

mission. American media generally ignore right-wing foes of Duarte. The *Times* (London) reported that last fall, during Duarte's visit to Washington, San Salvador's two main papers front-paged preparations for a high right-wing anti-Duarte rally but gave only "scant attention" to Durante and his meeting with Reagan. The London *Observer* claimed politicians from the moderate center leftward fear to stand in the coming election. (The *Post's* early attention to D'Aubuisson's rightist party may augur well for its election coverage.)

Some questions may help evaluate election coverage: what range of views do the candidates represent? Who administers the election, and how do their rules and conduct effect the outcome? How free are observers to monitor events during the campaign and voting? It is possible that the election the U.S. wants so much could return a government opposed to any reforms, thus

undercutting much of the stated U.S. basis of support for the junta.

With so much interests as to whether or not El Salvador has made human rights progress (as Reagan certified), the media seemed to ignore the Salvadorean Church's legal aid department's report that November's 820 political murders were nearly twice October's toll. (It blames most killings on rightist hit squads.) The *Post* has been particularly reticent to use Church experienced in El Salvador as sources.

When Egypt's President Mubarak invited Soviet industrial experts to return, the *Post* gave it a few brief page 17 paragraphs. Egyptian diplomatic sources told the *Los Angeles Times* that a Soviet-Egyptian trade pact was expected soon.

When the US. deported a Cuban to Cuba for the first time since Castro took power, it wasn't news at the *Post*. The *Post* reported a Miami demonstration against the stowaway's deportation, but didn't say where he was sent.

Sun headline: "Talk to Palestinians, Mubarak Urges..." *Times* headline: "Mubarak, Meeting with Reagan, Asks Palestinian 'National Entity'." *Post*: "Mubarak Dims Hope on Mideast." The story was by a national staffer, not the *Post* foreign service.

Times front page: "Brezhnev Offers Deep Arms Cut in Europe by '90." Its Moscow correspondent provided details. A *Post* page 13 headline "Brezhnev Scorns Linkage, Says U.S. slows arms talks." The medium-size Reuters dispatch mentioned the proposal in paragraph seven. The *Post* had a feature story by its Moscow correspondent taking over three times the space of their Brezhnev item: "Soviets battle craze for U.S. jeans."

Times page one: a thorough account of the France-Algeria gas deal and its significance. The *Post* used a *Manchester Guardian* account which noted this was the first large deal between a developing nation and a western industrial one based on the principles of the North-South dialogue. It was page 20. Below it a story of about equal length reported that a plane hijacker had come on the Mariel boatlift.

"... The federal government has an obligation to enforce the constitutional rights of even the least... among us... if those rights are being denied, and to do so at the point of a bayonet if necessary." Thus spoke Ronald Reagan at a press conference at which his civil rights views were a big issue. His words seem to have passed unreported.

Reagan told of a "lengthy communication" from the Pope who "approves what we've done so far" on Poland. The *Post* noted the President's remarks, then two days later briefly reported a Vatican statement that the Pope hadn't meant to be political or express approval for any specific act. Reagan stood by his claim. Earlier, CBS and the *Boston Globe* reported the same Vatican statement's most significant points. The *Globe's* AP story noted the pontiff appreciated "all the efforts designed to assure concrete assistance, especially humanitarian food aid." Hardly an endorsement of cutting food credits. Another brief *Post* story on the Vatican statement still missed the point.

One sentence saying the Civil Rights Commission declared there was legal basis to deny discriminatory schools tax exemption was the *Post's* coverage of the CRC's reply to Reagan. Quite a contrast to the 16 column inches on the same page chiding Reagan on his contributions to charity. The Commission's views were in a page-and-a-half statement and a five page "Fact Sheet" stating the legal argument. Working against the same publishing deadline, the *Sun* had a meaty account of the Commission's points. Having flubbed the substance of the issues legal aspects, the *Post* alertly reported how the administration timed its initial news release on restoring the tax exemptions so that only its side would be on the first evening news and wire service accounts.

Admiral Rickover's warning that the human race would probably blow itself up in a nuclear war made the *Post's* front page. But the paper ignored significant parts of his farewell testimony. The *New York Times* ignored what the *Post* featured but provided a much deserving of follow-up. Rickover wanted to ban nuclear weapons and atomic reactors because of radioactivity's inherent danger to nature. He said Stockman ignored proposals to cut Pentagon waste and inefficiency, that Justice didn't act on cases of inflated and false claims by defense contract fraud and waste.

Rickover said the corporate ability to dispense money often gave them more "power to influence society" than government officials, but without having responsibility and without "being subject to public scrutiny."

India's arrest of over 6,000 union activists and opposition politicians to stop a planned nationwide strike rated four sentences on the *Post's* page 20. "Bullets" Lucas Admits His Problems Are Drug-Related" was page one that day and consumed 71 column inches of the "A" section.

Initial *Post* reporting of the Air Florida crash used

NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

The Selective Service system says that barely half of California's 18-year-old men registered for the draft last year, a record described by the state draft chief as "horrible." Other states with low registration include Hawaii, Massachusetts and DC -- all with less than 60 percent registration. South Dakota, on the other hand, recorded a 100 percent registration, and the turnout exceeded 90 percent in Oklahoma, West Virginia and Idaho.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is pushing the idea that the US could fully recover from an all-out nuclear war within two to five years. William Chipman, head of the agency's civil defense division, says, "People would be miserable, but they would in all probability rise to the occasion and restore some kind of a country." In a series of commentaries prepared for publication in local newspapers, the FEMA offers handy hints for turning a rec room into a fallout shelter. The "Pre-planned Basement Snack Bar/Shelter" can function as an entertainment room before, and, presumably, after the attack.

A new study says that Candian women have been successfully combining a career and family for a century. A study of census figures since 1880 shows Canadian women have typically waited longer than Americans to have children and space their children much closer together. That shorter childbearing period, the researchers say, has allowed "Candian women to select a range of roles" other than wife and mother. What's more, in the 90 years studied, Canadian marriages lasted longer than American ones.

While the experts are discounting allegations the Russians are behind this winter's record cold temperatures, there is some concern that Soviet plans to alter the course of two Siberian rivers could have a major effect on the earth's climate. Faced with a critical water shortage in many agricultural and industrial regions, the Soviets are considering an ambitious plan to reroute two rivers, the Ob and the Yenesi, each as long as the Mississippi. According to Phillip Micklin, a geographer at Western Michigan University, the long-term effects could be devastating since both rivers now flow into the Arctic Ocean. Without their warming influence the polar ice cap could grow bringing colder weather to the entire Northern Hemisphere. The Russians are aware of the possible consequences, he says, "but it may be almost impossible for them to resist the tremendous political and economic advantages of getting more water to the south."

Despite his much-heralded support of the "Sagebrush Rebellion" in the western states, it turns out Interior Secretary James Watt isn't too popular among westerners. A survey by Arizona's Behavior Research Center shows 56 percent of those living in the Rocky Mountain states give the Interior Secretary a negative rating, with anti-Watt sentiment running highest in Montana, Nevada and his home state of Colorado. Even those who say they like Watt claim he's placing too much emphasis on the economic development of natural resources, and only 28 percent of the westerners surveyed favored relaxing environmental stands.

The Behavioral Research Center, which conducted the survey, said it's still too early to determine whether Watt's lack of popularity is hurting President Reagan. But the survey did show that Watt's critics included 37 percent of those who called themselves strong Reagan supporters and 74 percent of those who described themselves as favorable or qualified supporters of the President.

42 staff writers. Aside from the start of the Metro crash story on page one, the crash was the only story on six of the first eight news pages. The next day, with a smaller, 16 page "A" section, the news balance was worst. The air crash was about 75% of page one, half of the federal report's news space, and the only news on six other pages. Ads claimed two full pages and half of another.

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Perhaps the apotheosis of *Post* sensationalism came when page one stories had these space allocations (in column inches): rape suspects die in crash 36, Air Florida tapes 18, RFK and JFK tapes 16, U.S. offers Soviet missile pact 13.5, Soviet diplomat expelled 12, Nicaraguan-Indian conflict and Senate curbs courts on busing 8 each.

Air Florida was the sole story on three pages and shared a fourth with the rape suspect crash saga. (Why the police hadn't previously publicized the criminal's m.o. and advised women what to do if their car appeared to be followed was a story deserving attention.) The JFK tape story, including logs, commanded two full pages and shared another's news space with an LBJ tape story.

That same day the *Sun* ran at some length three wire service stories wholly ignored at the *Post*. The AP reported on Reagan's plan to downgrade the Department of Education, having obtained the proposal and related documents. The AP told about Argentina's alleged paramilitary role in Central America. There was another story on interviews with two Nicaraguan officials. Foreign Minister D'Escoto said his country proposed joint Honduran-Nicaraguan patrols to stop any arms flow by that route to El Salvador, but the U.S. wouldn't help obtain Honduran co-operation.

He claims the US knows Nicaragua isn't giving such aid, but uses the charge to justify intervening in El Salvador. (Interviewed on MacNeil-Lehrer, D'Escoto said the US asserts it has satellite and other data showing arms flow from Nicaragua through Honduras to El Salvador, but it can't share such sensitive information with Nicaragua because relations between the countries aren't close enough.)

Perhaps a letter to the *Post* best illustrated how sensationalist zeal can overcome judgment. The writer had the same last name as an Air Florida passenger. Less than 24 hours after the crash a *Post* reporter called to ask if the writer were related to the victim: the reporter was "systematically going through the telephone directory looking for a story."

* * *

A South African commission on the press submitted a 1,367 page report and draft legislation requiring the registration of all white journalists with a licensing body

(blacks can't join). The *New York Times* and *Philadelphia Inquirer* were among papers running the story. The *Post* wasn't.

Much of the report discussed not the media, but the "onslaught" against South Africa, a "peacefully developing internal community." The Soviet Union seeks "to generate a white-black conflict" and wages a disinformation campaign for "the political and moral subversion of the white man."

The draft code demanded "due care and responsibility" in writing about racial and ethnic things or anything that "may detrimentally effect" the nation's security or international position. Journalists must distinguish matters suitable for partisan discussion from those at "the level of statecraft and therefore of national importance." Journalistic practices designed for a "homogeneous democratic country" had to be modified where there was a first- and third- world population mix. Reporting could have "much greater impact upon the often unsophisticated, half-illiterate mind."

The report provided a positive example of good journalism: *The Citizen*, which was founded by secret government funding. A return to covert information activities was deemed desirable and recommended.

ARTHUR HOPPE

"At last President Reagan is going after the real enemies of our way of life," writes my friend Rachel Marshall. "You remember the woman who used to drive up to the Safeway in her Cadillac and buy T-bone steaks with her food stamps. She always stood just in front of a Republican."

"Then there was the couple who had ten children just so they could add to the AFDC payments and live in luxury on \$432 a month. Or the Princeton graduate who got a CETA job because his uncle was the mayor."

"And now we have the woman in Westchester who makes \$75,000 a year (the President is quoted as saying) and her kid gets a free lunch at school."

Mrs. Marshall is absolutely right. I have managed to track down these infamous Americans and, believe you me, they know the game is up. Oh, what a change it's going to make in our way of life.

The woman in the Cadillac is, of course, Mrs. Carstairs Thorne III, widow of the magnesium magnate. Interviewed in the music room of her Beverly Hills mansion, Mrs. Thorne dourly admitted the President's \$2.4 billion cut in food stamps would cost her an extra \$2.56 a week for T-bone steaks.

"But I don't do it just for the money," she said, scowling. "I do it because I love to soak the middle class." She smiled evilly. "So now I've instructed my investment portfolio manager to triple the racquetball club fees at all the Golden Acres Swinging Single complexes my husband left me."

Harder hit were George Penemunde, his wife, Alicia, and their ten children. "Thanks to Reagan slashing \$1.2 billion from Aid to Families with Dependent Children we won't be able to take the kids to Disneyland for a week this year," said Penemunde, as he grimly paced the living room of the family's eight-room condominium overlooking New York's Central Park.

"Worse yet, I'm going to have to go back to work as a management consultant and Alicia will be forced to resume practicing neurosurgery. She hates being a neurosurgeon."

His wife nodded glumly. "Nothing beats being a welfare mother," she said.

In a similar fix is Peabody Williams, Jr., Princeton '78, who has "really enjoyed" being a cafeteria attendant at the Roanoke, Iowa, city hall—a CETA job his uncle, Mayor Bob Herchaks, secured for him as a graduation present. Unfortunately, this is one of the CETA jobs the President is abolishing.

"I guess it means I won't be able to play the croquet circuit at the lake this summer," said Williams, staring moodily down at his Sperry Topsiders. "Dad wants me to come to work for the Peabody Williams Corp. as a commodity futures trader. But, frankly, pork bellies make me sick."

One of the three million children who are being forced out of the school lunch program by the President's budget cuts is freckle-faced Petey Peterson, a sixth-grader at Westchester's Millard Fillmore Elementary School where lunches which were formerly free now cost 40 cents.

"Forty cents doesn't sound like much, but that's \$2 a week," says his mother, Harriet N. Peterson, a former \$75,000-a-year network executive who commuted daily to Manhattan. "I had no choice but to quit my job so that I could stay home and make Peter watercress sandwiches."

Unhappily, it turned out Petey didn't like watercress. "I say it's spinach," he commented traditionally on taking his first bite, "and I say the hell with it."

But now, thanks to our crusading President, all these chiselers have been, or will soon be, removed from the American scene. And, as I said, we are in for a radical change in our way of life:

What on earth are Republicans going to talk about at cocktail parties?

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Action Notes

Despite federal policies which discourage energy conservation and renewable energy sources, grassroots citizen action can move the nation toward a solar future. That is the view of Environmental Action Foundation's new book, *Power & Light: Political Strategies for the Solar Transition*, published by The Pilgrim Press of New York.

Unlike most other recent books about solar energy and conservation, *Power & Light* focuses on the political means for alleviating our energy problems.

Power & Light can be ordered for \$6.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling from: Environmental Action Foundation, 724 Dupont Circle Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20036 (quantity prices available on request). *Power & Light* is also available in bookstores, distributed by The Pilgrim Press, New York.

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Input is requested from the public for listings of periodicals to be included in a directory of United States progressive periodicals and one for Southern progressive periodicals.

Progressive Education chairperson Craig Canan asks people to "just take a minute to mail the names and addresses of any national or southern periodicals which could be listed in the upcoming new editions of these directories."

"We are depending on the progressive public and organizations to insure that the upcoming edition is the most comprehensive periodicals listing published to date," Canan emphasizes. "It is being published to fill a need for greater public awareness of the existence and availability of social justice periodicals in this country."

In all, over 300 social change periodicals will be listed in the two directories. The listings will include periodicals concerning peace, labor, Black, religious, environmental and many more progressive topics.

Suggestions for listings should be sent to Progressive Education, P.O. Box 120574, Nashville, TN. 37212 as soon as possible. The directories may also be ordered through Progressive Education.

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