

opinion/editorial

Reagan would turn us back to the 50s

It is no secret that this semester's Daily Nebraskan has been highly critical of Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan. In this, the last anti-Reagan editorial to be run before election day, an attempt will be made to state the reasons for our sentiment in as calm a fashion as possible.

The international state of affairs has made U.S. foreign policy a major issue in this campaign, perhaps diverting some attention from the shabby state of the economy under President Carter.

It is in his world view and foreign policy proposals that Reagan, in our opinion, receives his lowest marks. It is wrong to try to paint Reagan as a warmonger. Rather, he seems to exemplify a simple-minded world view and strategic policy that, without drastic changes, could return our foreign policy to the unworkable massive retaliation doctrine of John Foster Dulles.

Reagan paints images of world communism as a creeping disease, much like leaders in the 50s and early 60s. It is this erroneous understanding of a fictitious communist monolith that led our nation into the Vietnam War and caused our failure to recognize the People's Republic of China for more than 20 years.

We do not suggest that Reagan would make old mistakes over again, but it is our fear that when new situations come up, they would be dealt with under a mistaken world view likely

to push the United States into conflict for the wrong reasons, based on inappropriate goals and perceptions.

This newspaper firmly believes and has stated—that the United States must strengthen its conventional forces in order to lessen our reliance on nuclear weapons.

But Mr. Reagan apparently wants to strengthen both, which we view as a dangerous policy, even if there is no intent to use thermonuclear weapons.

While nuclear deterrence must remain intact, it is wrong to assume that the United States could win an arms race with the Soviets. Their technology is close enough to ours now that they could play to every card we offer. At one point, Reagan suggested that we could win an arms race. A clear-thinking person is likely to realize that resumption of Cold War philosophy will not make the world safer.

During this week's debate, Reagan went to the other extreme, saying he would like to negotiate with the Soviets until neither side's nuclear arsenal threatened the other. That is impossible. When the United States introduced nuclear weapons to the world, it changed the world. When missile technology became refined enough to accurately deliver those weapons, it was clear that thermonuclear strategic weapons were here to stay.

The Chinese now have good enough technology to build intercontinental ballistic missiles. The

superpowers cannot deter that threat without maintaining the strength to threaten each other.

What is reflected in both the arms race statement and the debate statement is a failure by Reagan to understand the reality of the world in 1980, especially as relates to strategic doctrine.

Domestically, Reagan wants a special minimum wage for young people. We absolutely stand by fair pay for young people and a maintenance of the present minimum wage structure. A capitalist society can afford to exploit its young people who must work to eat. A democracy cannot.

Reagan's adherence to the private sector, especially concerning oil, is distressing. The major oil companies will continue to fuel inflation and artificially fix prices until government firmly moves America toward a forward-looking energy policy. Perhaps big government is evil, but big business is interested in its own profit; not the well-being of this nation's people, from whom the profit is extracted.

Some argue that Reagan's views would be tempered by his aides; that he has shown a willingness to listen and modify his own ideas on expert advice. That is commendable, but we are going to elect a president Tuesday, not a staff.

The man and his views are the issues most important. It is our view that Ronald Reagan, however sincere in his views he is, would turn us back to the 1950s as we move toward 1984.



Marie seeks the monk

Halloween on the wires. It's true, Marie spreads the word. The monk is on the loose, a bit of puckish mercury flowing in dark eyes. He's grafted horns to forehead-pointed ears under curly hair, and now plays a tiny pipe outside of her window. A satyr self-image manifested under the cloud-laced skies of October.

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Marie throws window open and laughs. Door locked tight, she climbs out the window and down a story, dropping to the grass with her arms spread wide. Books on the windowsill flap in the wind, papers blowing from the fanning pages. It's true. Jason saw them disappearing down the alley hand in hand.

He stands somber under the streetlight watching. His ear is cocked slightly to the chilly wind and the distant sound of reed pipe touching lips. He wheels around—too late to avoid the blanket's sweep as it goes over his head. He feels the bite of ropes being wrapped loosely around him, his shouts of protest cut short by the rich smell of incense on blanket. He inhales deeply, and hastens to keep in step with the rope pulling him forward.

Did you see them? Dancing naked as the day they were born with voices ringing in the open chord of rapture. Moving onward through the void vistas that pop up like ducks in a shooting gallery. Free.

Jason and Marie strain to keep up with the monk, they chase the scarf streaming from around his neck as he disappears into a cloudy bank of trees. They cartwheel to a stop, bending over and huffing and laughing with hoarse voices.

"What's got into him?" hacks Jason, Marie smiles. She tweaks Jason's nose and takes off running into the woods. Jason follows, rubbing his nose with the palm of his hand. He calls after them.

The monk sits on a rock, hands clasped around knees. He snaps the reed pipe in half and tosses the pieces down to Jason and Marie as they look up at him. Ribbon madness undone by the denial of chains.

He gets slowly to his feet to greet the moon coming over the trees. Lunar mothership confirmed by the loonies twirling under her.

"Careful," Marie calls. "Your gypsy kinship is showing."

The smile dawns brighter. I swear it's true. I saw them all dancing on the razor's edge, arm in arm. A testimonial to the costly oneness of spirit.

Political election choices range from nasty to nice

Column by Michael Kilian

BUFFALO I think Jimmy Carter really is going to lose this election.

Political predictions this year—including my own—have largely ranked with sports-writer's expectations of having the New York Yankees in the World Series.

And this does figure to be one of the most painfully close presidential elections in history. If most Americans cringe at the thought of keeping that nasty little Georgia cracker in the White House four more years, they are just as unhappy about replacing him with the affable California dunderhead.

But stepping back a little and taking a long look at it, one sees things falling the way of the dunderhead.

Here's what sticks in the mind:

Battleground—This election is being fought in places like Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio, which is logical. It is also being fought in places like New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, which is insane.

A Democrat looking toward victory should not have to be fighting for his life here in New York. It's as ludicrous as Reagan being in trouble in California, which he is not.

Anderson—Most of Anderson's Republican supporters have deserted him. Polls taken in Illinois' North Shore suburban 10th Congressional District showed Anderson leading Reagan 2 to 1 in June and trailing him 2 to 1 in September.

What's left are mostly disgruntled Democratic liberals who want to stick it to Carter for defeating Teddy Kennedy, who equate Carter with Reagan, and or who want to take back control of their party from the rednecks. They may only give Anderson 5 percent of the vote, but they will do it in places that could kill Carter.

Southerners—Politically, the Civil War finally is over. Richard Nixon's "Southern strategy" is in full force. The Republicans are no longer the party of Abraham Lincoln and Emancipation. Carter will get most of the Moral Majority southern vote, but far from all.

Labor If Walter Mondale were the candidate, the Democrats would not have to be battling for Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. But Mondale isn't. The Teamsters love Reagan. Many members of the United Auto Workers are fond of the "shirt sleeve boss" in George Bush. Politics is largely con. Carter's politics are almost entirely con.

War and peace—As with his 1976 "ethnic purity" remarks, Carter has been much more effective with his characterization of Reagan as a warmonger than people realize. But it won't be enough.

Hostages—Carter's likely "October surprise" is the return of our hostages in Iran unless the Ayatollah Khomeini, cackling fiendishly, decides to play Lucy to Peanuts' place kicking Charlie Brown. It won't be enough. Last December would have been fine; this November is too late especially if it means our taking Iran's side in the current war.

Undecideds—A liberal Democrat colleague of mine, who almost finds Republicans synonymous with concentration camps, thinks voters will go back to Carter when it fully dawns on them that their only alternative is to make Ronald Reagan president. I think this dawned on them weeks ago—along with this realization: The only alternative to Reagan is Jimmy Carter.

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