

Editorial



"OK, men, we've got to take this hill..."

Freeze aimed at ex-hippies, elderly

One of the most interesting things to me about the nuclear freeze movement is that it has yet to really establish a firm constituency. In the past, political movements such as this found rabid support on university campuses. While some college students are involved with the freeze, the majority are too busy dressing for success (which means they eventually want to work for corporations with military contracts, so they don't develop an opinion on the subject) or punking out (which means they want to prove how much they dislike Margaret Thatcher, so they don't develop an opinion on the subject).

Oddly, then, the freeze has found two rather unlikely sources of support: ex-hippies who have been looking for a good cause ever since Nixon resigned (El Salvador just



Mike Frost

never really caught on) and, most surprisingly, the elderly. It seems with Social Security about to go the way of Prohibition, senior citizens are a bit sensitive to seeing huge sums spent on weaponry when they have to scrimp and save in order to spend on a romantic evening at McDonald's.

Because of this, organizers of the freeze movement have seen the necessity of gearing their activities toward these very different groups. Instead of staging events featuring performers that appeal to apathetic college students, the rallies are beginning to feature the types of entertainment that have always been popular with these age brackets, specifically, bad folk music and propaganda movies.

Thus, a typical freeze rally will first feature a rousing song by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Don't Blow Up No World in My Face, Mama
 Hey, hey, uh-uh, no, no
 Nuclear Arms gotta go.
 There's a feelin' in the air,
 Nuclear Arms just ain't fair.

CHORUS:

Don't blow up no world in my face!
 You know I'm just gettin' used to this place.
 I'll miss the birdies and the trees, ha-ha.
 Yeah, Nuclear Arms and peace don't have karma.
 No, Nuclear Arms and peace don't have karma.

After this a giant screen descends onto the stage, and the rally's feature film presentation, "Nuclear Madness," begins.

Rocko: Pssst, hey kid!

Sammy: Yes sir?

Rocko: Have you ever tried . . . nuclear weapons?

Sammy: Heck no. They're supposed to be dangerous. I'm no dope.

Rocko: Hey, a cool kid like you hasn't fallen for that old line, have you?

Sammy: Well -

Rocko: Look, I'll explode one over there, watch. **(BOOM)** Ain't that swell?

Sammy: Dig that crazy cloud! Hey, can I try one?

Rocko: Sure, kid. Go ahead.

Sammy: Thanks! **(BOOM)** Wow! That's neat! Can I try another one?

Rocko: Sure. But it'll cost you.

Sammy: How much?

Rocko: Oh just \$4 million.

Sammy: Well, OK. Here's the dough. **(BOOM)**. Heh, heh, this is great. I gotta have some more!

Rocko: Well, I've only got four left. I can let you have them for \$2 billion.

Sammy: I don't know, I was supposed to buy some meat and potatoes for my grandparents.

Rocko: C'mon kid, they've already lived a long life. You gotta seize the moment. Whattya say? You don't wanna be square do you? Girls like guys with a big arsenal.

Molly the Moll (who just happens to walk by): Hey, you're kind of cute!

Sammy: Well, OK, here, let me have 'em. **(BOOM, BOOM, BOOM)** More, I gotta have more! Fast!!

Rocko: Sorry kid, I don't got anymore. Let me give you the number of a friend I know . . .

Announcer: What you've just seen is true. We've got to start now to fight nuclear arms, the weapon with roots in Hell! Remember, this could happen to you, or you. Or YOU!

Yes, as the flower children would say, oh, the times, they are a changin'. And the more they change, the more they stay the same.

Why racial affinity, racial hostility differ

After the California gubernatorial election in which George Deukmejian beat Thomas Bradley, I wrote a column saying it was incredible in this day and age (I am addicted to cliches) that some people admitted voting against Bradley strictly because he is black. I then trotted out some more cliches, calling these people racists or



Richard Cohen

something worse and rode off on my high horse to write yet another column. Then came the mail.

The mail is often unkind and seldom thought-provoking. This time it was both. There were the usual denunciations of me by the usual raving lunatics, but there were some letters that posed a difficult question: Why is it racist for whites to vote against a black, but not racist when blacks vote for a black?

It is a good question and, more to the point, timely to boot. It has been raised repeatedly in Chicago where the

Fall calendar: Illogical planning for breaks, exams

You remember Saturday, don't you? Saturday is the day when a student relaxes after a long grueling week of classes. Saturday is for football games in the fall and basketball games in the winter and baseball in the spring. Saturday is Sabbath for a major religion. Saturday is not a day for final exams.

Don't tell that to the university-wide calendar committee. They seem to think Saturday (Dec. 17, 1983, to be exact) will be a nice day to have finals. That is only one of a series of blunders the committee made in regards to the fall 1983 school calendar.

Final exams will be on Dec. 16 and 17, skip Dec. 18 and then continue Dec. 19 through 21. The Friday classes that would have been on Dec. 16 will be on a Wednesday, Nov. 23.

While Nov. 23 may not mean much to anyone at this time, it will when they realize that it is the day before Thanksgiving, a day most of us would like to be heading home for a break from residence hall food and classes.

The committee said that making the schedule took a lot of logical planning. Logical planning? How logical is it to cut one day off from Thanksgiving vacation? While that day may seem like nothing to students living in Omaha and Lincoln, it adds a large burden to students living out of the state. More than likely, the university will add to the mess by announcing that the residence halls will be shut down during the break, which says to those who live far away, "Go home or find yourself a cheap hotel."

The committee was set up by the NU Board of Regents in 1978 when the UNL, UNO and NU Medical Center merged. Therefore, the calendar is made not only for UNL but for the other two branches of the system as well. The committee has to keep in mind the needs of all three University systems when it makes the calendar a different chore.

The committee has said that UNO tries to make its schedule coincide with the schedule of the Omaha Public Schools. This has an effect on the calendar for all three systems in the university. Maybe the best question is: Why does UNO schedule its classes to coincide with OPS? Why should what the schools do in Omaha have an effect on the ultimate schedule of UNL?

If the problem for UNO is that the school is a commuter school and therefore it would be helpful to have its schedule like that of OPS, then why not have the UNO calendar different from that of UNL and the Medical Center? The fact that UNO is a commuter school makes it obvious that a shortened Thanksgiving break will not affect it as much. Most of the UNO student body lives in Omaha.

The school year will start later this fall, Aug. 29, than it has in six years. That portion of the schedule appears to be acceptable. In fact, it may even be a blessing. It will give poor college students an extra week to make money.

While it is realized that making the university calendar is not an easy assignment, one would think that the committee would use a little more logic - on our behalf. Nothing in life is perfect, and the 1983 school calendar is certainly no exception.

Bob Asmussen

Democratic mayoral primary was won by Rep. Harold Washington, a black. Washington fashioned his victory by getting 80 percent of the black vote while his two opponents split the white vote. Now Washington faces a general-election contest against - to risk a redundancy white Republican Bernard Epton. A vote for Epton by people who would otherwise never vote Republican is, we are told, racist.

Well, maybe not. There is, after all, the little matter of Washington's record to consider - specifically his criminal record. The man has, as we used to say, done time in stir. It was only a month, tis true, but it was a well-earned month since he was convicted of not filing federal tax returns for four years, although the actual figure may be 19 years - possibly an indoor record. If that was not enough, the Illinois Supreme Court barred Washington from practicing law for five years after finding that he had taken fees from clients and performed no work.

Unfortunately, there is ample reason to believe that all this is besides the point. If Washington were a Polish American and if he had won the Democratic primary with 100 percent of the Polish vote, not only would everyone

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