

Summit preparations change policy emphasis

The celebration (yes, that word is used) of the United Nations' 40th birthday has caused much traveling to and fro. So has the pre-summit. One wishes world leaders, especially our leader, could be more like Macon Leary.

Leary, a character in Anne Tyler's wonderful new novel, "The Accidental Tourist," hates traveling and writes guidebooks for people who feel as he does. The books tell people who would rather be at home where to find a Taco Bell in Mexico City, a Roman restaurant that serves Chef Boy-ar-dee ravioli, a Madrid hotel with Beautyrest mattresses. "Generally food in Britain is not as jarring as in other countries."

Because the president is to travel to Geneva, Switzerland, he traveled to the United Nations to say, sensibly, that there are summit issues other than arms control. But this attempt to lower expectations was vitiated by the proclamation of a utopian expectation: U.S.-Soviet "differences" can be "resolved" through "dialogue." Because the Geneva trip now drives all policy, the administration succumbs to the sentimentality of democracy.

A few days before announcing yet another

Soviet violation of SALT limits on offensive weapons (deployment of the SS-25, a new mobile ballistic missile), the administration made an announcement. Under the pressure of pre-Geneva maneuvering, it said that it would bind itself with an unnecessarily restrictive reading of the treaty concerning defenses against ballistic missiles. Why this irrational decision to embrace what the administration says is a misreading of a treaty the Soviet Union is flagrantly violating?



George Will

Were the president not trying to tune the atmosphere for the trip to Geneva, he would not have said this: The correct reading of the ABM treaty allows development and testing of space-based defenses against ballistic missiles, but we shall abide by an incorrect reading that forbids even innocuous concession to nervous allies and domestic opponents, he understands neither the sociology of a large scientific undertaking nor

the politics of an expensive military procurement.

The Strategic Defense Initiative will require many scientists to devote their prime years to it. If the administration's commitment seems tenuous, they will find other devotions. Furthermore, Congress always is reluctant to diminish discretionary-spending opportunities by committing vast sums to weapons systems. Congress confronts, simultaneously, a future barren of discretionary spending and full of SDI, the most expensive public project in history.

Reagan says SDI is morally urgent — but less urgent than pacifying critics who make a fetish of a misreading of the ABM treaty. Congress will not fund an SDI system that is subordinated to the ABM treaty in any way that prevents all except inconclusive tests of sub-components. So the wounding, perhaps mortal wounding, of SDI is one result of the maneuvering for the Geneva trip.

In a 10 minute session with a representative of Solidarity, Poland's outlawed trade union, Reagan, who has raised optimism to a philosophy and has severed philosophy from evidence, said he has "high hopes" for happiness in Poland,

happiness from "dialogue." An administration climatologist explained the mushiness of Reagan's remarks in terms of the "East-West climate." That is, the problem is travel — the trip to Geneva. The President, who believes in dialogue between communists and their victims, should read the forthcoming Reader's Digest account of the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko by the regime:

"His eyes and forehead had been beaten till black. His jaw, nose, mouth and skull were smashed, his fingers and toes dark red and brown from repeated clubbing. Part of his scalp and large strips of skin on his legs had been torn off. . . . His muscles had been pounded again and again until limp. . . . The teeth were found completely smashed. In place of his eloquent tongue, there was only mush."

A tongue like that makes dialogue difficult. But an early arrival at the United Nations' birthday bash, Gen. Jaruzelski, asphyxiator of Poland, was given a dinner by the Council on Foreign Relations. Well, a traveler must eat.

©1985, Washington Post Writers Group
Will is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and a contributing editor for Newsweek magazine.

Letters

Brief letters are preferred, and longer letters may be edited. Writer's address and phone number are needed for verification.

Athletes worth more than they receive

In reference to Todd Ruhter's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 30): The money that supports the athletic programs and provides the so-called special facilities come from boosters, alumni, donations and revenues earned by the programs themselves. Not a dime comes out of your pocket.

I would like to invite you to partici-

pate in any of the athletic programs, and may be then you'll realize that the athletes are worth more than they get.

I agree that higher education should be the main goal of the university, but don't blame the athletes for the education you're not getting. During the time you were writing your letter, you probably should have been studying. (as I

probably should be).

So just remember "pal," you'll only get out of this university what you put into it.

Steve Spurgeon
fashion merchandising
freshman
baseball player

Speaker emphasizes futility of blind allegiance

A packed room and a standing ovation for Robert Muller, executive director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, on Tuesday night is a sure sign the UNL students are interested and worried about past and present U.S. foreign policy. Muller gave a frighteningly realistic account of the Vietnam War and its implications for current American policy. One cannot help but question presidents who fought a war based on "kill-ratios," "destroy and search," and "the mad man theory."

When Reagan gets on network television and suggests that the American public must support any and all U.S. military actions in times of crisis, it is time to look back at Vietnam and ask, "Under what circumstances should the U.S. go to war?" "What is our responsibility as citizens?" (How many of us are absolutely certain who the U.S. supports in Central America?) And most importantly, "What is our government's responsibility to us?"

Muller made me realize how impor-

tant it is to understand, recognize, and appreciate past actions of the U.S. government, and he left me with important questions for which I hold my government responsible. Foreign policy is not a matter of the Good Guys against the Bad Guys. Reagan is not John Wayne, and I thank Muller for reminding me of this.

Anne Winter
senior
business administration

Achievements of U.N. cannot be discounted

U.N. from Page 4

The far-flung agencies have contributed to improvements in health conditions in many parts of the world including near eradication of small pox and malaria. Collection of weather statistics has helped agriculture in several underdeveloped countries. Socioeconomic problems were added to the problems of peace and security, which had been the UN's original concern. Such successes, however, have received little or not attention in the media, particularly in the West. Not surprisingly, the average citizen has been in the dark regarding the achievements of the United Nations. In the words of President Reagan the United Nations "has been and

can be a force for good. While it hasn't solved every problem or prevented every conflict, there have been shining accomplishments. More than few are alive and live decently because of this institution."

Let us hope that the organization, founded four decades ago in the hope that it would "save the succeeding generation from the scourge of war," be supported, preserved and perhaps improved. I wish this splendid organization a very happy anniversary.

Mrinal Bhattacharya
graduate student
agricultural engineering

Big 8
KBGT
WANTS YOU TO...

GO APE!

PLANET OF THE APES Nov. 2	BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES Nov. 9	ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES Nov. 16
CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES Nov. 23	BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES Nov. 30	

Every Saturday Night in November!

FALL SALE
UNBEATABLE VALUES

ALL SHORTS & SHORT SLEEVE JERSEYS **40% OFF**

ALL BIKE PARTS & ACCESSORIES **25% OFF**

ALL HANDLE BAR BAGS & TOURING PACKS **25% OFF**

ALL CYCLING SHOES CLEATED & TOURING PLUS A FREE PAIR OF SOCKS **20% OFF**

ALL BICYCLES IN STOCK... ON SALE

OCTOBER 26- NOVEMBER 3.

DON'T MISS THIS SALE!

CYCLE WORKS

27TH & VINE 475-2453
56TH & SOUTH 483-2452

VISA MasterCard