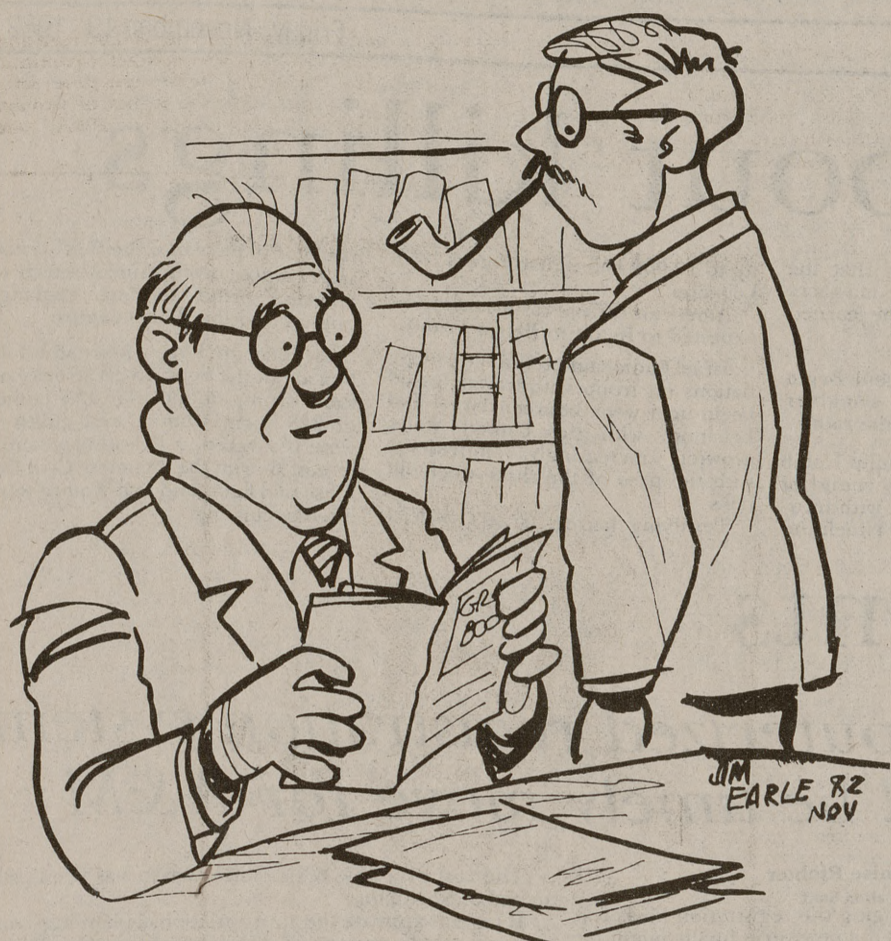


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"These are the best grades that I've had for this time of the semester. Too bad about that football strike coming to an end."

# Reagan checks out Andropov's policies

by Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is moving cautiously to test the waters of a possible new relationship with the Soviet Union. But he is keeping his guard up, and the overtures to the new Kremlin leadership are restrained.

Both Secretary of State George Shultz and national security affairs adviser William Clark were said to be in favor of Reagan attending the funeral of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Some observers believe it would have been a dramatic gesture toward conciliation with little to lose in a relationship that has nearly hit rock bottom.

Kremlinologists are studying the profile of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov for clues to the future direction of the Soviets. If both Reagan and Andropov continue in the hard line tradition, the result will be a standoff or a further deterioration of relations.

There have been two ways to go for the superpowers, cooperation or confrontation, detente or the cold war. And in some 40 years since World War II there has been more confrontation than cooperation.

Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz outlined U.S. policy toward the Soviets. It calls for a "realistic appraisal" of the world, military strength and will power to defend the West, and a willingness to negotiate if there is a reciprocal readiness on the other side.

In a welcoming ceremony Monday for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Reagan warned against the massive Soviet "war machine." But at the same time in Moscow, Bush was saying the American officials had come "in a spirit of seriousness and hope ... to declare to the Soviet leaders, to the Soviet people and to the world, that the United States is devoted to the pursuit of peace and a reduction of global tensions."

Meantime, gestures have been made on

both sides, neither of which have been interpreted by officials, at least, that they are designed to lay the groundwork for some rapprochement. The Polish government has released Solidarity Union leader Lech Walesa from confinement, a gesture that apparently took place with Soviet acquiescence. And Reagan has lifted the sanctions against the Siberian pipeline.

The lifting of the sanctions was meant to heal the growing breach between the allies. But the timing of the announcement last Saturday, without all the allies on board, appeared to be a signal to the Soviets that the United States is ready to do business any time they are.

Major obstacles remain. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which caused President Jimmy Carter to adopt retaliatory measures, is viewed as a major obstacle to coexistence. The crackdown on Poland widened the breach.

Each time, the United States and the Soviet Union has sought a common ground of understanding, the world has breathed easier. But those times have been few and far between.

There was the long hiatus from the Bolshevik revolution until Franklin Roosevelt recognized the Soviet Union in the early '30s. In World War II, the two nations cooperated mutually against a common enemy.

In 1946, at Fulton College in Missouri, Winston Churchill observed that an iron curtain had fallen across Europe.

The Cold War lasted through most of the '50s until Dwight Eisenhower and Nikita Khrushchev decided to break the ice in the spirit of coexistence. Doors were opened and a new spirit of understanding developed for a brief period.

Then when John Kennedy met with Khrushchev in Vienna in 1961, they discussed world problems, and Kennedy, shocked at the Soviet leader's tough stance, prophetically announced, "it's going to be a long, cold winter."

# Outlook to Lebanon's future

by Toni Prince and Amine Tarhini

"I had a dream; I had a dream that my children grew up in a society that judged them by the content of their character and not the color of their skin."

We shall never forget these words from the Rev. Martin Luther King. Everywhere we remember them, we cannot help but draw an analogy to our feelings:

"I had a dream; I had a dream that my children grew up in a society that judged them by the content of their character and not their religion or social background." This is part of the "dream" Lebanon's new generation has.

What kind of Lebanon does my generation want? Above all we want the world to "let our people live" to quote our Ambassador to the United Nations. Lebanon has been a battleground for too long.

Never again, should outside influences be permitted to destroy our national unity.

For this to be attained one thing is certain:

Confessionalism must be abolished. "The right man" must be in "the right place" irrespective of his religion.

A secular state must be created. A true democracy must be established and strive towards the following:

- Good public education at all levels.
- Social reforms programs.
- A self-sufficient and industrialized society.

— Capitalization on Lebanon's role in Middle Eastern trade.

Lebanon today must be rebuilt. And while building, the bases of the future must be placed. "To dream and not make dreams your master," says Rudyard Kipling in his famous poem "If." As a people, our aspirations cannot be attained unless we unite. As long as we are divided, foreign forces will take advantage of this division.

To build. This is the motto of Lebanon's new generation — to rebuild the cities, to rebuild the economy but, above all, to rebuild people's trust in one another. Is there any better way to rebuild confidence than to have people work together? This is why a strong national army must be built. An army that will not only fight but most of all build

and act as the "great integrator" of the Lebanese society.

Lebanon's technocrats must be put to work. "Give us peace and we shall work again, astound the world," said President Gemayl in his speech at the United Nations.

For peace to come, all foreign forces — Israelis, Syrians and Palestinians — must leave Lebanon. Lebanon is only for the Lebanese.

We urge the United States to ease its pressure on Israel for its withdrawal and on the Arabs for the Syrian and evacuation.

Hopefully, peace will come and Lebanon will never again be a battleground for foreign forces. It will, once again, be an asset to democracy and to the world.

*Editor's note: This column was written to accompany the three-part series in The Battalion that has run in The Battalion Members of the Lebanese Student Association wrote the series to commemorate Lebanese Independence Day Monday.*



# Letters: Don't be immune to needy

Editor:

Recently, I grabbed a magazine to relieve my brain from the perils of organic chemistry. As usual, this one was laced with photographs of the eyes of hungry children trying to convince me that it was my personal responsibility to buy them a blanket or food. You know — the same sort of pictures seen on cardboard standups at convenience stores always wanting change, and the same look found in the eyes of the Humane Society plastic dog asking for nickels and dimes after I pay for a chocolate shake.

I then realized that most of us simply have an immunity to these pictures, not to mention that we're tired of seeing the arthritic hands on television, and well, Jerry's kids just do nothing for us anymore.

This is not saying we're cold and cruel. Quarters are simply more useful in the washer on Sundays than in the slot of the leukemia card. And of course there are so many charities we couldn't possibly subsidize everything from The Church Parking Lot Fund to the Fight Against Canker Sores. Besides, we give to the Cancer Society every year and even donate a pint of blood every now and then.

But we have grown cold, and most of us simply block it from our minds and continue on. (Or are content to pat ourselves on the back for giving \$2 to United Way)

I am no exception. When the UNICEF people knock on my door I'm flat broke, but should my roommate eat my last Oreos, I find myself speeding at Warp 7 to Skaggs Alpha Beta. And the thought of running out of something like hair spray (it could be humid tomorrow) sends cold chills down my spine. But when I see large eyes and a bloated stomach, I get by with tugs at the heart strings.

So perhaps the next time your elbow bumps the plastic dog as you reach for the change from your ice-cream, or when the Salvation Army shakes the tin pot in your face, think twice before you pass by.

Be thankful that running out of Oreos is a problem we worry about.

Laura Beil '85

## Critic of critic

Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to Rebeca Zimmermann's review of the

North Texas State University One O'Clock Lab Band concert Thursday night. It's a shame The Battalion can't find someone with more experience to critique musical performances.

Rebeca was right that "My Favorite Things" was in 5/4, however, it changed to 6/8 during improvisation, then went back to 5/4.

It was stated that Chip McNeill performed a tenor solo which started slowly but improved with time. Does this mean slow solos need improvement? She also mentioned that Chip McNeill suffered from a typical problem inherited by sax players who play flute — airiness of tone. This is totally false. For one, that is a jazz style of playing the flute which fits well into many compositions, especially those titled like "Prelude to Genesis."

If you must complain about tone, don't blame the musician, blame the sound system in Rudder Auditorium. I think it could use an overhaul.

The so-called "garbage can lid" cymbals are properly called "Chinese type" or "Pang" cymbals. They are very popular in all forms of music and create a beautiful effect.

Personally, I enjoyed the concert and would like to thank MSC Arts for presenting the show.

Chris Simon '82

## Objection

Editor:

Fellow Aggies: I object.

I object to being offended each time I enter the main library. A library is a place for information, a place for reference sources, a place for study. Offensive material does not belong in a library. An exhibition of nudity would be unthinkable. Why, then, is a display which I find equally objectionable allowed to remain?

I refer to the display in the main entrance hall by the organization of Arab students. The entire display, with its blatant attempt to draw parallels between the Christian militia's slaughter of Lebanese and the World War II holocaust, is distasteful. However, it is the Star of David coated in blood which is particularly offensive.

It is an obvious attempt to get those viewing the exhibit to associate blood (i.e. murder) with the Star of David (i.e. Juda-

ism). I recognize it as such and I'm offended by it.

A library is not a place to come to be offended. It is a place to learn and grow. I hope that those in charge of the display will show better taste in the future.

Jackie Schaefer  
Graduate Student

## Thanks again

Editor:

I wish to state my wholehearted agreement with Mr. Kirk Patterson. I feel the Christian Update Forum speakers were both intellectually stimulating, threatening, and pertaining to the subject material.

Their presence was an asset to education.

Dave Watt  
Hart

## Berry's World



"I know I said, 'Stay the course' Don't rub it in!"

## 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.

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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 and 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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