

# Opinion

## Name of the game

The Goodwill Games? Hah.

For an extravaganza billed as an attempt to ease tensions between the two superpowers, it appears to be only that — a mere attempt.

While the majority of the athletic events are running smoothly, controversy occasionally has raised its head in Moscow.

The first protest came the day before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev formally opened the games. The U.S. swim team protested that most of the swimmers were still in a standing position on the blocks when the gun fired to start the 50-meter free-style.

The latest protest by the United States occurred after boxer Harvey Richards was disqualified by a Soviet referee. Richards supposedly threw an intentional low blow to his Denmark opponent. A three-man jury upheld the referee's decision, but announced that he wouldn't officiate any more Goodwill fights.

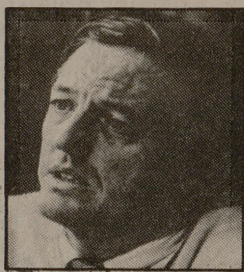
Objections also were voiced after the men's 1,500-meter run and the 110 hurdles concerning a supposed unfair Soviet advantage in preliminary heat assignments.

The Goodwill Games were expected to foster better relations among the competing countries, at least on an athletic level. But the Soviets can't even manage that. With the controversies and complaints, it's obvious that "Goodwill" is not the name of the game.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Democracy abroad not our first ambition

Tom Wicker of the *New York Times*, the guardian of U.S. appeasement, opposes U.S. aid to the Contras for boilerplate reasons (the Soviets will increase theirs, we will increase ours, they will increase theirs, and before you know it, the Marines will land). But in the course of explicating the usual arms-race reason why the United States should lose the arms race, Wicker writes a marvelously revealing sentence. "The United States has no more obligation to install democracy by force in Nicaragua than it does in Chile, or South Africa."



William F. Buckley Jr.

ing from the megalomania of an aging despot. South Africa has democracy, but limited, as America's democracy was limited from the Civil War to the mid-'60s, to white voters. But neither Botha of South Africa nor Pinochet of Chile has designs on neighboring countries, and that is the operative consideration in the U.S. foreign policy, particularly when imperialism is a surrogate exercise on behalf of a superpower that has a whole lot of hydrogen bombs, and the means to spray them about the population centers of the United States.

Nor is it democracy that is the first ambition of American idealism, if not of American policy. The Chileans had democracy and ushered in the reign of Salvador Allende, who proceeded step by step to subvert free institutions in Chile, even as Robert Mugabe, ushered in by democracy in Zimbabwe, is proceeding step by step to subvert free institutions. It is an old story, and an unfortunate one — democracy took us to Peron in Argentina and to Hitler in Germany. It isn't democracy we should be looking for, but the rule of law. And the rule of law is graded by democracy, but is not guaranteed by democracy.

The Soviet Union dispatched to Nicaragua last week 15 more M-17 helicopters, and Wicker is quite correct in that this poses a greater challenge to the Contras, and one that only the United States can subsidize. How?

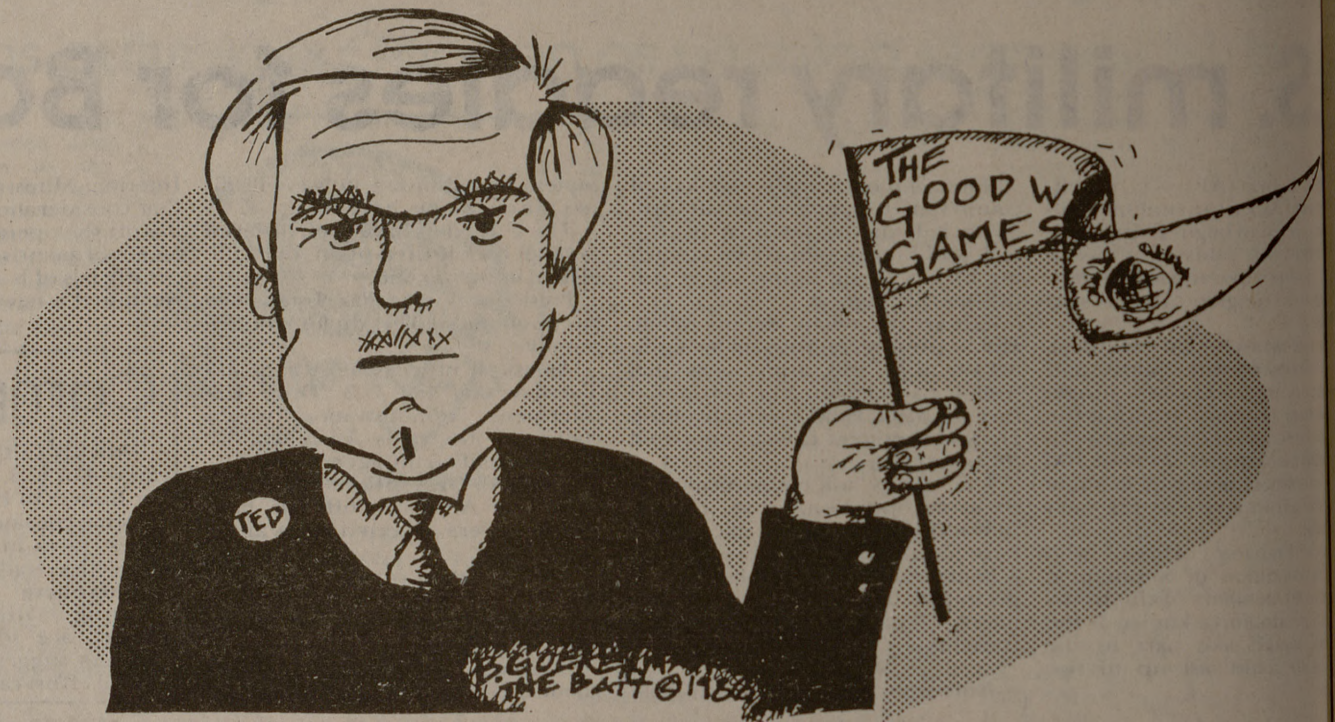
Well, you say, why did we let the helicopters get into Nicaragua? A good question, unanswered by the administration or by Wicker. Did they come in by freighter? If so, do we plan to inspect incoming vessels in the future? Or did they fly in from Cuba? And what are we going to do about that? Ask Congress for another \$100 million?

But all those movements are arranged in Moscow. And, in Moscow, French President Francois Mitterrand has been talking (15 hours) with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev about the imperatives of summit diplomacy. The State Department almost every day makes it plain how badly we wish for such a meeting to take place, if only to further the collaborative relationship that is seen as the key to peace. But the key to peace is of course cessation in aggressive activity. No one seriously doubts that if Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega were to renounce his ties to the communist world and satisfy himself simply to oppress his people in the same way that Pinochet is oppressing his people, that he would lose interest in the Nicaraguan phenomenon, sigh deeply, and say, well, what we have is one more Latin American dictator, so what else is new?

The Soviet Union desires, in addition to sovereignty over the affairs of the world, certain concessions by the United States, to which end it is busy making diplomatic overtures of one sort or another. Would we not welcome an overture by President Reagan that says: Forget any summit meetings until after the disarmament of Nicaragua?

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## THE NEW KID ON THE "BLOC"



## Do-it-yourself psychological experiments fun, educational

When I was young I used to enjoy Mr. Wizard's science program. Mr. Wizard used to show us how to conduct scientific experiments on our own. I learned how to make a volcano out of baking soda and vinegar and how to make a hard-boiled egg float in a glass of salt water.



Karl Pallmeyer

Mr. Wizard is still around and still is doing the same type of experiments. He still shows kids how to make their voice sound funny by sniffing helium, but he hasn't branched out into other areas of science. Some of us would like to continue our education under Mr. Wizard, but have become a little tired of dipping celery in colored water to watch the veins change color. We would like Mr. Wizard to teach us how to conduct psychological experiments.

Like Mr. Wizard's other experiments, his psychological experiments should be simple and easy to conduct. Usually you could find everything you needed for a Mr. Wizard experiment in the home. You shouldn't need white mice, Rorschach ink blots, a straitjacket or any other expensive equipment to conduct one of these experiments. Here are seven simple experiments that you can conduct here at school to watch abnormal behavior or a person's reaction to abnormal behavior:

- The Seat Experiment — It is an odd kind of human nature that students like to find a seat during the first week of classes and sit in that seat for the rest of the semester, even if the professor hasn't made a seating chart. Find

a seat at the start of the semester and sit there each day for about three weeks. Then come to class and sit in a new seat, one that someone else has claimed. Watch the confused look on that person's face as he or she walks into class. It gets even funnier when he or she takes someone else's seat and then that person walks in the room. No one feels justified in saying anything to you, and you can keep up this fun for months by choosing a different seat each week.

It's even more fun when you put a damper on a budding relationship by watching to see which guys have been sitting next to which girls and then take their seat. It's funny to watch the guy's frustrated expression, and you'll probably be doing the girl a favor.

- The Quack Shack Experiment — Next time you are waiting to see a doctor at the A.P. Beutel Health Center you can learn something about human nature and have some fun at the same time. Simply pick up all the pamphlets on VD and begin reading them. You'll be surprised how quickly people begin to scoot away from you. Even on the most crowded days you'll have an entire couch to yourself. The pamphlets on AIDS are even more effective at clearing out a room full of people.

- The Grocery Experiment — Shopping can be fun and educational. All you have to do is go up to someone, a perfect stranger, grab a can or a box of food from their shopping cart and ask them where they found it. Don't give them enough time to tell you before you put the can or box in your shopping cart and push off. It's most effective if you act excited about finding the item and thank them for grabbing it for you.

- The Steven Wright Parking Experiment — Comedian Steven Wright says that one his favorite things is going to

last, finding a good parking space — just sitting in his car. You can try any of the good parking spaces on campus. People will think you're leaving and will wait for you to pull out of the parking space. It's fun to watch the bewildered look on people's faces when they ask you if you're leaving and you tell them: "No, I'm just sitting here."

- The Urinal Experiment — People like privacy when it comes to bodily functions. It is an unwritten law that when a man goes into a restroom there is another man using a urinal, the newcomer is expected to use the urinal that is the farthest away from the first man. If you want to watch a man become uncomfortable, take the urinal next to him and strike up a conversation. The more personal the conversation the better.

- The Elevator Experiment — A person's desire for privacy is also strong when it comes to closed spaces. The next time you are on a crowded elevator, accuse a perfect stranger of making an embarrassing noise. It's fun to watch that person try to deny the accusation and everyone else look at them with disgust.

- The Police Experiment — The next time you walk into a room full of students say that the police are about to tow a car. It's fun to watch how many run outside to save their cars. Towings phobia has become so strong here that people who don't even have a car will run outside to plead with the police officer.

There are many other psychological experiments that you can try. It can be both fun and educational to study human behavior. Mr. Wizard would be proud.

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for *The Battalion*.

## Mail Call

### Crisis result of greedy farmers

EDITOR:

Your resident economic whiz and good ole farm boy, Karl Pallmeyer has done it again. With his quasi-review, quasi-column concerning Farm Aid II, Pallmeyer displays his truly amazing knack for jumping on the latest trend when it is popular. (Maybe you'll make the *Dallas Morning News* again, Karl!) In trying to equate the problems of Farm Aid II with those of farmers he misses the side of the barn by a mile. The operative similarity between the two is mismanagement, which also caused the fiasco at Manor Downs described in Karl's article.

The current farm crisis was brought about, for the most part, by foolish and greedy farmers trying to get rich quick. (Most farmers that used good investment sense are doing all right). When there was a shortage of farm goods and prices were high, farmers borrowed money at dangerously high interest rates to finance more farming. They put up their land and sometimes even their homes as collateral. Of course, over-production ensued and prices fell. The farmers could not make payments on their high interest loans, were foreclosed on, and now, Willie Nelson et al want the rest of us to bail them out.

I suppose that if this is the latest rage we'll be seeing NYSE Aid to help those who gambled on the stock exchange trying to make a killing and lost. Or what about Track Aid for those who bet on a long shot that comes in

last? Or Bank Stock Aid for bank owners whose banks are failing due to non-payment on risky loans they made to farmers? It could go on ad infinitum, ad nauseum.

It is really sad to see these people go under. However, they invested heavily with borrowed money at a risky time in a risky business trying to make a lot of money and lost. I don't think the American people owe farmers anything not owed to other businesses — small, large or otherwise — that fail.

Dub Mainer '84

EDITOR'S NOTE: Karl Pallmeyer has never "made" the *Dallas Morning News*. Opinion Page Editor Loren Steffy, however, did.

### Giving thanks

EDITOR:

This is a very grateful thank you to the good person who returned my watch. It is very reassuring to know that there are good and honest people still around. My deep and sincere thanks go to you.

Christine Dittfurth Neely Hall

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 Battalion

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