

letters to the editor

Harry Allen Strunk has once again adopted a simplistic, black-and-white view of the world. He advocates sending Iranians back to Iran and not admitting any more. What he fails to take into account is the fact that many Iranians who are here are here because they differed with the Shah's regime and many who want to come differ with the present regime. Dissidents such as these have always been accepted in the United States (perhaps even Strunk's great-great-grandfathers). Would Strunk, then, have us close our borders to the Vietnamese, the Cambodians, the Cubans, the Afghans, the Russians, the Czechs, et al.? Apparently so.

Yet Strunk himself disagrees with certain policies of our government. Should we lock him up — or allow him to seek refuge elsewhere — perhaps in South Africa whose government policies he more likely agrees with?

Feeling personally humiliated, Strunk suggests we think about taking "drastic measures". What are these? Would he have us stage another Mayaguez Incident in which more of our men were killed in the rescue operation than the number of men being rescued? If this is what Strunk wants, I suggest that he be the first to sign up.

Sally Stoddard
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Analysis lacking

Once again Harry Allen Strunk has succumbed to the simplicity of the issues without any effort at factual or intellectual analysis. Mr. Strunk attacks U.S. foreign aid programs because past recipients have not been grateful enough to toe the U.S. line or sing the praises of the U.S. on their knees.

Mr. Strunk uses the examples of Iran and Vietnam as instances of indiscriminate aid to "back stabbing" nations. The fact is that U.S. aid was used to support regimes friendly to U.S. interests. Is it surprising that the victorious enemies of those regimes should be hostile to the nation that opposed their efforts? Quite frankly, when

you support a loser you pay the consequences.

France is also deemed to be ungrateful because it refuses to join the U.S. boycott of the Summer Olympics, even though it has received \$7.6 billion in U.S. aid since 1946. The fact is that France has not received any significant aid from the U.S. since the 1950s.

Strunk describes Pakistan's military aid as looking a gift horse in the mouth. The U.S. was not giving Pakistan much of anything. In return for the aid the U.S. wanted Pakistan to serve as a buffer state against possible Soviet aggression. Also, there were indications the U.S. wanted Pakistan to defer development of an atomic weapon. In view of U.S. demands and Pakistan's needs \$400 million may well have been "peanuts."

Finally, Mr. Strunk states that American aid should be determined by which nations deserve it rather than by which nation will fall under Soviet influence or which has the lowest per capita income. How are we to decide which nations "deserve" the aid? By how loudly they say thank you? Rewarding nations which support U.S. positions can be a factor, but to use it as the only factor in distributing foreign aid would be both cynical and dangerous. Some nations deserve U.S. aid because their people live in intolerable conditions. When people are starving or living in abject poverty, the question should not be, "When did you last thank Uncle Sam?" In other instances, aid is an influencing factor. When the U.S. is in competition with the Soviet Union in various parts of the world, aid can be an effective weapon. To stop foreign aid programs because we have been burned a few times is to take oneself out of the competition without chance of success.

The purpose of this letter is not to provide answers to the problem of how foreign aid should be distributed. Rather it is to show that simplistic and inaccurate views as expressed by Mr. Strunk are more dangerous than useful.

Timothy E. Divis
Senior/Law

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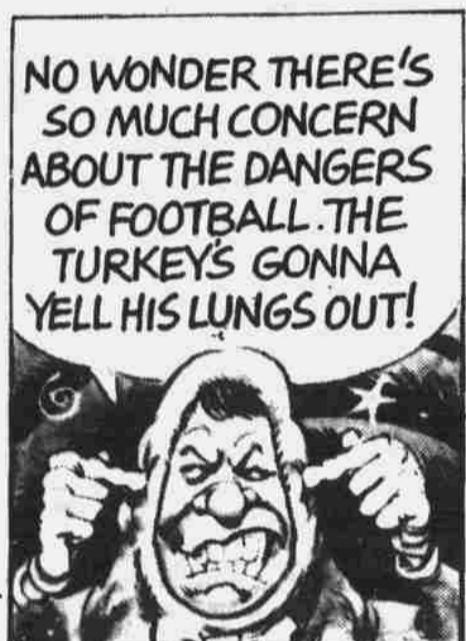
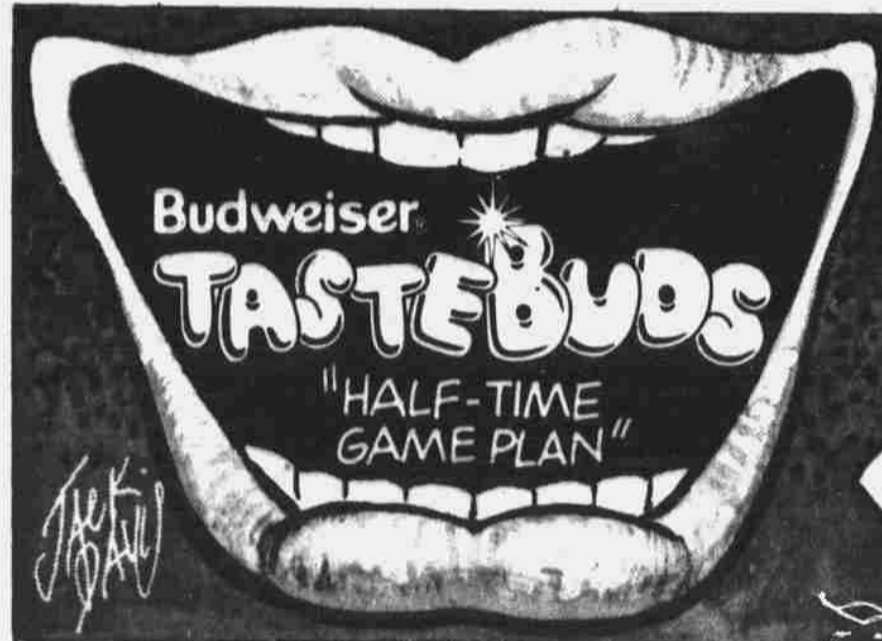
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