

Opinion

Clinging to the pipe dream

President Reagan's long-awaited "reassessment" of his administration's South African policy (or lack thereof) wasn't worth the air time it tied up. The president merely cluttered up the airwaves with yet another reiteration of support for his constructive engagement pipe dream.

The only conceivable purpose for the speech had been the plan to announce black businessman Robert J. Brown as ambassador to Pretoria. But Brown removed his name from consideration Monday and several White House officials urged that the president postpone the speech.

Other than calling for the release of political prisoners, the Reagan speech presented nothing new. In some cases, the president even rebuked earlier measures, encouraging businesses not to pull out of South Africa.

While the speech failed to inspire confidence in Reagan critics, it was successful in turning away more loyal supporters. Rumbblings from the Senate, previously thought to oppose a sanctions bill, indicate that economic sanctions may be imposed over the president's veto.

The much-lauded Reagan Doctrine of strength and consistency in foreign policy has been conveniently perverted to avoid South Africa. President Reagan, a hero of many westerns, left his six-shooters on the mantle when he spoke about South Africa Tuesday. Instead he fired empty rhetoric at the apartheid government in South Africa in a long-overdue speech, during which he said the United States cannot and should not dictate to the government of a sovereign government.

Tell that to Poland. Tell that to Libya. Tell that to Cuba. Tell that to the 20 other nations that have suffered Reagan-imposed economic sanctions.

Tell that to the Nicaraguan government. Reagan argues that the Sandinista regime is not a sovereign political entity because it is not an elected government. But the fact that the Botha government was elected only by a miniscule minority of the South African people is irrelevant. The fact that the vast majority of people in South Africa are denied the right to vote, the right to live and work where they choose, the right to basic civil and human freedoms doesn't affect the sovereignty of that nation in Reagan's colorblind eyes.

Reagan finds it easy to impose economic sanctions against nations whose policies we abhor or find politically threatening. But when it comes to South Africa he says economic sanctions don't work.

The United States claims to be a moral nation concerned with human rights. If that's true, it has to start fighting for the rights of all people, even when such action is not politically advantageous.

Like Bishop Tutu, and all morally conscious people, we are quite angry. Popular and partisan opinion are against the president and with good reason. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the inaction he calls "constructive" is tainted with apathy.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Truth about A&M life a hair-raising ordeal

It happens each summer. Hundreds of poor, innocent high school graduates come to Texas A&M to be brainwashed. These brainwashing sessions are held under the guise of freshman conferences.



Karl Pallmeyer

Freshman conferences are wonderful in that they expose future Aggies to a word they never will be able to forget: TRADITION. That word is used as the sole reason for all the silly little things that students are expected to do. That word also is used as the ultimate alibi for everything that doesn't seem fair.

Freshman conferences are held to help prepare incoming students for life at A&M. Why aren't incoming students given important information instead of the trivial traditional talk?

Tell them that they are about to lose all identity and become a number in a computer's memory. The administration doesn't care about much except maintaining the status quo. Most students enter and leave this school and become a statistic.

Brown-nosers are not only noticed but are praised and pampered. The fact that you can get further by kissing others' butts instead of working your own off is a valuable but disgusting lesson.

Instead of telling incoming students about standing at football games, staying off the Memorial Student Center grass and making weird noises for any conceivable reason, tell them about some of the things that aren't so great.

Instead of telling incoming students about how wonderful it is that things haven't changed in over a hundred years why not tell them about how silly it is that things haven't changed in over a hundred years.

Instead of praising Aggies for the way they stick together, why not talk about the way they won't stand up for anything that really matters. Why not talk about the way over 8,000 students become violently upset just because a few people want to sit on the MSC grass but only a handful care enough to do anything about stopping apartheid in South Africa, ending U.S. support for terrorist activities in Nicaragua, preventing the wholesale abuse of natural resources and protecting the civil rights of gays, minorities and women.

Instead of praising the Corps of Cadets as the "backbone" of Texas A&M, why not talk about the way A&M hasn't risen out of the '50s because of the per-

petuation of outmoded military traditions. Why not talk about the way less than 2,000 students are coming to be better Aggies than 33,000 students just because they are members of a fascist fraternity in uniform.

Instead of praising the Association of Former Students for giving so much money to the school, why not talk about where that money goes: the team, bell towers and the Rich G. Building.

In these times of the decreasing permanent University Fund it would be a good idea if more of that money could be used for improving the library, providing more scholarships, increasing faculty salaries and the general betterment of the institution.

Aside from problems with parking registration and long lines there is the most disgusting attitude problem.

There is one tradition, although not formally taught and perpetuated that has this school and its students in a stranglehold. That tradition is conformity.

It is an unwritten law that students are expected to enter this school, complete their assigned classes, do their assignments without asking questions, go to the football games, hang out in the same places, wear the same clothes, listen to the same music, act in the same fashion, watch the same movies, and no waves and grab a diploma.

It is an unwritten law that students are expected to leave this school, get a maroon and white Buick, find a house in the suburbs, get a pocket full of credit cards, refuse to take a stand on any issue, come back to A&M at least one year for a football game, send money to the Association of Former Students, have children and send them to the same school.

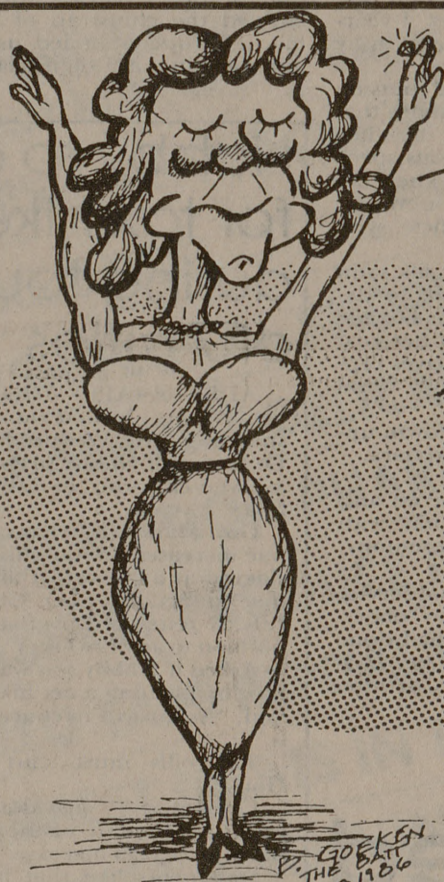
It is an unwritten law that students are expected to worship God, Country and Money.

It is an unwritten law that students are expected to never ask questions that never cause change.

Why aren't incoming students told that they are expected to become a generic product about to be released into a generic world?

Why isn't something done to stem mindlessness on a larger scale?

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



DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

THE REAGAN PLAN: (IN SOUTH AFRICA)

- A. NO U.S. SANCTIONS
- B. CONTINUE "CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT"
- C. INVEST U.S. \$ IN DEEPERS DIAMONDS
- D. STALL ANY FURTHER ACTION UNTIL WHITES OUTNUMBER BLACKS

Nuclear arms talks will hurt U.S., help Soviets

The day's news advises us that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is "impatient" with U.S. delays in reacting to his many proposals. He wants us to stop nuclear testing, he wants us to take out our middle-range missiles from Europe, he wants England and France to freeze their nuclear inventory at the current level, and he wants us to extend the ABM treaty for 15 years, and to acknowledge that the treaty forbids any testing, let alone deployment of our



William F. Buckley Jr.

space shield technology. In return for which? Why, in return for which the Soviet Union would reduce its arsenal of warheads to 8,000 and its total number of delivery systems to 1,600.

Now if we were to do this, what would the benefit be to the United States or, for that matter, to the Free World? Answer: none. Eight thousand warheads and 1,600 delivery systems are quite enough to wipe out the military and population centers of the non-communist world.

And on the other hand, if we stopped testing, we would curtail the kind of technological curiosity that has made it

possible for us sharply to reduce our own nuclear inventory and to design safety features that protect us from any risk of accident. If we were to withdraw our theater missiles from Europe, we would create a nuclear vacuum hospitable to dominant Soviet tactical military force.

If France were to arrest its nuclear development, it would soon find itself impotent against the protective devices the Soviet Union busily is preparing to shield greater Moscow (greater Moscow has a diameter of about a thousand miles according to some military experts).

If England were to abandon its decision to purchase a Trident submarine, its nuclear inventory would be crippled severely. If we buy the Soviet version of the ABM treaty, we might as well abandon any research into a space shield, ceding to the Soviet Union the initiative in the development of this critical technology.

Now the kind of response we should be making to Gorbachev's grunt of impatience isn't dictated by any fear of antagonizing the Soviet Union. It is dictated by a fear of antagonizing the liberal establishment in America.

Here is what we should respond, in a one-sentence letter to the Soviet ambassador in Washington. It should read: Dear Ambassador Dubinin: In connec-

tion with Gorbachev's request for a response to his initiatives, kindly advise him to advise us when the military supplies exported during the past two years to Nicaragua have been returned to the Soviet Union, after which you will hear from us.

Should this come to pass, it would then be time for our next communication, which should read: Dear Mr. Ambassador: Please advise us when the Soviet Union has withdrawn from Afghanistan, after which you will hear from us.

Should that come to pass, the third letter: Please advise us when you have reduced your conventional army to 50 divisions.

Then: Please advise us when you are ready to reduce your nuclear warheads to 50.

And should that happen, our president could go to Geneva and with the flourish of a pen dispose of the problem of nuclear apocalypse.

Ah, they will say, people who write such proposals do not live in the real world. Precisely the opposite is the case. People who believe in negotiating with the Soviet Union at the same time that the Soviet Union is sending attack helicopters to banana republics in Central America are not living in the real world. The real world is the one that has been made by the lunatic appetite for power

by the Soviet Union, to the appeasement of which it has sacrificed trillions of dollars, the welfare and prosperity of its 270 million people, the slavery of its satellite empire and the technological energies of its best scientists. That is the real world.

The unreal world is that in which our diplomatic corps actually believes there is a purpose in endless negotiations that do not increase by the weight of a grain of sand the security of the West. The western security is measured not alone by the size of our nuclear inventory, but by the room we have to conduct our pol-

icies and to exercise our freedoms out fear of nuclear war.

They tell us that we must fear other arms race. Why? Because it is expensive? But the Soviet Union can bear any expense we cannot bear if it is so obvious that an arms race would bring on Soviet victory, then doesn't the Soviet Union simply deal with the manufacture of the nuclear weapon?

Because it has more to gain from West by negotiating. And we have to lose from negotiating.

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