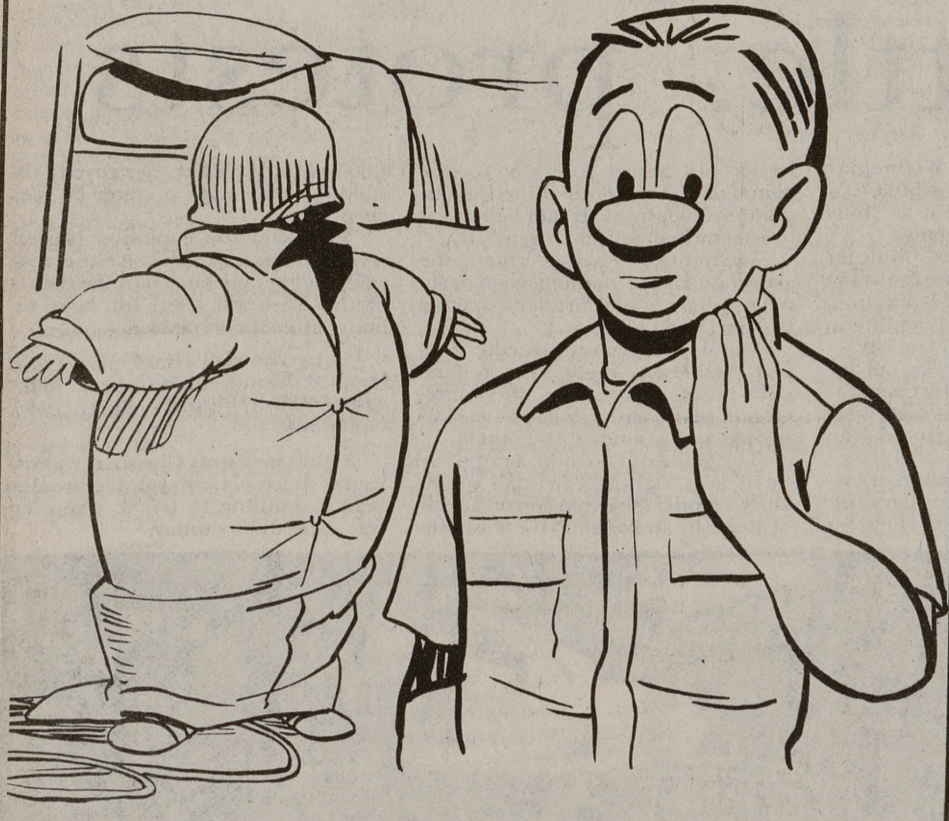


Slouch

By Jim Earle

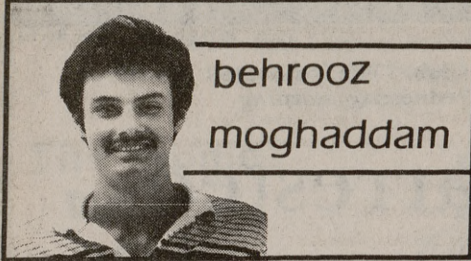


"Have you seen my electric fan?"

Nuclear arms rally — a sign of the future

Last week, New York City witnessed an historic event. On June 12, 750,000 demonstrators filled Central Park in a show of support for freezing present levels of nuclear armaments. The mass rally is not only the largest political de-

monstration in American history, but also foreshadows the beginning of widespread popular participation in an area of American policy formerly reserved for top officials.



behrooz moghaddam

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The Soviet Union, for its part, has accepted the nuclear freeze proposition in principle. Declining to follow suit has subsequently put the Reagan administration on the defensive once again.

Washington refuses to freeze the number of nuclear weapons at present levels primarily because it perceives an unacceptable Soviet edge. More specifically, this edge is seen to be one which the Soviets today would be able to forge into one of two swords. In this analysis, Moscow can take advantage by either striking first in a surprise attack or blackmailing the United States into making international political concessions.

Although there is at present nothing close to a unanimous agreement on the President's premise of U.S. inferiority, for the sake of argument, let us suppose

the administration is right on this point. The next relevant question therefore is whether the gap is realistically really wide enough to give substance to either one of the perceived Soviet threats. The answer to this will determine the need to re-arm.

In the context of the more ominous threat of a first strike, contrary to Washington's prediction of Soviet behavior, we are in fact presently not under attack. Furthermore, in view of President Reagan's push to catch up, the same portrait of Soviet thinking would imply an extra incentive for Moscow to fire first lest it lose the advantage. And yet, still we are not shot at. Thus, not one to trust Soviet good will, the logical conclusion is that in practice the Kremlin is in fact deterred, something the administration's theoretical analysis mistakenly looks over.

On the question of blackmail, first, not only has the U.S. maintained her traditional spheres of influence intact but in some areas its allies, with whom the United States has great influence, actually threaten Soviet interests. All of Russia's missiles were unable to discourage Israel, an American ally, from embarrassing the PLO and Syria, both close friends of the Soviet Union.

And secondly, ask yourself whether our Ronald Reagan would succumb to any sort of blackmail, today or any day. It is unthinkable that he would and consequently unlikely that the United States has in fact suffered from effective blackmail. Ronald Reagan's character therefore, in part, discredits Ronald Reagan's policy justifications. Hence, existing realities do not in fact reflect U.S. policy expectations. The same expectations used to justify another arms race, which after all appears to be unnecessary.

How to play superpower game

by Art Buchwald

"All right. We're going to war game it today. Get out your pads and pencils. We are the superpower Alpha, and the enemy is the superpower Beta. Both sides have enough stuff to blow each other off the face of the Earth. What do we do?"

"We stay clear of each other as much as we can."

"Right. Now a mini-power named Omega comes to us and says it wants to be our friend. How do we show our gratitude?"

"We give the people a few weapons to defend themselves against Beta."

"Correct. Here is where it starts getting difficult. Another mini-power named Delta comes to us and says they also want to be our friends. What do we do about them?"

"We give them a few weapons, too."

"Why?"

"Because if we don't, Beta will."

"All right, let's move along. We've sold Omega weapons and we've sold Delta weapons. What do we do next?"

"We bring their military people here to teach them how to use them."

"And then what happens?"

"Each side thinks we've sold better weapons to the other, and demands more powerful stuff."

"Do we sell them the better equipment?"

"Yes, because the more equipment we can sell a mini-power, the cheaper it is to build military stuff for ourselves. Also, the more Alpha equipment they have, the more dependent they become on us as a supplier."

"So politically the best way to win the hearts and minds of people is by loading them down with arms."

"Everyone knows that, Professor. I thought you said this was going to be difficult."

"The game isn't over yet. Now Alpha has supplied Omega and Delta with guns, missiles, ships, submarines and airplanes. We also have assured both Omega and Delta that an attack on them would be considered an attack on us. We, of course, had Beta in mind when we made these assurances. Have we done the right thing?"

"Of course. The more countries we can line up against Beta, the safer we will be."

"On paper, it looks good. But now we get to the war game problem. What happens if Omega takes our equipment and uses it to attack Delta, because they consider Delta a bigger threat to them than Beta?"

"We tell Omega to desist."

"What if they refuse?"

"We point out that according to military agreement, they were proposed to use our equipment to themselves against Beta."

"What if they tell us to stuff the ment because we're a superpower? No one talks that way to a superpower because if they did we could wipe off the face of the Earth."

"But we can't wipe them off the Earth, can we?"

"I guess not. But we can cut them from future supplies."

"But, if we do that, Beta, Theta, will step in and fill the void, and we have lost a friend, and also our best customers."

"So we have to support Omega war against Delta?"

"Not necessarily. We don't want Delta to Beta either."

"Then we have no choice but to two mini-powers fight it out with equipment until one side wins?"

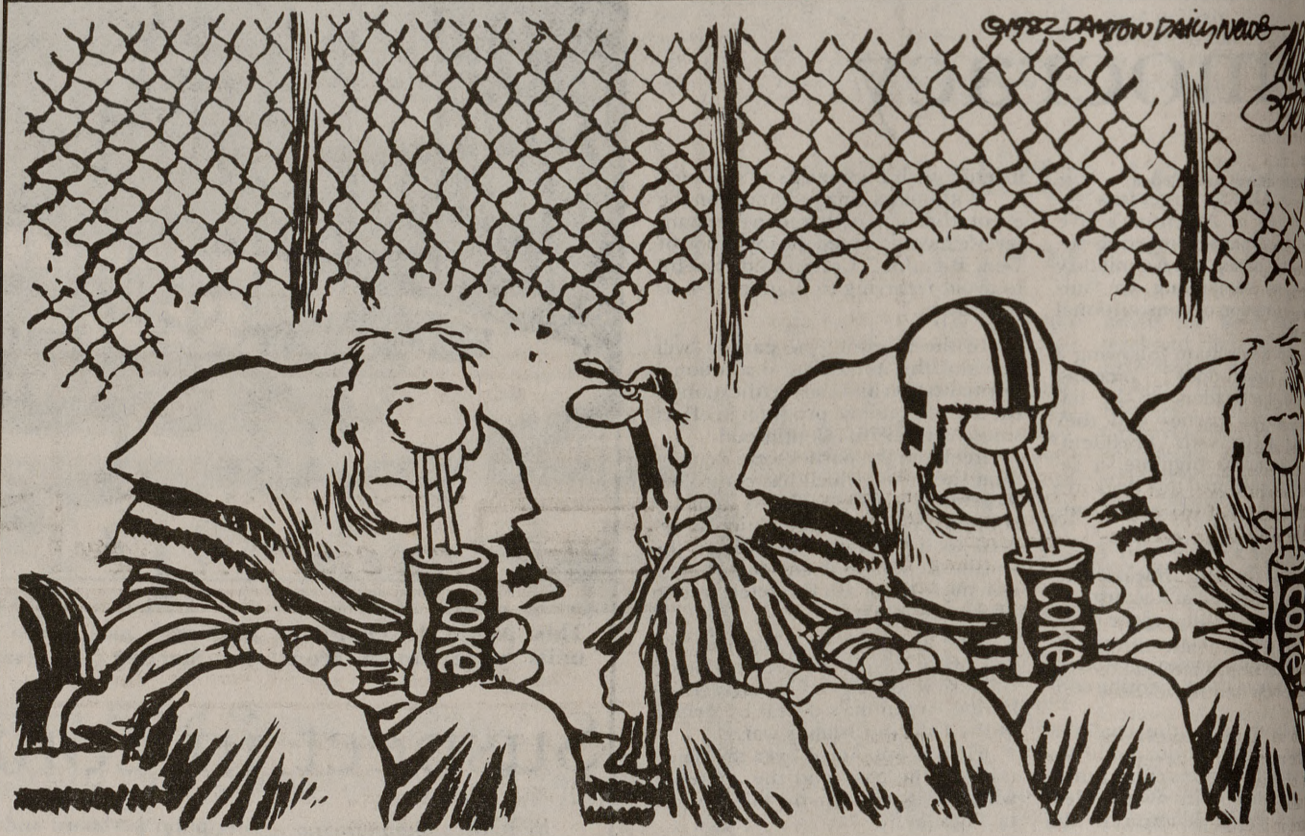
"Anybody got any better ideas?"

"Couldn't we take it to the United Nations? They're paid to keep peace."

"We could, but it wouldn't help."

"So what's the solution, Professor?"

"There is no solution. There is no moral. It's no fun being a superpower every time you ask a favor of a power, it tells you to stuff it."



PSST.. THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO THIS NFL DRUG BUSINESS

Letters: Middle East gunpower

Editor:

In the past three weeks, Lebanon has become a battlefield where aliens wage a war with no foreseeable outcome. In the recent editions of The Battalion, opinions on this war have deformed certain facts. My purpose is to clarify them.

An occupant remains an occupant, whether he carries a U.S.-made M-16 rifle or a Russian-supplied AK-47. Although Lebanese democracy left a lot to be desired, its freedom permitted the Palestinian Revolution to nurture on its soil. There are now 1/2 million Lebanese which are refugees in their own country.

A lot has been said about Israel's Lebanese Christian "allies." That they are Israeli-trained and equipped is undeniable; that they approve the indiscriminate massacre, by Israel, of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians is false. As a Lebanese Christian, I neither consider the PLO an enemy nor Israel an ally. The PLO, by its misbehavior (to put it mildly) has forced the Christians to turn to Israel for support. The Christian reproofs are: a) The PLO had formed a state within a state denying Lebanese authorities entry to its camps. b) The PLO's interference in local politics transformed an imminent social change into an armed conflict.

The middle Eastern conflict is one of "a people to many and a land to less." Either the people is to be eliminated or a land created. While past history has proved that a people cannot be eliminated (Israel should know that), recent history has shown that neither Jordan nor Lebanon can be substituted for Palestine.

The Palestinians are an uprooted people. Often deceived and used as an Arab political tool, they have turned to armed struggle. Their reactions towards Israel are understandable; their behavior in Lebanon is unexcusable.

The PLO, by its nature as a revolutionary movement, threatens the stability of the oil producing sheikdoms. It is thus understandable why the Western reaction to the invasion was mild (relatively speaking).

Israel, consistent with its policy of "accomplished facts," has sent its soldiers to fight the PLO commandos. The former say the Neguev is theirs (they have made it bloom; it is fact), the latter claim that same desert. Both pay for it with their blood. A compromise must be reached. But compromise is a word alien to both sides. The war in Lebanon has asserted one thing: today in the Middle East, power remains where it has been for centuries — AT THE MUZZLE OF A GUN.

Toni M. Prince  
P.O. Box 7371

Illegal aliens

Editor:

In regard to Bernie Fette's article on illegal aliens, I think you have been misinformed.

Most of the children of illegal aliens were born in this country, therefore, they have the same rights and privileges you have. All the parents of these children take the lowest-paid jobs, which many Americans refuse to take, and they are not exempt from paying taxes. A great number of them work in the fields picking the fruits and vegetables that you and I eat every day.

F. Luis Rodriguez  
P.O. Box 7067

Israel-Lebanon

Editor:

I would like to share my view concerning the current actions by the PLO and certain public response actions have drawn. Israel, as we all know, has entered some of its neighboring countries for the purpose of removing the presence of the PLO from the distance of the Israeli border. Yassar Arafat, as we may recall, has sworn to destroy the state of Israel. The PLO has been responsible for numerous attacks on Israeli border towns in addition to scattered bombings with a number of people were indeed killed. The way I see it, Israel can respond one of two ways: they can promise on their side of the border until the comes to visit as they already have. Israel can do as they currently are doing. The positive side of the first option is the whole world will like Israel and nice things to say in their memory course in history books. The negative side? In reference to the second option, personally prefer to live and be more than to be a dead martyr. I would like to comment on the comparison made some of the Israelis to Hitler's Nazis. The Israelis are not only cleanse and improve the race by eliminating those of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds than their own. Israel does not round up thousands of people and machine gun them because they are not Israeli. Where is the morality?

I will not condemn Israel for dealing her very existence against a group of terrorists who would gloat at her destruction.

L. Stallings  
Class of

The Battalion

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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 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.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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