

opinion

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I live in fear that my batteries will go dead and the music will stop. I don't think my brain could take silence."

Finding scientists — 'Star Wars' problem

by Art Buchwald

The biggest problem President Reagan faces in developing a "Star Wars" defense against nuclear weapons is finding the right thinking American scientists to work on it. In this administration, a scientist not only has to have impeccable professional credentials, but he also has to be screened to make sure he or she has the same conservative ideology as the party.

For example, 50 scientists were removed from advisory boards of the EPA when their terms expired, because they were considered "politically unreliable" by Reagan loyalists.

Since the "Star Wars" concept will require a lot more brains to perfect the system, it may be very difficult to find enough pro-Reagan scientists to get the program off the ground.

I can just imagine the hustle and bustle now going on in the White House. "Sir, here's the list of eminent scientists that could be contacted for our crash nuclear umbrella program."

"Any good people?" "They're tops in their field. Professor Heinz Hemlock is a genius when it comes to laser beam research. He's just turned an enemy guidance system into oatmeal in his lab."

"Great. Let's sign him up." "There is only one catch. He's against prayers in school."

"He doesn't sound like a team player. Who else have you got?" "Dr. Anne Marie Sten. She has done extraordinary work in ultraviolet-infrared-telescopic locators. The space people say she's the best in the field."

"And she's a woman. That should help us with the female vote in '84. Bring her in for an interview."

"There's a problem, sir. Our security

check revealed she voted for Jimmy Carter."

"Maybe she was duped." "She's also on the Planned Parenthood Board at MIT."

"Forget her." "I have a Nobel Prize winner in astrophysics who is working on spontaneous combustion of hydrogen and fluorine at the Livermore National Laboratory."

"What's wrong with him?" "He signed a petition last month for a nuclear freeze."

"Dammit, can't we find any American scientists who aren't bleeding heart activists?" "Edward Teller?"

"He's already on the team. In fact he's the leader of the team. Read me out some other names."

"Professor Nino Bertolini, wrote the definitive paper on gamma rays — but unacceptable to Senator Jesse Helms because he's a member of Common Cause ... Dr. Albert Ruben, subatomic particle beam guru ... ardent supporter of hand control and against death penalty ... Dr. Sarah Tilton, microwave physicist at University of Chicago ... son works for Tip O'Neill."

"That's enough! There isn't one person you've mentioned so far that could pass muster with the Republican National Committee. But we have to have some scientists for our 'Star Wars' program."

"I think I have one here at the bottom of the list. Professor Dalton Calhoun the Third. He teaches physical astronomy at the Oral Roberts University in Tulsa. He wrote a book knocking down the big bang theory of creation of the earth, and proved scientifically it came about just as it says in the Bible. Jerry Falwell recommends him very highly."

"Find out when he can start."

Foreign policy towards Israel

Editor's note: This is the second of a four-part analysis written by members of the Israel Club in conjunction with Israel Awareness Week.

by Emanuel Parzen

What should be American foreign policy towards Israel? I believe that the answer to this question is important because the U.S. government's answer to it will ultimately affect the moral and economic quality of life in the United States.

U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East has always attempted to achieve an even-handed balance between two goals: first, to cultivate the friendship of Arab governments for the sake of oil and commercial relations and to prevent them from becoming allies of the Soviet Union, and second, to cultivate the friendship of Israel for the sake of the many basically non-financial partnerships (in religion, science, medicine, tourism, defense, information, consumer and high technology industry) which the U.S. enjoys with Israel. It is appropriate to ask if the costs to the U.S. of supporting Israel are too high for the benefits received. I believe the facts show that they are not.

The ways in which Israel is a valued friend, partner, and ally of the U.S. are incontrovertible. First, Israel is an open, unconditional and permanent ally of the U.S. Second, Israel's policy is reliable because it expresses the views of its people; Israel is a democracy in which elections, not assassinations, bring about changes of government. Also, Israel is able to assist the defense of the U.S. in many ways. Israel is one of America's key intelligence partners. Its successes in providing the U.S. with information about Soviet military equipment are legendary. Israel assists the U.S. in improving American weapons and systems. And Israel has the potential for further strategic

cooperation with the U.S.

Israel's success militarily is related to Israel's success scientifically. As measured by contributions to world science, Israel ranks among the leading nations. Information processing capability is a new form of industrial power; in the changed world economy of the 1980s a successful and prospering Israel will become an increasingly valuable partner of the U.S. Israel is becoming a leading producer of computer software.

Finally, Israel's success in building a Jewish state adds a valuable dimension to world culture, and its destruction would fundamentally change the meaning of human existence for many citizens of Western nations.

To discuss the costs to the U.S. of supporting Israel, we list some of the alleged costs.

First, American financial aid to Israel is said to be too much. But it buys great Israeli contributions to America's defense at a cost which is a small fraction of the amount the U.S. spends in the defense of Europe, Korea and Japan. It is called "foreign aid" in the budget for political reasons, to make it easier to provide real foreign aid to countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and El Salvador.

Second, we hear that Israel's invasion of Lebanon caused great destruction. Israel's war against the PLO enabled Lebanon to start the process of liberating itself from foreign occupation. Of the destruction in Lebanon during the seven years of PLO and Syrian occupation, at most 15 percent occurred during the months in 1982 when Israel was fighting the PLO.

Third, some say Israel's leaders are not nice. Some Americans claim to be for Israel but believe it should be punished for the quality of leaders that it has elected. Should Israel not be rewarded

for its Peace Now movement? The sion of these critics is groundless, cause the newly appointed Minister and Army Chief of Staff, peaceful gentlemen who do not that might makes right, and who relied on to avoid preemptive

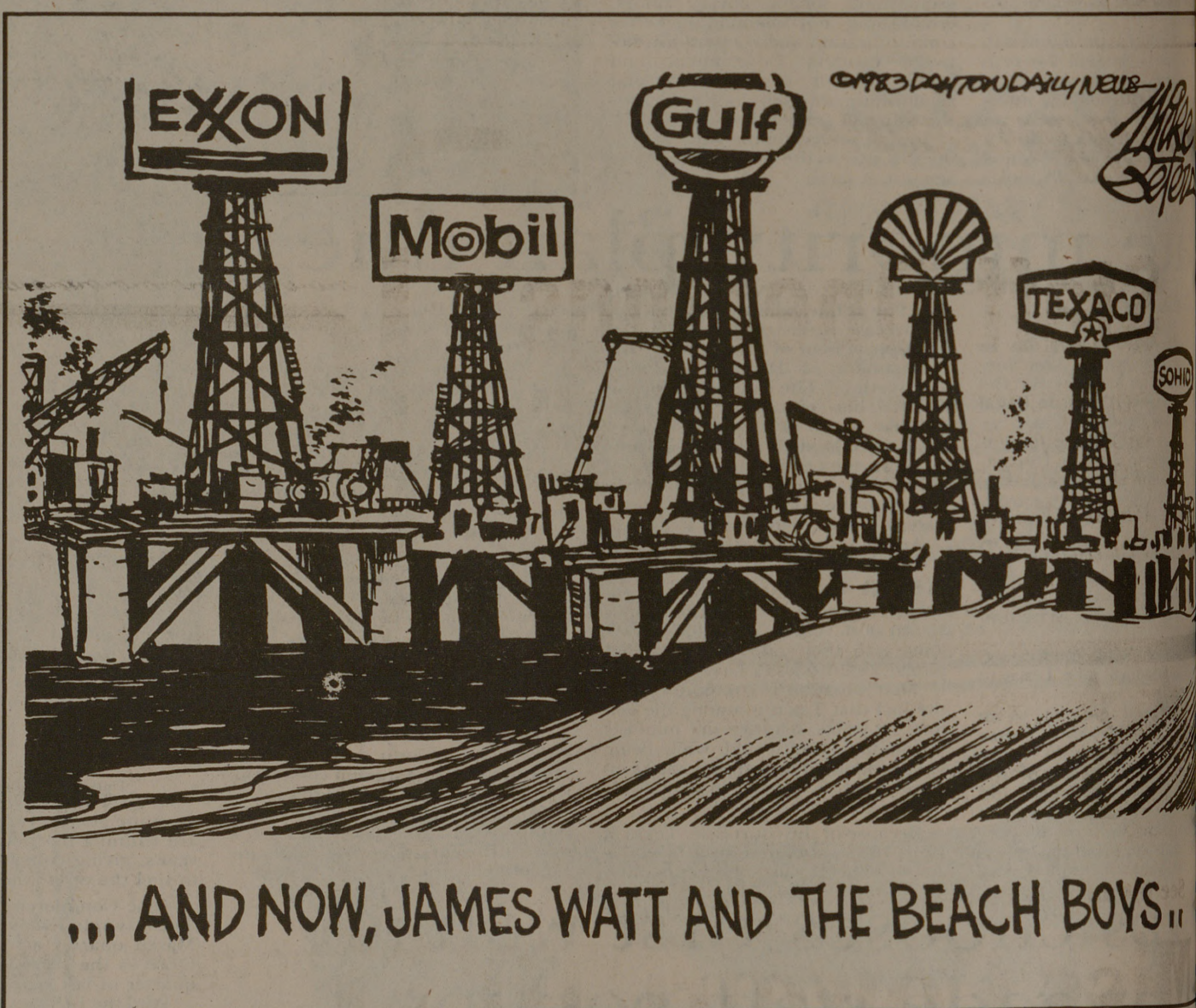
Logic and morality compel the strive for friendly relations with Middle East, but it is not logical price should be U.S. actions by Israel so that the U.S. can claim "evenhanded." The Arabs will be believing that the U.S. is biased of Israel. Logic indicates that U.S. relations with the Arab states will when the U.S. stops defending against the Arab taunt that the biased in favor of Israel. This wo pen for the reasons given in the end of this article.

It may be difficult to determine the most logical U.S. policy in the East. It is clear that the most illogical policy would be putting pressure on Israel to make agreements with the which do not guarantee Israel's security.

If the U.S. were to adopt this policy would weaken a valuable ally without gaining strength from friends in return. The PLO in the would play the role of Cuba in a tory it controlled.

The most logical policy for the is to renounce the path of terrorism who are preventing truly peace. Arabs from seeking peace with the Middle East that fantasy (and as a tion) beats logic at least nine times ten.

Emanuel Parzen is a distinguished professor of statistics at Texas A&M University. His latest book is "Ancient roots of a new nation."



Letters: Nuclear power called safe

Editor: This is in response to the three people who responded to Rube Williams' letter of "Nuclear Energy — The Great Debate."

First of all I would like to clarify the statement "strolling inside the containment building." The containment building is kept airtight and pressurized during reactor operations and no one including maintenance personnel is allowed into the building much less stroll around.

Secondly, your statement "eating uranium" strikes me as being rather odd. Uranium, contrary to your belief, is not ingested as part of the daily meal on plant premises. Actually if you smoke cigarettes, the radiation that you are exposed to from the tobacco smoke is of a much higher level than what you would receive were you living next to a nuclear power plant.

Your claim of world repudiation of nuclear power is also in error. Were you up on world events, you would probably know that most of the West European nations, Japan, and even the Soviet Union are scaling up their nuclear power plant production. France, the world's frontrunner in nuclear power plant production has approximately 50 percent of its electricity generated by nuclear means and plans to increase that to 80 percent

by the end of this century. Thus it would appear that your assessment of the world nuclear situation is quite different from reality.

You also mentioned the Three Mile Island accident, which I grant you was caused by operator error. Nevertheless, you never mentioned the fact that we face daily threats to our health from external sources such as murders, auto accidents, and chemical spills. It is a world of risks in which we live and one must consider the relative health hazards before passing judgment on commercial nuclear power, which to date has produced zero casualties. Could that claim be made by the chemical, gas or coal industry?

You also mentioned the hazards of nuclear waste. Did you know that the radiation dose you receive from luminescent watches is more than the (low level) wastes you so adamantly oppose? Finally I would like to know what your major is and what makes you the all knowledgeable authority on nuclear power. Most of your claims were absolutely incorrect and I do wonder at your information sources. I mean, good grief, if you can't even get your facts straight before writing a letter, DON'T WRITE ONE! In conclusion, GO NUKES!

Scott Peng, '84 Nuclear Engineering

Slave sale complaint

Editor: I am writing once again to object to the event which I consider offensive to referring to Crocker Hall's decision to hold a slave auction under the name "Brooster Sale." I consider this offensive because it is an imitation of the slave trade by which human beings are bought and sold. This event planned by the "Cocks" is therefore offensive to us who have not forgotten the history of this country and don't care if it re-enacted before our eyes.

I cannot figure out why these individuals have chosen to parrot the ritual again. However, I must say that they probably mean no harm although harm is done. I further say that they are probably just exercising their freedom, but when this school has more minority maids and janitors, has minority students and administrators, and when we can't even get into our band — don't talk to me about freedom!

Kevin Johnson

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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.

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