

Editorial

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SDI on ice

Reagan keeps his strategic cool

The recently concluded Icelandic summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev seems to have been, overall, a waste of time. Given the public positions of both the superpower leaders regarding the Strategic Defense Initiative, both probably knew the inevitable outcome before they flew to the country.

Nonetheless, President Reagan was right not to trade SDI for the "concessions" offered by Gorbachev. Opponents of the anti-missile system argue that Reagan made a mistake because SDI will destabilize the nuclear "balance" and that SDI isn't workable anyway.

Protection of the citizenry is the primary reason for the existence of the state: It means that humans are to be protected from those who seek their harm. The doctrine of mutual vulnerability as a basis for "peace" is immoral. It presumes that the road to "peace" is paved by making citizens more susceptible to harm — the very opposite of what a government should do.

Instead of more offensive systems — which are truly destabilizing — defensive systems seek only to protect people from harm. That vision is at the heart of the justification for SDI. Additionally, an SDI system would protect citizens against accidental launchings and possible future

non-Soviet ballistic missile attacks (from dictators not as responsible as the Soviets are).

Reagan pledged to share SDI developments with the Soviets. This pledge should be kept as research and deployment advance. In this fashion, SDI use would enhance stability.

As to the many American scientists' charges that SDI is a technological impossibility, if their claim is true, it's simply impossible to understand the Soviets' concern. Especially since American opponents are so public in their insistence on the system's infeasibility, the Soviets obviously know of their claims and have found them wanting.

As a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll indicated that more than 70 percent of the public approves of the general fashion in which the president handled himself at the conference, and 60 percent agree that Reagan was correct in refusing to concede Star Wars in order to secure a formal agreement.

The arms race undoubtedly represents a threat to world safety and is placing an undue strain on the domestic economy. But objections to building more missiles can hardly be translated wholesale to opposition to a defensive system which will greatly reduce the injury of any missile attack. In this case, Reagan is right.

NU and the NCAA

Decision needs to be announced soon

The media swarmed Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne after practice last Monday. The day was supposed to be the day the NCAA was to release the announcement concerning their investigation of the Nebraska athletic department, primarily the football team. The announcement never came.

Why is it taking so long and what more did they find?

The NCAA already declared over 60 players ineligible at the beginning of September because of improper use of complimentary tickets. The NCAA later reduced the penalty by taking away the players tickets.

At the end of September Osborne flew to Maine to meet with the NCAA concerning the lease agreement of former I-back Doug DuBose's car. He said after the trip that he didn't tell them anything that they didn't already know.

It might be safe to say since the announcement has not been released yet that the penalties imposed may not affect this year's team. The Huskers already have five games under their belt, and any type of suspension this season will seem fruitless. But with the NCAA you can never tell.

After the ticket incident, anything the NCAA does will not come as a surprise. The ruling on the incident was inconsistent. They started out with a severe player suspension and changed it to a ticket suspension.

The results of the late announcement may be taking their toll on the football program already. It has to be affecting their recruiting. How many high school players would want to play for a team that could be placed under probation?

The NCAA needs to expedite manners.

Editorial Policy

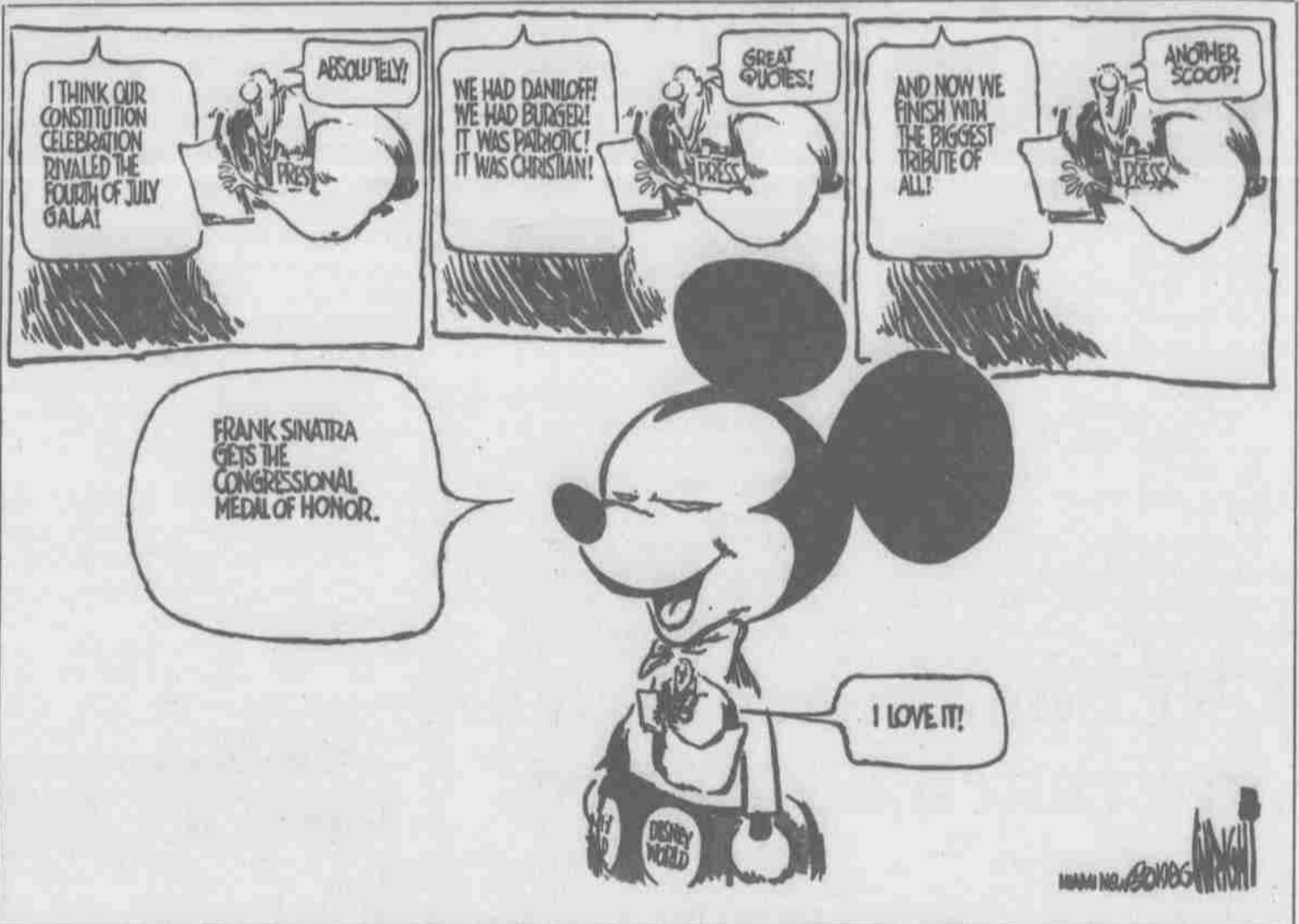
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Breaking the ice in Iceland

Ronnie and Gorby return to childhood for a frigid encounter

We learn different lessons from games, whether the stakes are high or low.

It all starts, innocently enough, with "Candy Land," a journeying board game the promotes nothing worse than tooth decay.

Then we begin to play "The Game of Life" and learn that everyone gets married, collects a regular paycheck and has kids (preferably only two, or there's not enough seats in the player's cars for them). We also learn about class divisions since all finishers either end up at Millionaire Acres or the Poor Farm.

Later, we get more sophisticated and play Monopoly, trying to win everyone else's money by owning all the property and developing it until no one can afford to pay rent. Finally, we progress to "Risk," learning the value of military buildups as we manipulate our armies to kill opposing armies and take over the world.

All this knowledge pumps into our little American capitalistic souls. We accept the virtues of being greedy, aggressive and rich, and realize that the winner takes all and the loser gets laughed at.

Maybe that's why a tie is so hard to take.

Reagan and Gorbachev got into some game-playing this weekend. And for all their high-sounding rhetoric, the whole Iceland Summit translates almost too easily into a child's game.

A fairly inane one at that. I think of it as "Don't Break the Ice in Iceland."

You remember: the game where the plastic figure stands on a platform of

plastic blocks and waits to get knocked down as each opponent hammers away at the individual cubes. But this time it wasn't just any plastic man who was counting on the two kids with the hammers to be careful — it was the world's population. The third player — you, me, the commies and everybody else.



Lise Olsen

If you're familiar with the intricate rules of "Don't Break the Ice," you know that the law of gravity dictates that there has to be a loser. The plastic guy goes down. But in Iceland, it seemed that the two world leaders were going to be able to leave a narrow strip of ice intact. In fact, for awhile, it looked like we were all going to be able to live on that ice patch without ever having to worry about the hammers coming down. They said they'd throw the hammers away.

But then the two kids got tired of playing with the blocks they already had and began talking about what the stores were advertising for the future. Little Ronnie said Congress had promised him his very own version of Laser Tag — Star Wars. Little Gorby was jealous — understandably since Poppa Politburo hadn't promised him

anything quite like that.

Ronnie said he would let Gorby watch his new toy being made. Maybe he'd even throw in a Star Wars action figure or two. But Gorby said that wasn't good enough.

And suddenly, both began to think that the other was trying to cheat.

Gorby wanted Ronnie to promise to wait a few years before he played with his new toy. But Ronnie said he couldn't wait.

So Gorby and Ronnie picked up their hammers and bashed the ice bridge to bits. When they finished, none of the agreements that had bridged the gap between the two sides remained.

Player three, the world population, fell hard. It was stunned and a little confused. And the world asked, "Why does somebody always have to win? Why can't you boys ever get along?"

Ronnie tried to explain. "Star Wars isn't just any toy — it's our insurance policy and we need it. Besides, Gorby wants it and if we have something he wants he'll play nice." And Ronnie spoke of patriotism and said "God Bless You," and the world had heard it all before.

Gorby didn't have much to say. He just thought Ronnie was dumb to give up all the goodies he offered for a toy he didn't even have yet.

The world just sat, imprisoned in ice and watched as Gorby and Ronnie stomped back to their countries and shut their doors.

And the world thought that someday, they'd have to learn their lesson. Olsen is a senior news editorial major.

Sherlock Royko looks for clues in case of the accosted anchorman

It was precisely the sort of mystery that would have intrigued Sherlock Holmes.

While reading the morning paper, Dr. Watson would have said: "Mmmm. Strange business here, Holmes. That TV chap, Dan Rather. Walking home last night in Manhattan. Pummeled about the head and face by a couple of strangers. Kept calling him Kenneth."

Holmes would have snatched the morning paper from Watson and his eyes would have gleamed as he read: "As they struck Rather, the two well-dressed assailants kept repeating: 'What is the frequency, Kenneth?'"

"Come, Watson," Holmes would have cried, "the game is afoot." Unfortunately, we have no Sherlock Holmes. All we have is the jaded New York cops, who shrug and say that this is just routine in the Big Apple — probably a case of mistaken identity.

Mistaken identity? A likely story. And even if it was mistaken identity, does that make it any less intriguing a

mystery? "Kenneth," they said as they punched Rather, "what is the frequency?"

That question keeps running through my mind.

There must be some meaning to it. So I'm calling upon America's armchair

Mike Royko

detectives to provide the answer. Here, amateur sleuths, are the bare facts, as the news accounts have presented them.

It was about 10:45 p.m. on a Sunday night. Rather had been with some friends at their Park Avenue apartment. He left their apartment and was walking to his

own place on that posh, Manhattan street.

He was wearing casual, weekend clothes: jeans, a striped shirt and aviator-style glasses.

Suddenly, two well-dressed men, who appeared to be in their 30s, approached him on the street. One said: "What is the frequency, Kenneth?"

Rather said something like: "I think you have the wrong guy."

One of the men punched him to the ground. Rather scrambled to his feet and ran to the lobby of a nearby apartment building. They chased him inside and continued the assault.

And as they punched and kicked him, they repeated: "What is the frequency, Kenneth?"

The building's doorman saw the attack and phoned the building superintendent, who rushed to the lobby. Seeing him, the two well-dressed strangers ran off.

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