Opinion

Aid for hypocrisy

By voting to send \$100 million in aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, the House of Representatives has assured the implementation of President Reagan's greatest foreign policy hypocrisy.

The Contras are a group of rebel insurgents attempting to overthrow the sovereign government of Nicaragua. The CIA covertly supported the rebels from 1981 to 1984.

The new aid package, which certainly will clear the Republican-dominated Senate, would mean the United States is supporting openly and financially an attack against a government with which we are technically at peace and with which we still maintain diplomatic relations.

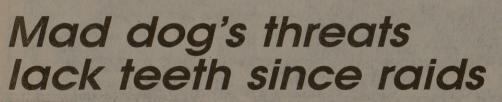
The president's present would violate directly the 1984 ruling of the World Court forbidding the United States to engage in any action which might cause increased aggravation with the Sandinista government. The ruling came after the CIA mined Nicaraguan harbors.

Reagan, however, is undaunted by the court's ruling. Last year, the administration withdrew from the precedings, saying it would ignore any decision made by the court. When, in 1980, Iran treated the court's demands to release American hostages with similar disregard, it was chastised severely by the United States for not respecting the court's authority.

The premise for the World Court's power comes from the mutual respect of its rulings by all nations. Like Iran's actions in 1980, Reagan's defiance is not only a blatant inconsistency with regard to the court's power, it makes a mockery of the concept of international justice — a concept that Reagan endorsed during the recent acts of terrorism against the United States.

Reagan, oblivious to his hypocrisy, is delighted the House decided to overturn its previous decision to block the aid package. The rest of the world is not fooled by the president's foreign policy two-facedness. America should not allow itself to be deceived so easily, either.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Officials in the Reagan administration say that in the weeks since the U.S. reprisal raids against Li-

bya, Col. Moammar Gadhafi has been disoriented and unable to secure control of his government and people. They say he's had to sidetrack planning for terrorist acts.

Michael

Putzel

News Analysi

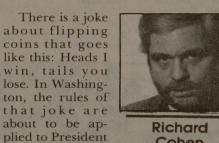
That report comes from U.S. analysts, speaking on condition they not be identified and pleased, of course, to leave the impression that the April 15 bombing raid has hurt the Libyan leader politically and left him psycholo-

from an air base in Libya. Gadhafi didn't make the promised personal appearance, instead showing up on television for a rambling, one

hour and 50 minute speech. Broadcast over loudspeakers, it generated little enthusiasm. Fewer than 2,000 people gathered, according to reports from the scene, and those that

came seemed bored. "This is a man who built his prestige on his ability to get out the Libyan masses and use his charisma to bring 50,000 or 100,000 people into the street and whip them into a frenzy," the administration source said.

n mercen to the U.S. source. The administration analyst termed the situation in Libya "tumultuous," saying the economy has been disrupted, food supplies are scarce in many areas general."



Cohen

Reagan's Supreme Court nominations: He has picked them for their ideology, but the Senate cannot reject them for the same reason.

In nominating Antonin Scalia to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court and William Rehnquist to be the chief justice, Reagan chose men who share — even exceed — his conservative ideology and who, the actuarial tables inform us, will be around to implement it. Both were chosen by the president right off the bat. They met, they chatted and Reagan popped the question. He interviewed no one else.

Almost immediately, the adjectivedu-jour in newspapers was "brilliant" Gadhafi succeeded, apparently with and, for sure, Scalia's and Rehnquist's mand re putting down at least two rebellions their ideologies. It is that - not just within the army in the immediate af- their brilliance - that led the president termath of the U.S. bombing, according to nominate them. Theirs is a conserva-a brittle ideology that shimmers with intellectual energy but whose consequences will not be ameliorated by political considerations. They are both the and "It's hard to get consumer goods in ultimate Reagan - the one, despite his daunting popularity, that the country has never quite accepted. If Reagan cannot be Reagan, then he has chosen sur- court judge in a tortured opinion that rogates who can.



When picking court justices, the president plays for keeps

fellow travelers in the legal community judicial activists — is that in pursuit of a particular principle they trample more worthy ones. For instance, in securing the rights of criminal defendants (the unconvicted), they are accused of ignoring the rights of the community. And there have been cases, especially when it comes to rules of evidence (the so-called exclusionary rule), where guilty people were given a walk because the police failed to dot and evidenciary

But Rehnquist and, from the evidence, Scalia, too, are the mirror image of the judicial activists they so energetically oppose. In the name of judicial restraint or its kissing cousin, states' rights, they would deny a woman - maybe even one who has been raped or whose child, as with Tay Sachs disease, is doomed to an agonizing death - the right to an abortion.

The same holds in other areas. In a bizarre application of his brilliance, he has failed either by amend Rehnquist once wrote a memo to Justice (school prayer, abortion) or by less Robert Jackson urging him to vote lation. Previous Senates appreciat against desgregation of the schools in that their obligation concerning ac the South. Whatever the legal theory nominee was no different than the cited, the results would have been plain: concerning legislation: even Geo a loss of individual rights. Rehnquist Washington had a nominee (John R also has voted to limit the rights of criminal defendants, homosexuals, blacks and women — and even to limit their ability to argue their case in court.

The charge against liberals and their the press to publish controversial intertigative articles.

M

Supreme Court appointments where the president gets to play keeps - where the momentary cerns of the present come to haunt future. Yet some senators act as i would be dirty pool to consider the ology of the men involved and w their effect would be on the peoplet are elected to represent. They talk as ideology exists in a vacuum - as if president's presumed right to choose ideological soul mate takes preced over the consequences of that idea Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wisc.), s for his own Golden Fleece award, this way: "What the hell, everybody's to be something.

But that "something" has element it that the country, and the Cong have time after time rejected. As H vard constitutional scholar Laure Tribe pointed out that, in choose judges, the president can succeed whe

gicially crippled.

Reports along those lines keep appearing, attributed to unidentified U.S. officials. The Washington Post said on its front page that Gadhafi was not the same man he had been before the raid, and the New York Post put it more simply in a headline: "Gadhafi Goes Daffy."

Administration figures here aren't going that far, but they portray Gadhafi as a man exhibiting manic-depressive characteristics - and given to smoking hashish and maybe opium, drugs often used by Bedouins.

"He's fighting for his survival internally, and he doesn't have a whole lot of time for thinking about terrorist operations abroad," says one administration official, who has access to intelligence reports.

Reporters who saw Gadhafi recently described him as apparently badly sha-ken. More than 30 Western journalists were invited to Tripoli to cover what was billed as a major speech at a rally observing the anniversary of the departure in 1970 of American servicemen

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Scalia is in the Rehnquist mold. In speeches, he has championed a stingy interpretation of the First Amendment. And in a libel case involving the Washington Post, he joined one other appeals would, if sustained, hobble the ability of Copyright 1986, Washington Post Writers God

concerning legislation: even Geor ledge) rejected because his views we unacceptable to the Senate.

The brilliance of Reagan's nomin is not in dispute. But their ideology different matter entirely. A Senatet cannot judge them the same way president did is playing by absurd ru Heads Reagan wins.

Tails we all lose.

Ude outdoes himself EDITOR:

Mark Ude has outdone himself in the area of contradiction and ridiculous assumptions in his column Wednesday about the petition to boycott funds used for research of the Star Wars project, called "Strategic Defense Initiative" by extremists.

He refers to claims that the project has no reasonable likelihood of success as "ludicrous and irrelevent to the issue." How can the success or failure of a project be "irrelevent" when the estimated cost will be \$1 trillion (former Defense Secretaries Harold Brown and James Schlesinger), and when the world's top research scientists will neglect other research dedicated toward economically productive projects?

Ude also asserts that critics who say Star Wars "won't work and is uneconomical" do not have substantial facts to back them up. Clearly he has not done any research at all on the subject. Fifty-six percent of the faculty in the top 20 physics departments in the nation have signed petitions to refuse Star Wars funds on exactly those grounds, as have more than half of the faculty in 107 research departments nationwide.

Ude goes on and declares that Star Wars will protect the entire world from nuclear attack, a claim which is simply ludicrous. Star Wars only stops (most of the time - maybe) intercontinental ballistic

missiles, and cannot stop jet bombers or low flying cruise missiles. This leaves Europe especially vulnerable, and might lead them to feel as if they have been abandoned by the United States if Star Wars were implemented.

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Also, the idea that space lasers could prevent small nuclear exchange between countries such as Iran and Iraq is incredibly naive in the age of nuclear bombs that can fit inside of a suitcase

If the United States does implement Star Wars, and it doesn't work, the Soviet Union could hold a real military advantage because of all our wasted research. If it does work, we have merely put an enormous effort into prompting the Soviets to build their own space defense system, and this will create an arms race of an unprecedented intensity.

Alan Sembera

Misdirected zeal

EDITOR:

Roger K. Cunningham, your guest columnist on Tuesday, offers a spirited polemic in defense of the anti-pornography stand of the Dallas Association for Decency. Why would anyone with obvious talents for expression, organization and leadership be so consumed with something as innocuous as pornography?

There simply is no reputable, even reasonably

conclusive, evidence that viewing pornography leads to anti-social behavior. It is exceedingly unlikely that purging all the materials that Cunningham refersu would have any effect on the occurence of child molestation and other such abominations.

One must wonder then, where these antipornographers are coming from. What is it that makes them morally outraged at magazines with pictures of naked women, or even cartoons of "Chester the Molester?" The latter is, admittedly, in poor taste, but is it worth all that self-righteous indignation? What is the *real* basis for their objections?

C'mon, Cunningham. There are lots of worthwhile causes to get excited about. The Texas prison system is a disgrace. There's a pressing need for public education about AIDS, a problem that's going to get worse before it gets better. Can't wedo something, somehow, to reduce the number of handgun murders?

Burn some of that zeal of yours for a good cause. We'll all be better for it.

Prof. Dennis M. Driscoll **Meteoroloy Department**

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. T editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and le but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Ea letter must be signed and must include the address and telepho. number of the writer.