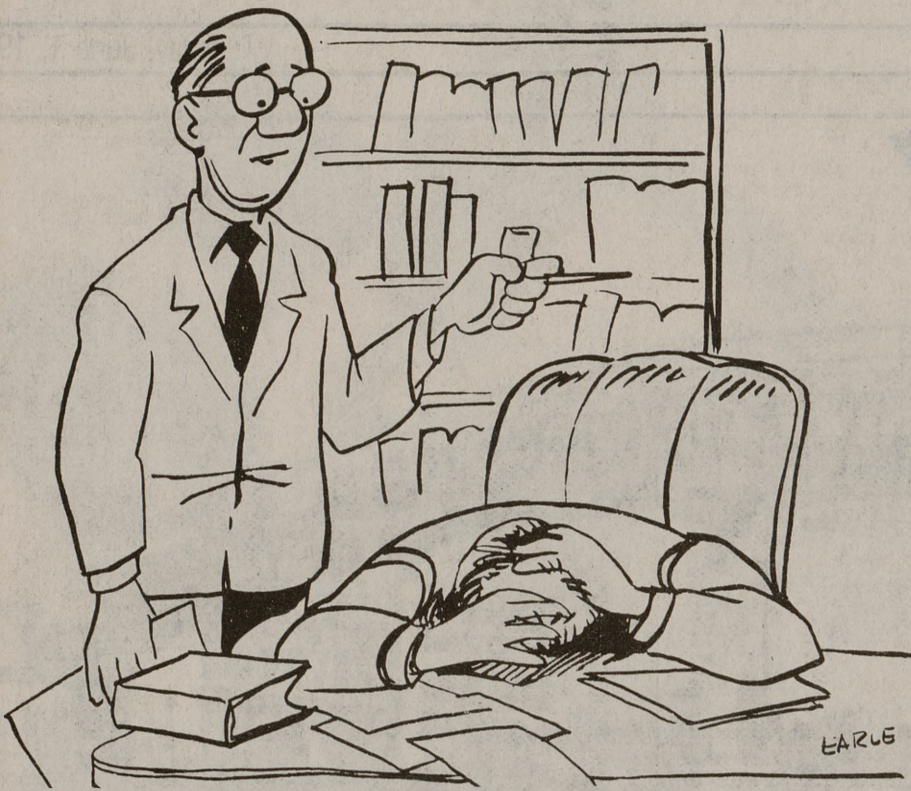


Slouch By Jim Earle



"That printout that showed an enrollment of 400 instead of 40 in your class turned out to be a misprint, didn't it?"

Words can be misleading

Words are wonderful creations. Just a few letters put together symbolize a complete idea or thought. Words communicate the ideas and thoughts of one person to another.

But, sometimes words are used to gloss over ugly truths or cover up the harsh realities of life.

According to Webster's New Third International Dictionary, 1971 edition, a euphemism is "the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive word or expression for one that is harsh, indelicate or otherwise unpleasant or taboo; a polite, tactful or less explicit term used to avoid the direct naming of an unpleasant, painful or frightening reality."

Death is a popular candidate for euphemisms. Passed away, went to heaven, kicked the bucket and bit the dust are just a few of the euphemisms for death.

A few years ago many occupations received new, euphemistic titles. A garbage collector became a sanitation engineer. A housewife became a domestic engineer.



rebeca zimmermann

The term chemical education... up a mental image of a chemist. True, drugs and alcohol are chemicals, and therefore, education about them would be "chemical education."

But, this is stretching the euphemisms just a bit too far.

A chemical education advisory committee sounds like a curriculum committee for the district chemistry teacher instead of a group intended to be drug abuse.

It is admirable that the district is trying to solve the drug problem. But, euphemisms to refer to the problem amount to running away from the problem or pretending that it doesn't exist.

Drug use is a "frightening reality" until all of its frightening aspects are faced, it will remain a problem. The problem up with euphemisms make it go away.

So what's wrong with calling the thing education on drug abuse?

Reagan aims to curb Soviet expansion

by Helen Thomas  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has approved a major strategic policy document aimed at curbing Soviet expansion and changing East-West relations by the end of the decade.

The paper, prepared by the National Security Council and foreseeing the end of the Brezhnev era, sets forth major objectives of U.S. military, political, diplomatic, economic and propaganda policy.

An NSC official, who asked not to be identified, put the policy in the strongest terms possible: that the United States is dedicated to the "dissolution or shrinkage of the Soviet empire."

The little publicized goals are enunciated at a time when Reagan is optimistic that negotiations on nuclear arms reduction will soon begin with the Soviets.

A year ago a member of the NSC staff, Richard Pipes, told a reporter that the Soviets would have to reform; in effect change their communist lifestyle, or there would be war. His remarks were quickly repudiated by administration spokesmen, but it now appears he was reflecting Reagan's determination to challenge the Soviets on many fronts in hopes of bringing about a softening of the communist system.

"The president believes that the East-West relationship will be fundamentally changed by the end of the decade," the official said.

Reagan began his administration by calling the Soviets "liars and cheaters," but he lifted the grain embargo, keeping his campaign promise to the wheat farmers.

Reagan's ambitions in terms of promoting a turn-around in the Soviet Union are great and there is little talk of coexistence or detente. But at the same time, he has faced the reality of no winners in a nuclear war and is pushing for arms reduction talks.

Although Reagan is willing to abide by

the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) negotiated by three presidents — two of them Republican — he is not willing to seek its ratification. Instead, he prefers to go the long route of years of negotiations, while both sides build up their nuclear arsenals as bargaining chips.

Reagan also is seeking a summit meeting with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and says if it comes about he would not rule out of discussion any of the points of friction between the superpowers. At the same time, Reagan has abandoned the policy of "linkage," which he set earlier — that is the United States will not negotiate with Russia until it pulls its troops out of Afghanistan and eases up on Poland.

Asked to describe his administration's relationship with the Soviet Union when he dropped into the White House press center earlier this month, he said:

"I think it's a very realistic relationship. We know that there is an adversary relationship there that has been brought about by the Soviets' policy of expansionism. And we're not so naive as to ignore that in any dealings that we have. And yet, at the same time, we ourselves are proposing such things as arms reductions and trying to improve chances for peace in the world and reducing the possibility of war."

"We are willing, realistically, to sit down with the Soviet Union and try to eliminate some of the friction points that are there," Reagan said.

"But basically, the primary problem today is reducing the store of nuclear arms that threaten the peace of mind, certainly of all the people in the world and that do pose a threat to all of us physically," he added.

And so while taking a very tough line against the Soviets, Reagan has decided that he will be forced to do business with them.

