

Editorial

Canadian leader clears first hurdle

There's a new hoser on the block this week in Ottawa. His name is Brian Mulroney and he says he wants to be friends with the United States.

Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative Party both won startling victories in Tuesday's national elections; startlingly large victories. The big losers were Pierre Trudeau's Liberal Party and the entire Third World.

But wait, haven't Canada and the United States always been friends? Haven't the smiling Canucks stood by us from arms buildups to Third World exploitation?

Gordon Sinclair may have quieted some of the uproar with his sappy vinyl tributes to American institutions, but much of Canada didn't like the United States during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Our involvement in the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal fueled Old Glory burnings and demonstrations across Canada similar to protests now being heard in Western Europe.

Mulroney's election, as well as the takeover of Parliament by the Conservatives, signals the end of the reign of Pierre Trudeau and Canadian leaders agitating U.S. presidents. Through his resignation in June, Trudeau pressed for justice in international politics.

Trudeau's successor, John Turner, though not as liberal, promised to continue many Trudeau policies. In fact, the death knell of Turner's campaign rang when he appointed 17 former Trudeau staffers to posts in his prospective government.

Trudeau always viewed himself as an

advocate to the Third World, standing in the breach created by the nationalistic policies of Russia and the United States.

Reagan's policies ignore the Third World if they aren't in the best interest of the United States. Mulroney, like Turner, has close friends in American business. Obviously he will concede economic policy points to Reagan and American business in Third World matters.

Mulroney's economic policies are almost sure to improve Canada's struggling economy, though. Currently, 11 percent of the country's workers are unemployed and the Canadian dollar is worth 77 cents on the American dollar.

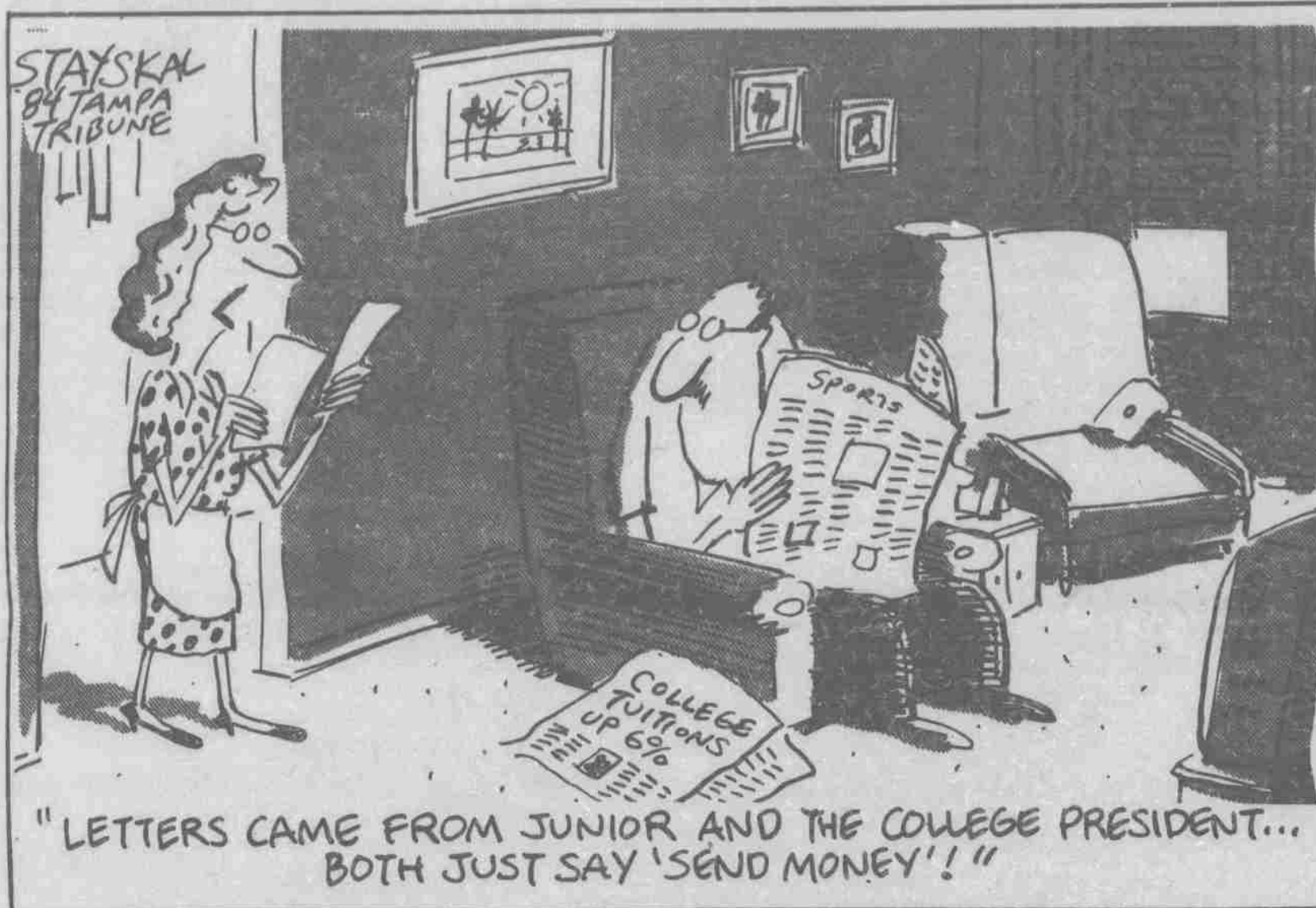
Trudeau advocated taking chances to improve East-West relations and ensure peace. By chance, Trudeau supported such risky endeavors as arms talks and eventual reductions.

American presidents at times grew testy because of Trudeau's insistence. Ronald Reagan, who, as sure as Nebraska will beat Wyoming, will win November's election, must be heartened by Mulroney's concession to give the United States the benefit of the doubt in foreign policy matters.

No longer will our president labor under the disapproving eye of a close ally. President Reagan will work unencumbered by the threat of re-election and bad Canadian public sentiment to establish the United States as undoubtedly the most powerful country on earth.

Good or bad, that is the case. Mulroney's election has placed that much more power in the hands of Reagan and his advisers. Frightening.

Jeff Browne
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor



Telethons deliver guilt in attempt to gather viewer hearts, money

I like a lot about America: I like the people; I like the land; I like mom and apple pie, freedom and the representative form of government. I just thought you should know that. I don't like the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon.

Be assured, my intention is not to put down Jerry Lewis or belittle the work he's done for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He's unquestionably a sincere, caring human being. No argument there. So if he's such a fine person, why don't I like his telethon?



James A. Fussell

Did you watch the end of that telethon, the middle or even the beginning? If you did, you undoubtedly saw celebrities fall all over themselves begging for money for those charity children. Singers sang their guts out, comedians made you laugh until you cried and untold actors and actresses relentlessly extracted every ounce of pity from an already exhausted audience.

The trouble is they did it so well that they made us feel sorry for those kids. I could almost see myself mouthing the words "those poor kids." And they made us feel guilty with a capital GUILT.

I feel guilty and a little sad. I didn't send in any money. Maybe I should have, I don't know. I didn't send in any money because I resent being manipulated that way. Yes, manipulated. They do some major league manipulating. The whole show is devoted to evoking pity and guilt.

That's why they use a poster child. Ever see a poster adult? Are you kidding? Not enough drama. Find me a kid. Not too tall, arm braces, slight build with white teeth, freckles and a Wonder Bread smile. Bingo. Poster child.

I know, they're just trying to make me care. My heart is tugged out of shape. Believe me, I care. They made me care so much that I got to thinking about the whole idea of telethons. And for that matter, jumpathons, walkathons, skipathons, bounceathons and all the rest.

I resent, and I would venture to say that many self-respecting people with physical handicaps, resent the way we have to beg, wheedle and plead for pity just to get a few bucks for a disabling disease.

Excuse me for saying so, but it's Reaganomics run rampant. Let the private sector take care of the poor, the old, the emotionally and physically disabled. Not when I'm king. One of my favorite quotes goes something like this: it will be a great day on earth when needy people get all money they need, and the Pentagon has to have a bake sale to buy a bomber.

Jerry Lewis raised more than \$32 million this year for Muscular Dystrophy, breaking his own record. A lot of money? Sure. But next time you're hanging around the Pentagon, ask them how much just one B-1 Bomber costs. You're paying for it. Then ask yourself: Do we have our priorities straight? You may think so. I hope not.

But even as I rail for change, I find myself mired in a Catch 22. Even if I could wave my magic pen and make telethons disappear, I wouldn't. I couldn't at this time. The fact remains, the majority of the money going toward curing disabling diseases comes from those pitiful telethons. If I were a person with physical handicaps (and notice that they are people first and handicapped only incidentally) I would resent them and root for them all in the same breath. Quite a quandary.

The alternative? Direct governmental support. Other countries do it. Even America has done it before.

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Lumber company receives favors

A lumber company whose former general counsel heads the U.S. Forest Service has its hand out for multi-million-dollar favors from the federal government. Louisiana Pacific Corp. buys more government-owned timber than any other company, and has a long history of receiving preferential treatment from Uncle Sam.

As we've reported in the past, Forest Service chief

Jack Anderson and Joseph Spear

John Crowell went to bat for his old company on a \$600 million timber-industry bailout, and Louisiana Pacific subsequently posted record profits.

The Forest Service also refused to cooperate with a congressional investigation of price-fixing and bid-rigging charges against Louisiana Pacific, and the Justice Department dropped a criminal case against the company despite a federal judge's finding in a civil case that Louisiana Pacific and another company "conspired to restrain trade and to monopolize the timber industry in southeastern Alaska."

Here are Louisiana Pacific's latest shenanigans in the field of corporate welfare:

— The company is expanding aggressively into waferboard, a plywood substitute made of wood chips and resin. The process uses previously worthless trees — like aspen, until now valuable chiefly for its brilliant autumn foliage.

Enter the Forest Service, which had plans to "treat" aspen stands in Colorado — a euphemism for wholesale cutting of older trees that could be a fire hazard. According to internal documents seen by our associate John Dillon, the Forest Service originally planned to treat some 2 million board feet of aspen in Colorado national forests.

But when Louisiana Pacific announced its plans to build a waferboard mill near Montrose, Colo., the Forest Service suddenly decided that 50 million board feet of aspen needed to be treated.

In one document, a Forest Service official acknowledged candidly that the 25-fold increase in aspen harvesting was "in response to Louisiana Pacific's request for aspen." He wrote that the cost data was "based on information as developed from recent contacts by Louisiana Pacific regarding possible new markets for aspen and expansion into this area with construction of a new mill facility."

— Louisiana Pacific has also been pressuring communities in Mississippi, Michigan and Minnesota to apply for grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to finance wafer-board plants in their areas.

Nuclear phobia? — Are you scared of nuclear power? Rest your weary minds, friends. The Department of Energy is spending \$85,000 of your money for a study of this particular anxiety. In all likelihood, you will soon be informed that your fear of nuclear meltdowns is irrational — a phobia, like fear of flying.

Conducting the survey is Dr. Robert DuPont, a psychiatrist with decidedly pro-nuclear leanings. Appointed by President Richard Nixon to head the National Institute on Drug Abuse, DuPont is a phobia expert who believes that the media plays to the public's fear of nuclear energy. In a 1983 article, he wrote that the nuclear-power debate "is being warped by an irrational fear of this method of generating electricity."

DuPont's survey of about 160 people asked such questions as, "Generally, how afraid of nuclear power are you personally?" He also asked respondents to agree or disagree with statements like, "I have confidence that the government will see to it that nuclear plants are built safely."

After the initial survey, DuPont asked his respondents to read an "educational booklet" in which he concluded that "some people fear nuclear power unreasonably and that this fear is harmful both to the fearful individual and to our community as a whole because it can distort decisions about how best to meet our energy needs."

The respondents were then surveyed again to determine if the exposure to pro-nuclear "education" eased their anxieties.

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