

Editorial

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vicki Rugh, *Editor*, 472-1766
Thom Gabrukiewicz, *Managing Editor*
Ad Hudler, *Editorial Page Editor*
James Rogers, *Editorial Page Editor*
Chris Welsch, *Copy Desk Chief*

War games 'Wise' moves hurt U.S.

While UNL students were on spring break last week, leaders in the United States and other foreign countries played games that should spark fear in every draft-age student.

Saying U.S. forces had entered its waters, Libyan President Moammar Kaddafi fired missiles at U.S. ships in the Gulf of Sidra, missing the targets but reminding Americans once again of the Libyan leader's unpredictable nature.

Then it was reported that the Nicaraguan army invaded neighboring Honduras. The U.S.-supported Contras are stationed in camps on the Nicaraguan border. Some diplomats have said Nicaragua invaded the territory to protect itself from the Contras. Others claim Nicaragua is starting to export its revolution into other Central American countries.

Both of these actions require the immediate attention of the United States, but the Reagan administration and Congress should be careful in their actions.

In Nicaragua, the risk exists that the United States will wrongly intervene in the affairs of a nation that desires only to live in peace. On the other hand, there is the risk that, in the absence of increasing U.S. intervention in the dispute, the Marxist Nicaraguan government will export its revolution.

Both the Senate and House have debated these issues in deciding whether to give the Contras \$100 million in military and non-lethal aid. The Senate

last week approved the measure, which now goes back to the House. Rather than accepting the \$100 million proposal blindly, the House, like the Senate did, is looking into ways to appropriate the aid only if negotiations between the Contras and Sandinistas do not materialize.

In the past, international opinion consistently has opposed military forays into innocent neighboring states. Congress and Reagan should be cautious in making future decisions regarding the conflict. We hope the American public is smart enough to vehemently oppose any Vietnam-like U.S. involvement in Nicaragua.

Regarding Libya, Reagan didn't keep his cool. Some high-ranking officials have said the Reagan administration provoked Kaddafi's missile attack by entering waters Kaddafi warned them to avoid. Although the Libyan missiles missed their targets, U.S. retaliations sunk three ships and damaged a Libyan radar station on the coast.

It's obvious the U.S. military exercise simply provided the country a chance to flex its muscles and convince Americans that their country should intervene in actions like those in Nicaragua. The United States' already-trained reputation throughout the world can't stand such "wise" moves.

Reagan has indicated he's concerned with the growth and spread of Marxist governments. By pulling stunts like the one last week in Libya, the president is alienating the Third World.

Student rampage Spring break gets out of hand

All that sun and fun associated with spring break went a bit too far this year, especially in normally quiet Palm Springs, Calif.

Police were called in to handle students who got together to party and have some fun. The fun eventually turned destructive. Some students sprayed mace into officers' faces. Others assaulted them. In Palm Springs alone, more than 70 people were injured, mostly with cuts and bruises, news wires reported.

What started as innocent water fights turned into street blockades that stopped approaching motorists. Students opened the cars' doors and ripped clothes from several women.

In addition, police in Palm Springs reported that arrests this year were up 50 percent. More than 400 people were arrested since spring vacation began March 21.

And students who traveled south to Florida also got out of hand. Police have reported some vandalism around Fort Lauderdale. Last year, three students fell from balconies and died in the Daytona Beach area. This year, more died or were injured.

No doubt about it, spring break is a time to let loose and enjoy. It's a time to shed the winter shells of wool and denim and kick back with a cool beer. But a good time can go too far, especially if it starts to involve violence, as it did this year.

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1986 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to super-

vised the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



Reagan tries body-slam politics U.S. dons wrestling togs to tango with Libya in gulf

Underneath his dapper exterior, President Reagan longs for the togs of a professional wrestler; he has an undeniable penchant for body politics.

When a lunatic or a commie starts to get him down, he can barely restrain himself from using his viscous atomic drop, or maybe just applying an elbow to the Adam's apple after a quick spin into the turnbuckle. He's got a Hulk Hogan mentality that just won't quit.

Admittedly, there's nothing like a body slam to let someone know where you stand. And few people deserve a body slam as much as Col. "Mad Dog" Kaddafi, who taunted Ronald "Peacekeeper" Reagan with insults about his acting.

To Reagan and Kaddafi, the conflict in the Gulf of Sidra was a cage match in the arena of world politics.

Not even Rowdy Roddy Piper could think of a better place for a no-holds-barred slam-fest than behind "The Line of Death." Even the Iron Shiek would balk at the thought.

But Reagan didn't, and he won the match, leaving a slew of suicidal Libyans under the briny deep.

Yep, Reagan proved his point. The United States won't be pushed around by a looney pretender to the throne.

With vastly superior muscle, Reagan

acted the part of Andre the Giant against one of the Smerdiakov midgets. Americans can breathe easier knowing they can visit the Gulf of Sidra, which is, after all, a prime vacation spot.

Unfortunately for all of us, however, body politics follow the same logic as the stuff that goes on in the squared circle.



Chris Welsch

"Peacekeeper," like Hulk Hogan, has won the match, but he has only aggravated the situation and further irritated "Mad Dog." Instead of calmly and gracefully accepting defeat, Kaddafi made more insults and threats than ever. And the Third World is solidly in his corner.

"Mad Dog" doesn't have the forces to take his show on the road — it's unlikely that he could muster anything to compare to the Sixth Fleet for a tour of the Gulf of Mexico. (An aside: The United States would not tolerate Libya's navy in the Gulf of Mexico — not 12 or 200 miles from Tampa.)

Reagan's war against Penthouse porn interferes with public's right to know

Behold the most recent issue of Penthouse Magazine and a gamey one it is. There is a partially clad wench on the cover, a story about "North Carolina's Holy War on Sex," something about Sikh terrorists being trained in the United States and, in this magazine so dirty that it has been condemned by the government's commission on pornography, a book excerpt written by, of all people, William F. Buckley Jr.

Yes, William F. Buckley. The conservative columnist. The novelist. The host of "Firing Line." The editor of The National Review and, along with his wife, Pat, a close friend of Nancy and Ronald Reagan and a frequent visitor to the White House. That William F. Buckley.

And, yes, that Penthouse. The very same magazine cited on page 9 of the draft report prepared by the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography — the part dealing with soft-core pornography. In the draft, the commission states that 7-Eleven stores "are the leading retailers of soft-core porn magazines in America" and "the single most important outlet" for Penthouse. "Profits made by 7-Eleven on porn run

into the millions." In case you don't get the commission's drift, Penthouse is porn.

But is it? The truth is that I don't know. I know it's what we used to call dirty because, to paraphrase Justice Potter Stewart, I know dirty when I see it — and I see it all over this particular



Richard Cohen

issue of Penthouse. The letters are pornographic, the photos of naked women are lewd and the cartoons are just plain dumb. Yet there is also fiction by Buckley — an excerpt from his latest novel. Whatever it is, it is not pornographic and neither, for that matter, was Buckley's July, 1984, Penthouse piece of Jesse Jackson — although, truth be known, I'm just guessing there. I never read it.

It takes Buckley in his role as fellow traveler of porn (a Pornko) to point up both the absurdity of the Reagan administration's anti-porn effort and, if I may

So "Mad Dog" is likely to do just what "Peacekeeper" was chastizing him for in the first place: terrorizing the West. Reagan's brutal adventure will escalate terrorism and anti-U.S. sentiment the world over.

But the cage match in the gulf was great for U.S. morale. We stood up against a really tough guy, and now we'll pay for it dearly. Count on it. Not even Hulk Hogan beats the Iron Shiek every time, and you cannot body slam a suicidal terrorist who is in an airport with an Uzi and grenades.

Now that Reagan has his wrestling togs, he's reluctant to take them off. No sooner did he blow off a few Libyan tug boats, than he's challenging Daniel "Red Menace" Ortega to a jungle match, a la Corporal Kirchner.

Why stop there? Chile has set its own "Line of Death" far beyond the 12-mile international limit. There are many other uppity countries that deserve a good body slam.

Like pro wrasslin' this body politics business is popular — so popular that one has to wonder about the mentality of the blood-thirsty fans who seek fist-to-the-face answers to complex problems.

Welsch is a senior journalism and English major and a Daily Nebraskan copy desk chief.

be so bold, its epic hypocrisy. Not only is the president's pal-cum-intellectual-mentor writing for a magazine his official censors consider pornographic, but so for that matter does his son. Young Ron now toils for Playboy. Like me and Saul Bellow, he is a writer.

Censors, though, are totally without subtlety. They don't realize that the president is not serious about pornography, otherwise, as day follows night, he would banish Buckley and his son from the White House — or make them both wear bags over their heads. Instead, the censors take both the president and Ed Meese at their word. They have made up their minds about Penthouse, Playboy and similar magazines. They have already defined pornography as "a serious national problem" and have been up to their ears in smut trying to do something about it. They would dearly love to censor. Only the Constitution stands in their way. Darn!

But others have already been moved to action. In Washington, for instance, the two largest drugstore chains have stopped selling Playboy, Penthouse and similar magazines. The result of

See COHEN on 5