

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I don't know how he got 'em that high, but I'd sure like to meet him, or her!"

Poor-mouthing superpowers

by Art Buchwald

If there is anything that upsets me, it's when the leaders of the two major superpowers start poor-mouthing their own nuclear weapons capabilities.

We saw a disgusting example of this last week when Leonid Brezhnev stood up in front of 500 of his marshals and generals and told them the United States was ahead in the arms race. He promised his military leaders he would do everything to rectify the situation by spending more money for new weapons.

The Brezhnev revelations came as a surprise to most Americans, who had been told by President Reagan and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger that the Soviets were ahead of the United States when it came to weaponry, and we were the ones who had to spend the money to keep up with them.

I was so angry at the Brezhnev speech that I went to see my disarmament expert, Prof. Heinrich Applebaum of the Armageddon Institute for Limited Peace.

"Didn't you think that was a lousy

thing Brezhnev told his generals the other day? Can you imagine the leader of a superpower claiming his country was No. 2 when it came to wreaking nuclear havoc?"

Applebaum said: "Brezhnev was only trying to save his own skin. If he told the Soviet military they were No. 1, then that meant he wasn't going to give them more money for new weapons. He had to placate them by saying they were way behind us."

I said, "Okay, but why did Weinberger come right back and say Brezhnev was lying and we were a weak No. 2 in the arms race?"

"Weinberger had to say it or Congress would cut his next defense budget to ribbons. If Weinberger said we were No. 1, he wouldn't have a military leg to stand on when it came to building an MX missile system."

"So you think they were both giving us a snow job?"

"Not necessarily. The fact of the matter is that neither superpower has any idea who is No. 1 or No. 2. When both

have the capability of blowing up the world, the question becomes academic anyway."

"Then why would Brezhnev go to the trouble of saying his weapons are technologically inferior?"

"Because when you're in an arms race you always have to say the other guy is ahead. Otherwise Brezhnev would have a hard time persuading the Soviet people he still had to buy more guns before he got any butter."

"So you think it was wise of Reagan and Weinberger to call Brezhnev a liar by saying we were the ones who were playing catch-up?"

"They had no choice. Our nuclear arsenal is second to none, but just because we can pulverize them and they can't pulverize us isn't enough of a deterrent any more. You have to develop a generation of weapons to wipe out the other guy's stuff before he can hit you."

"Then how can you stop it?"

"There is only one way. One side has to declare its nuclear superiority over the other, which it will never do, because it will be too much of a threat to the other

Will she get what she dearly paid for?

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

Common or not, this story soon may be an important one. A woman falls in love with a man and delays her career to put him through professional school — only to be jilted after he graduates.

Time was when friends might have counseled the victim to forget about Mr. Wonderful. But an increasing number of the forsaken are demanding legal retribution, namely a chunk of their former lover's paycheck. If the courts go along, the trend could alter the way men and women conduct their romances.

In a matter of days, the consistently progressive New Jersey Supreme Court is expected to determine that a professional degree constitutes a form of divisible property. Lawyers for Bonnie Ryan, 34, are asking that her former husband, Dr. Robert Ryan repay their client for putting him through medical school. The lawyers argue that Dr. Ryan's degree is, at best, the product of two minds and therefore jointly owned property.

"We are asking the court to recognize that a professional education and license have a measurable value and that possessing the training that goes with them is an economic benefit," Ryan's attorney told the Philadelphia Inquirer. "If acquired through marriage, that benefit should be divided in a divorce case."

Heretofore, most lower-court judges in the United States have held that proceeds from a professional degree don't constitute divisible property. As their reasoning goes, knowledge acquired from schooling — not the certificate or degree itself — makes someone commercially viable. Some courts, however, have compensated plaintiffs who have sub-

dized their lover's professional schooling, in recognition of career time sacrificed.

If such is the future trend, there's a growing constituency for it. More couples than ever before are living together in the absence of a marriage contract.

Meanwhile, with 60 percent of all women in the work force (and some of those earning respectable salaries), women are becoming economic equals, if not dominant partners, in many relationships today. If anything, women are more capable of putting a lover through professional school than they were 20 years ago. This is not to say that males aren't footing females' school bills too. But, judging from the record, it seems that women are less inclined than men to stiff their benefactors.

In any case, personal protection may be a natural byproduct of the times. New York's Doris Freed, a family law expert affiliated with the American Bar Association, recommends that couples, married or otherwise, enter into contracts outlining what each partner expects, particularly when it comes to graduate school.

Not surprisingly, the rush to "contract" is easier said than done. In the process of setting one's expectations down on paper, tempers are liable to flare. One New York lawyer reports that even open-minded couples nearly have come to blows while discussing contractual clauses.

Yet it's somehow fitting that couples today would confront the prospect of a long-term relationship only after responsibility for graduate school tuition bills has been resolved. Even in love, the baby-boom generation seems determined to get what it pays for.



THIS IS A TEST... THIS IS ONLY A TEST... IF THIS HAD BEEN AN ACTUAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ANNIHILATED...

Letters: Keep religion out of classes

Editor:

A recent article in The Battalion stated that Professor Walter Brady from the Department of Mechanical Engineering was enlisting student support to pressure professors in having outside speakers come to the campus to present a Christian point of view. I am concerned about this development at our University for the following reasons:

1. We are a campus of 37,000 students, not all of them Christian. A classroom should not be a Sunday School room.
  2. The Christian point of view as seen through the eyes of Dr. Walter Brady is not necessarily the point of view of other Christian groups.
  3. State-supported universities should adhere to the policy of separation of church and state.
  4. It is not the mark of a great university to force-feed religious doctrine to students in a classroom.
- The good name of Texas A&M University is being hurt. The appropriate forum for a Christian point of view is the evening lecture series which this group is sponsoring.

Carol Parzen, Director  
B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation  
Jewish Student Union

Thank you for caring

Editor:

I would like to say "Thank you" to some special people who came to my aid in a time of need. Last month while on the job at Texas A&M, I had an accident. As I lay waiting for the ambulance to arrive, I realized just how much an assuring word can mean for someone who is as afraid as I was that day. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my supervisor and to my co-workers for

their comfort and support. Their encouraging words really meant a lot to me.

I would also like to thank the paramedics who took care of me on the way to the hospital as well as Dr. King and the medical personnel at the TAMU Health Center.

In this day and time, it is nice to know that there are still people who care enough to lend a helping hand, even if it

is just a reassuring word. I would like everyone who helped me to know that I will never forget their kindness to me. Each and every one of them, I offer my thanks.

Jonnie Mae Clew  
Texas A&M Maintenance Crew

Berry's World by Jim Berry



"After all these years, son, I realize I should have been saying 'good boy' to YOU as much as I said it to the dog!"

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

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