

opinion

Letters

Yuri can't cry wolf again

Editor:
The MSC OPAS Theater would like to present a sensational play, based on Jonathan Rapid's famous book *Bonzo's Bedtime Story*.

(Location of production: somewhere in Afghanistan.)

Act I: Little Goldy Lock is skipping and singing merrily, on her way to her Grandmother's house. When she gets there, she receives a handful of yummy-yummy candies from her joyous Uncle Yuri. His smile glares like a shining sickle during harvest.

Act II: The people of Lilliput gather in multitude. They are chanting, "Down with Uncle Sam! Hurray for Uncle Yuri! Such an exciting festivity. They even burn a cloth of red, white and blue colors."

Act III: It is full moon. Three happy little Korean pigs are building their happy little huts. Uncle Yuri now turns into a big bad, bad wolf. He huffs, he buffs, and he blows their airplane away.

Act IV: It is morning. Uncle Yuri now transforms into the little Jack Horner with panpipes in his pocket. Wiping the pie crumbs from the corner of his mouth, innocently he says, "I didn't do nothing. Honest. A good little boy I am."

(Intermission: the audience is excited, waiting to see the conclusion. Will the good people of Lilliput realize the truth and be on guard? Or will they continue to listen to the little black bear who cries wolf?)

Act V: ?????

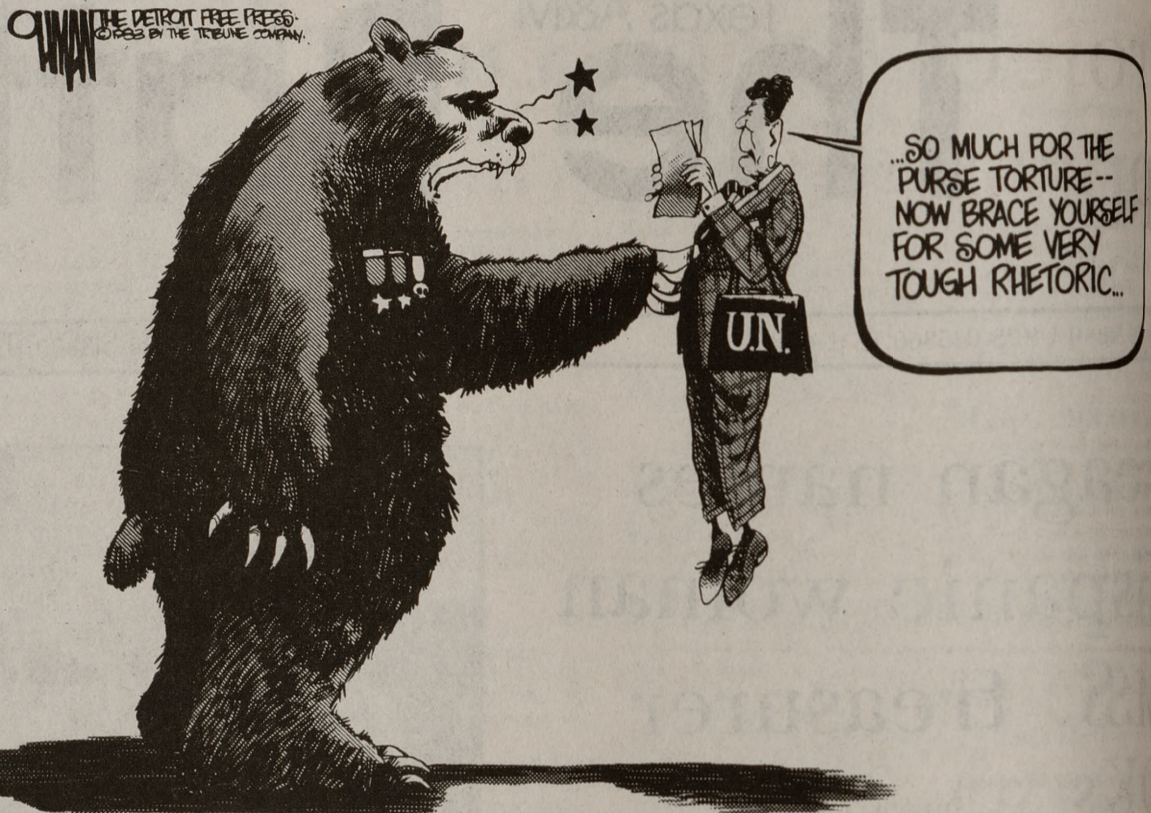
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Why no Naval Science?

Editor:
Letters, Sept. 6, reports that Cdr. Van Dyke tells Mary Ann Wiley she mustn't take Naval Science 101.

When? Who? Why not? How? WHAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Harriet Martin



Vodka boycotts not enough; No more ballet or wolfhounds!

by Dick West

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Apart from whatever it is the U.S. government is doing, many private citizens have taken it upon themselves to register displeasure over the Korean jetliner incident.

Mostly, these unofficial protests have taken the form of refusing to drink any more Russian vodka. Some cocktail lounge lizards have even gone so far as to stop ordering black Russians.

Until such time as the Soviets formally apologize for the attack on the airliner, they have vowed to stick to marguerites.

Pouring out 27 bottles of Russian vodka, as one Maine barkeep did, is all very well. But liquor boycotts are by no means the only we have of getting back at the Russians for downing the aircraft.

Here are a few other measures by which we can show the Soviets we don't intend to let the attack go unprotected:

Play no more Russian roulette. Although emptying a six-gun of all but one of its bullets, spinning the chamber, putting the end of the barrel to the temple and then pulling the trigger may be some

people's idea of a jolly time, we all must sacrifice some of life's pleasures for the commonweal.

Eat no more Russian dressing. Many patrons of salad bars have been known to top their handiwork with Russian dressing.

I'll agree a sauce consisting chiefly of mayonnaise, chili sauce, pickles and pimientos may well add zest to a hand-crafted salad. That is no way to make the Soviets aware of our anger, however.

Eschew Russian dressing for the duration of this crisis. Stick to oil and vinegar, or something.

Watch no Russian ballet. A high percentage of ballet dancers in this country are wont to leap about the stage in the manner developed early in the century at the Russian Imperial Ballet Academy.

I personally find a characteristic emphasis on dramatic, symbolic or interpretative pantomime through rhythmic plastic movements and postures quite entertaining. These, however, are troubled times.

If, while attending a ballet, you see any

performer, male or female, dancing in Russian style, be enough of a hardener to turn your head or close your eyes for the remainder of this segment.

You can tell when it's over by the way music changes.

Deal no Russian solitaire. Since the Russian bassoon, a brass instrument similar to a bass horn, almost obsolete, it may be superfluous to suggest that American musicians blow only

Between sets, however, there could be temptation for band members to kill time by dealing a few hands of Russian backgammon, a kind of two-player solitaire also known as "crapette."

I say, cut it out. And the same goes for taking Russian baths, which are defined as "prolonged exposure to steam" followed by "friction with cold plunges."

In particular, don't give your Russian wolfhound a Russian bath. Finally, you can express your disapproval by removing your Russian boots, especially before getting in the shower.

Juvenile delinquents more, better attention

by Children's Express

United Press International
NEW YORK — People think that poverty is a direct cause of juvenile delinquency. A child psychiatrist told us there is more to it than that.

Because people need material things they would do violence, they would steal. But Dr. Dorothy Otnow Lewis said a combination of things will put a lot of pressure on children and could cause them to become juvenile delinquents.

Dr. Lewis works at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. She is the author of "Vulnerabilities to Delinquency." She's been doing research on violent children and the causes that affect juvenile delinquents.

Dr. Lewis compared delinquents with non-delinquents. She looked at their medical records. She found that the delinquents had more accidents and injuries, "especially head injuries," than non-delinquents. They had bigger hospital records. She also found out that many of their parents needed psychiatric help, too.

A lot of the children have injuries because parents physically abuse them. Sometimes the parents hit them on the head or smash them against the wall and that affects their brain and their central nervous system. That might cause them to be fidgety in school and not be able to concentrate. Some kids can't read because of that. They're hyper. "And these problems," Dr. Lewis said, "are often associated with aggressiveness."

Juvenile violence is a major problem in today's society. But Dr. Lewis showed us how kids are being put into reform schools and mental hospitals with not too much thought.

From her study, Dr. Lewis found that black children who were violent and committed social crimes were usually sent to reform schools but that white children were "recognized as disturbed," she said, and sent to hospitals. There was a prejudice

somewhere along the line whether it be by the police, the judges, or at the hospitals.

Likewise, if you're a girl and you're very disturbed and aggressive, you have a better chance of being sent to some sort of treatment like a hospital. In our society we tend to tolerate more aggression of boys. A violent boy is less likely to be recognized as disturbed, less likely to be given treatment, and more likely to be punished.

Dr. Lewis also told us that "when young children behave very aggressively, they are likely to receive a careful psychiatric evaluation." But a lot of older kids are just put into reform schools for "conduct disorder." She called this "a diagnosis which is a kind of mishmash — it doesn't tell you much except they don't like the way that kid has behaved."

"We found that 59 percent of the juvenile delinquents who were sent to a secure unit in a Connecticut correctional school had previously been in a psychiatric hospital or residential treatment," Dr. Lewis said. "It's very sad. It tells you that at some point lots of people knew they were disturbed. You have to wonder why they didn't recognize it when they were adolescents."

Since a lot of adolescents had a record of being in mental hospitals, maybe the hospitals weren't doing such a great job. Dr. Lewis explained that "as kids grew older, they became more of a threat, but not more violent — the same behavior was more scary because the kids were bigger. The hospitals and treatment centers became frightened and discharged the kids without good follow-up and without good care. Hence, this group of youngsters eventually got into difficulty and wound up in a correctional school."

"A fair amount has been written on how nothing helps antisocial behavior," Dr. Lewis said. "But any program that tries to treat these very disturbed, very violent kids, and is unwilling to give them support into young adulthood is going to fail."

Being there when lightning strikes; It takes a politician to run again

by Arnold Sawislak

United Press International
WASHINGTON — When Rep. Morris Udall was considering running for president again earlier this year, an old friend and former aide wrote the Arizona Democrat a memo in the form of a poem urging him to forget it.

The rhyme scheme and meter weren't all that much, but the advice was heartfelt. He told Udall that he believed no one would make a better president, but implored him to pass up the temptation to run again.

There is no indication whether the poem was decisive in Udall's decision not to run, but the former aide and a lot of others who knew and liked the gangling congressman were happy he made it. They simply didn't want to see Udall become a latter day Harold Stassen.

Even though some who have lost presidential races have made successful comebacks (Grover Cleveland and Richard Nixon, for two), in general anyone who has his shot at the presidency and doesn't accept the negative verdict of the electorate risks being regarded as an egomaniac, a fanatic or an idiot, if not all three.

Making a strong first race, as Udall did in 1976, may confer the benefit of the doubt for a second attempt. But someone who is soundly thrashed the first time out is expected to accept "the will of the people," as did Barry Goldwater after 1964.

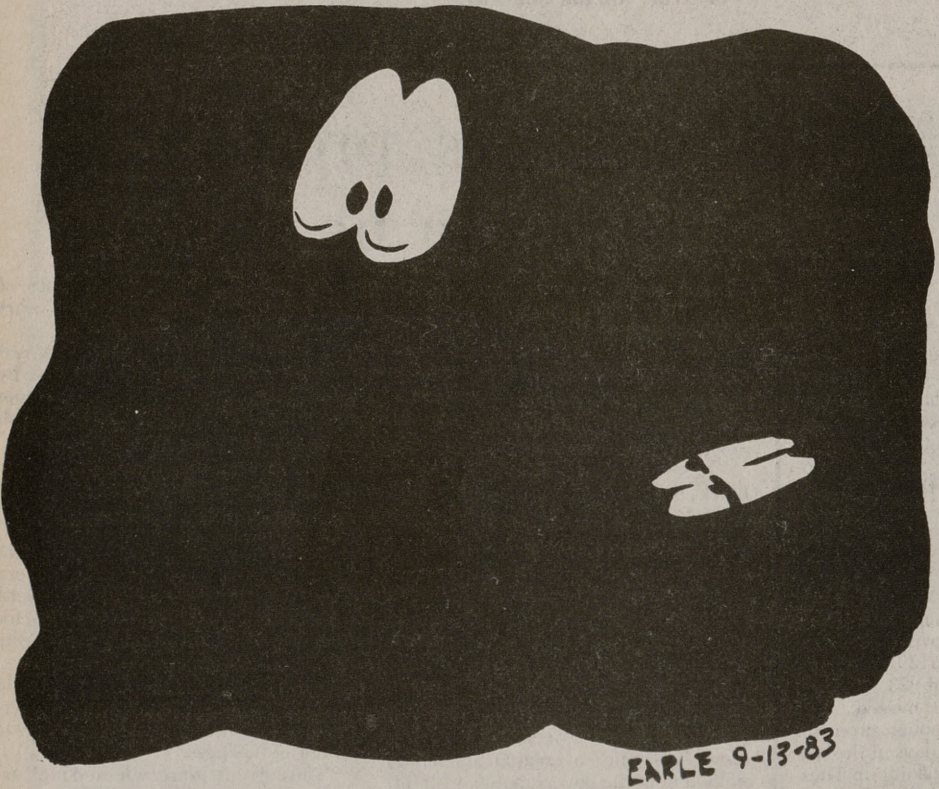
That does not mean Goldwater's example has become the norm in politics. Perhaps more typical is the post-defeat behavior of a John Anderson, who lost in 1980 as a candidate for the Republican nomination and the presidential race as an independent. Anderson, and other politicians before him, obviously choose to see past defeats as starting points rather than finish lines.

Such positive thinking, within reason, is regarded as commendable. At some point, however, it transcends optimism and enters a realm that most people would associate with fantasy.

All of which leads to the subject of George McGovern. The former South Dakota senator and 1972 Democratic candidate intends to run again in 1984 but told an interviewer recently that the most compelling argument against the decision is the risk of ridicule, "the fear of just looking like a Don Quixote."

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I just had an unbelievable nightmare that I was at a football game. A team came from behind to lead the game with a field goal in the last minute of the game, and then refused the points to take the penalty instead. Your mind plays strange tricks on you when you're dreaming."

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses 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 telephone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials also are welcome, but 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 (409) 845-2611.

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by Kathy Wies
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by Mitch Clend
 Battalion Report
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