

OPINION

Nuke exchange: handle with care

President Reagan signed a nuclear cooperation pact between the United States and the People's Republic of China Tuesday. The agreement paves the way for American sales of nuclear reactors and other technology to fuel China's nuclear program.

China says the technology will be used to develop a commercial energy program, not to enhance its existing nuclear arsenal. But China has not signed the 1969 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which is designed guard against the spread of nuclear weapons. China also refuses to conform to the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards on commercial reactors and fuel.

Before Congress signs Tuesday's agreement it must explore all angles of the situation. The pact is designed to promote cooperation between the United States and China and will undoubtedly be a shot in the arm for the American nuclear industry.

However, U.S. Intelligence reported last year Peking was aiding Pakistan in developing nuclear capabilities. Pakistan has had several disputes with India in recent years. If the agreement is hastily approved by Congress without a thorough investigation, our aid could be abused. While China is already in the nuclear business, it could be supplying less-developed countries with our atomic goods.

Congress also has a responsibility to the world to curtail the proliferation of nuclear arms. Our exchange with China is not granting nuclear powers to a country, it is merely a business transaction between two countries who already have nuclear capabilities. We must make sure that the new agreement does not inadvertently become more than that.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Coke adds choice

Which Coke is it?

I think life just got confusing for many Americans.

I understand that the American Way ended for many of you when the new and improved Coke replaced the old and passe Coke.



Cheryl Clark

I saw people who had been consuming caffeine for years go cold turkey just seconds after they had their first taste of the new Coke. I figured college enrollment would decline this fall because students had lost one of their major sources of late night artificial stimulation. I imagined that rum sales dropped when people realized that a rum and Coke just didn't taste the same. I had friends who checked into the room prices at the Betty Ford Rehabilitation Center to treat the withdrawal problems they were experiencing from lack of Coke.

Somehow those invigorating Coke commercials didn't seem the same, knowing that Coke was changing an American classic. I mean all those singers and dancers seemed so happy drinking the old Coke. How could they get the same uplifting experience from the new Coke? Bill Cosby seemed so sincere, but did he really prefer the new taste of Coke? If he did, why didn't he say more wonderful things about the great new taste of Coke? Instead he just sat there with a funny look on his face.

But America, you begged for the "Real Thing" to be revived. I know several people who screamed for a revival. Coke received more than 1,500 phone calls a day from die-hard fans who refused to give the new Coke a chance. Angry fans formed clubs across America, refusing to drink any Coke product until the old Coke was brought back. Old bottles of old Coke became a valuable collector's item for the people who had the foresight to stockpile a supply.

So like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Coca-Cola Classic was reborn. Yes, the "Real Thing" returned. It's the same formula in practically the same can. Coke just added the word "Classic" to the label.

But you thought the world would be rosy again when Coke announced the revival of the old Coke. You thought life would become bearable once you had your old Coke to consume. You cancelled your room reservation at the Betty Ford Rehabilitation Center.

You don't realize that your trouble is just beginning. You see Coke is about to encounter a serious distribution problem. There just won't be enough fountain dispensers, shelf space and soft drink machines to carry all the wonderful products Coke makes such as the standard (or "new") Coke, Coca-Cola Classic, the new Cherry Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Tab or its other products.

Fountain dispensers usually have four spigots to distribute the soft drinks. Most fountain dispensers prefer to carry more than one brand of soft drink like Coke. They carry other brands like Dr Pepper, 7-Up, root beer or orange drink. Heaven forbid, some soda fountains have even been known to distribute Pepsi. When you order a Coke, what are you going to do if it isn't the type of Coke you want?

Grocery stores have a limited amount of shelf space. The competition for this space between soft drink distributors is intense to say the least. Coke is adding two more products to its line, Classic Coke and Cherry Coke. Where will the stores put the new products on an already-filled shelf?

Will the Coke machines that say "Enjoy Coca-Cola" mean the new Coke or the old Coke? Think how much bigger the machines will have to be to carry the new Coke products. When the talking Coca-Cola vending machines start to sing "Have A Coke And A Smile," which Coke will they be referring to?

Beside the distribution problems, Coke will encounter some marketing woes.

What will Bill Cosby promote? The new or the old Coke? He really liked the old Coke, but he promised America that the new Coke was much better. Cosby is an important endorser for Coke. What will the company make Cosby drink? What if he really liked the old Coke better? What if he decides he likes Jell-O Pudding more than the new or old Coke?

If all those people are singing and dancing for the new taste of Coke, does that mean no one will sing and dance for the old Coke? They used to sing and dance for the old Coke. Does the new Coke make you want to sing and dance more than the old Coke?

Do you see the problems you are about to encounter with your beloved soft drink? I wish you the best of luck in finding the "Real Thing." Me, I'm going to keep on drinking Dr Pepper.

Cheryl Clark is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Life as an answering machine

My 'phony' summer vacation

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

(What Frank Sinatra and Art Buchwald have in common is that people prefer their golden oldies.)

MARTHA'S VINEYARD — What I did on my summer vacation:

I was a telephone answering service. Only people who have children between the ages of 14 and 30 will appreciate what an important function I performed.

I always started after dinner as soon as my daughter Jennifer asked, "Can I use the car?"

"What time will you be back?" I asked.

"Not late. If Debbie calls tell her I went with Tony over to Mike's, and if she doesn't get us there we'll be at David Crohan's Bar in Oak Bluffs."

"I gotcha," I said, writing it down.

Half an hour later the phone rang. "Is Jenny there?"

"Is this Debbie?" I asked.

"No, it's Sarah. And she was supposed to meet me at the Cafe du Port in Vineyard Haven," she said.

"Well, she went with Tony over to Mike's."

"Which Mike?"

"She didn't say which Mike. Is there more than one?"

"There are three. If she calls back tell her I went to the party at Ben's."

"The party at Ben's. I've got it."

Fifteen minutes later the phone rang again. It was Ben, who wanted to tell Jenny about the party.

I explained that she was with Tony at Mike's, but was going to David Crohan's Bar.

"Well, if Angel calls," Ben said, "tell him I need ice and wine."

"Why would Angel call?" I asked.

"To find out where Tony went."

"I gotcha," I said, writing it down.

"Tell Jenny about your party and Angel about bringing ice and wine. Do you have any message for Debbie?"

"Who's Debbie?" Ben said.

"I don't know, but she's supposed to call Jenny and I'm to tell her she's with Tony and they went over to Mike's and then they're going to David Cohan's Bar."

"Well, don't tell Debbie about the party because I don't know how many people will be with her."

"My lips are sealed," I promised.

I got into a hot tub when the phone rang again.

The party on the other end asked for Jenny.

"Who's calling?"

"Gordon Manning."

"You can find her at Mike's, David Crohan's Bar or Ben's party, depending how lucky you are."

"I'm calling from New Hampshire."

"That's too bad. There's lots of great things going on here," I told him.

"Well, will you tell Jenny I'm coming down on Tuesday and ask her to leave

my beach pass with Ellen in Edgartown? But tell her not to tell Betsy I'm coming. You got that?"

"Of course I've got it. You think I'm a dummy? Listen, I have to get off the phone because I'm expecting a call from either Debbie or Angel or the police in Chilmark, depending how late I am."

I started to worry about why Debbie or Angel hadn't called. I was watching Johnny Carson when the phone rang again.

It was Jenny. "We didn't go to David Crohan's. We're at the Phillips in Lambert's Cove."

"Now you tell me," I said angrily. "Everybody's trying to find you, with the exception of Debbie, who never called."

"She's with us," Jenny replied.

"And where the hell is Angel? I want to know."

"He went back to Boston."

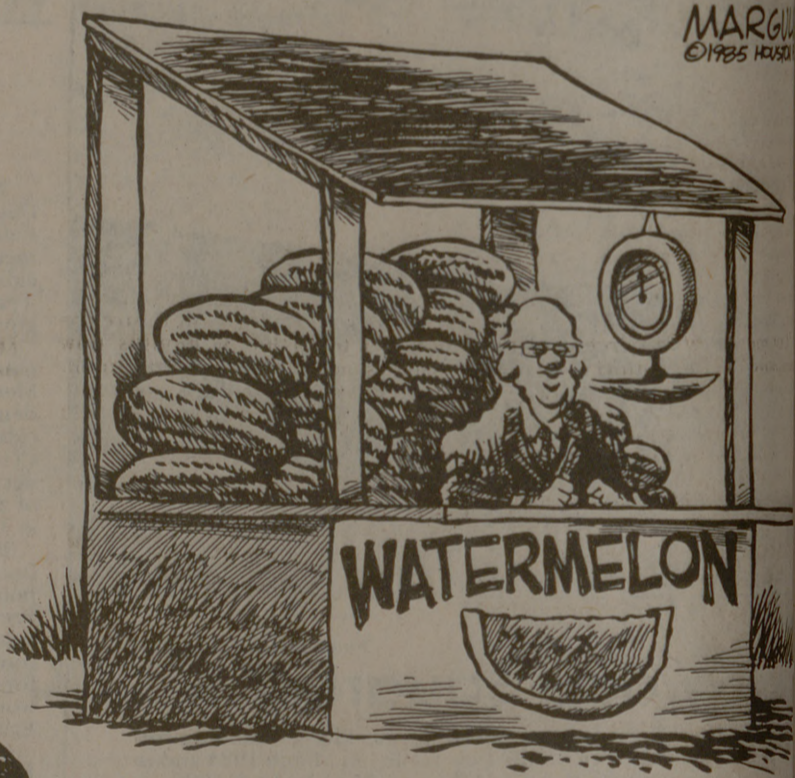
"Do you realize Ben was counting on him to bring the ice and wine to the party? Why didn't you call me?"

"I couldn't get to a phone. What else called?"

"Naval headquarters. They told me to tell you report back to your ship immediately."

"Dad, are you drunk?"

"Not yet, but by the time you get home I will be."



Mail Call

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

The fireman's side

EDITOR:

In regards to all those Ags concerned with firefighters on "your" campus, which is state-supported, we believe some of you may have some brains, but unfortunately many of you have no common sense.

The time we spend here learning how to save lives and property could effect you someday.

Most firefighters here are volunteers at home and are spending their money and vacation time to learn something to take back and benefit their community.

At a conservative estimate, the 2,900 people here for Municipal Fire School spend at least \$1.5 million for food, tuition, lodging and extras.

How many of the students here have jobs that depend on people from out of town coming to Texas A&M for schools and seminars? How many teachers and staff are hired to teach these schools? How much grant money does this school receive for research pertaining to firefighting techniques and materials?

To those of you who have a negative attitude, such as Richard Lee, a senior in engineering at A&M, I would be stumped on whether to save your life or the front yard.

It's too bad God didn't bless these

people with respect and courtesy for the visitors who are here for just a short time.

Along with the "rude" firefighters, there seems to be a number of A&M students who were not trained at home about sleeping in public areas, keeping their feet on furniture and parking bikes in the right places, among other things.

Some of the behavior we have seen in the MSC area is reminiscent of a bus station.

Are the firefighters the only persons who violate traditions? What about the law enforcement, agriculture and new students who attend A&M for schools and seminars?

You folks have a very fine school and a lovely campus of which you rightfully should be proud.

We look forward to coming here each year and would enjoy it much more were it not for the attitude of persons such as Mr. Lee.

Tommy Tomlinson accompanied by 45 signatures

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