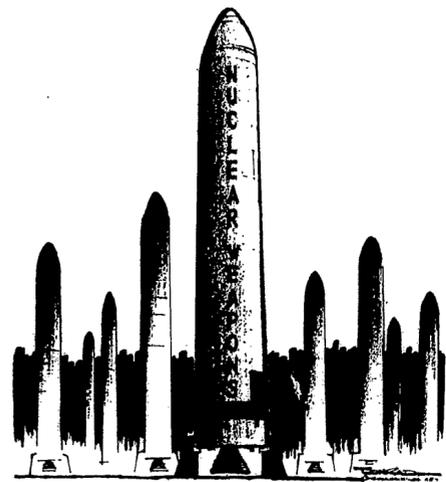
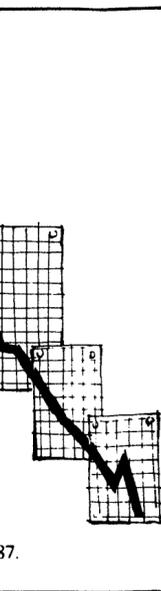
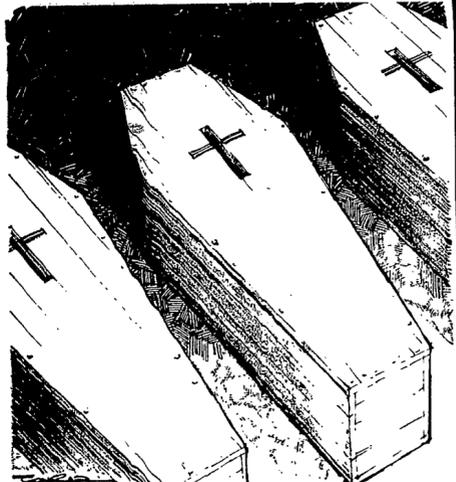


VIEWPOINTS



Speaking of the need for condoms . . .



Haitian ballot boxes.

Plans are off-base

similarity between the Munich Conference and Esquipulas Agreement may be that. The West, is missing another opportunity to prevent a war. As Leo Heller-

man in a letter to N.Y. Times editor pointed out on Sunday Feb. 21, the West had been invited by the Soviet Union

to participate in a conference to discuss ways of stopping Hitler. Mr. Chamberlain refused to talk to the Soviets

and the rest is history. The Reagan Administration has not supported the Contadora process and now refuses to support the Arias Peace

Plan. Moreover, the U.S. is trying to torpedo the Arias Peace Plan. Congress has put some "muscle" into the Peace Plan by refusing to fund Mr. Reagan's dirty war.

There are many other items in the editorial that are nothing but a twisting of facts. However, in closing, I would like to focus on pro-

ably the most infantile of the writer's points (i.e. U.S. military intervention as a solution). No Latin American in his or her right mind wants more U.S. in-

tervention which has been characteristic of our policies towards the region. The results of these interventions (in Nicaragua 1912-1933, Haiti 1915-1934, and

Dominican Republic 1916-1924 to name a few) have been disastrous. Nothing but U.S. backed dictatorships are the results of these interventions.

Keep also in mind that the Plan is to be implemented by all the Central American countries, not just Nicaragua. Finally, let me leave you with a final thought- "We Americans

have no commission from God to police the world." Those words were spoken by another former Republican President, Benjamin Harrison.

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The other night I got so mad at the two men announcing the hockey game between the United States and Russia that I could have thrown a rock at my television set.

"Aaa, shut up," I kept yelling at them.

It occurred to me, listening to these two idiots, that every American boy and girl who hopes to be successful in business should participate in sports because sports these days teaches them the things they'll need to know: how to play dirty, how to hate the opponent, how to be a sore loser, how to be a bad sport and how to put money over everything.

It was pointed out during one of the Olympic events that the difference between finishing first and second in the Olympics is "at least a couple of million dollars."

The great sportswriter John Tunis used to tell the story of an Englishman he knew who loved sports. John's friend was the gold champion of a small club near London, when he first met him.

During World War I, the man's left arm was shot off and was unable to play golf after that so he took up tennis. He came to love tennis as much as he had loved gold and within a few years got to be one of the best tennis players at the club.

During the Second World War, the British were desperate for manpower and, in spite of the missing arm, John's friend was commissioned and led a battalion of infantry in France. Again he was hit, this time losing his right leg.

Years later John Tunis saw his friend again. He was back in action, playing in his club's croquet tournament.

"That man," said John Tunis, "was a sportsman. He played, not for championships, for titles, for cash, for publicity, or for applause but simply for the love of the game."

The athletes competing in the upper levels of their games today aren't often role models we'd want to have our children emulate.

When the hockey game between the United States and Russia started, I had a warm, patriotic feeling for

our guys. I hoped they'd win. Within five minutes, as combination of the chauvinist palaver from the announcers and the behavior of the U.S. players had almost made a communist out of me. The Americans were playing like Little League professionals.

It was clear from the beginning that the Russians played the game better than the Americans and that they were better coached than the Americans. The announcer kept saying that the Russians could be beaten if they were made to lose their composure. He must have talked to the U.S. coach before the game because our guys came out on the ice with one idea: to hit every Russian in sight into the boards with body checks, presumably to make them lose their composure. The U.S. players didn't seem much interested in playing hockey.

It was an exciting game but in order to keep myself rooting for our team, I had to turn off the sound. The announcers were such blatant, biased rooters that I couldn't listen. I don't mind if Olympic announcers can't suppress sounding pleased when the United States wins something but they could set out to be even-handed and impartial in their reporting 1/3 of the events. We don't want cheerleaders. We'll cheer for our team. All we want from them is some information we don't have or can't see for ourselves.

In contrast to some of the abysmal reporting from the Olympics on ABC, some reporting was excellent. Dick Button and Peggy Fleming were superb. You could tell they hoped the Americans would do well but when the Russian team performed magnificently, they were exultant about the performance, not depressed because it had been executed by athletes other than Americans.

ABC chose to emphasize the winning of medals as a way of getting the American audience's attention. The fake drama of medal-winning may have backfired. Americans aren't winning many medals at the Olympics so ABC finds itself promoting losers. The emphasis should always have been on performance, not medals or nationality.

THE PRESS OPINIONS

Inside Cortland

By JOHN WENK
Staff Writer

In the five years that I've been at Cortland, I've tried to transfer four times. I'd fill out the forms, visit schools, get accepted and then when I'd start packing up, something would happen and I'd start thinking about all of the good things here at Cortland. I may bitch a lot about this school, but when it comes down to it, it's home to me. So, this week, I would like to write about my favorite things at Cortland.

First, would have to be Neubig cookies. These hot gooey cookies, made only at lunch, have gotten comments which have stated that they are better than sex. While the cookies may be safer and less troublesome the morning after, I think this may be a bit extreme. There are many ladies here whom I'd prefer to spend a night with over a cookie. Nevertheless, Neubig cookies are one of my favorite things here.

Intramurals also rank right up there. I never thought that sliding across the ice with shoes on, or playing water polo in an inner tube, could be so much fun until I tried it. With such programs as wallyball, sports trivia, and floor hockey, intramurals do a lot to bring people together and encourage good times.

The Cortland Ballroom Dance Team is unfortunately unknown and overlooked considering the quality of its performances. This excellent team has performed in Montreal, England, and Trinidad, and there is now talk of a trip to St. Croix. Can the football team show off their passports with as much pride?

Another Cortland institution that isn't as unknown and overlooked is dollar Molsons at City Limits. It's so easy and so much fun to put a dollar on the bar and get a cold bottle of the world's greatest beer. It's easily enough to keep most people from transferring.

Has anyone else ever noticed the steps in Old Main that go from the first floor to the second? I love them. They're worn down enough in the middle to give the building a sense of history and character. They remind me of the thousands of students who have been a part of Cortland in its past. The ice encrusted steps in the back leading up from the Dragon's Den, on the other hand, are a safety hazard. But no complaints this week.

I have to mention the DeGroat cleaning lady, Corky, for getting rid of the wax toilet paper. Thanks Corky.

Above all of these positive aspects of Cortland there are two qualities which override the rest in keeping me here. For one, the friendliness of the students and the other, the dedication of the teachers. Cortland, with its spontaneous activities and partyism is the friendliest school I know of. Have you ever noticed how many more students visit here than Cortland students visit other schools? Everyone talks to each other here. I once said "hello" to someone at Cornell and she called campus security on me. The friendliness may come from the teachers. Almost everyone I talked to tells me that his department's professors are the best. They go out of their way to make classes interesting and to make the students a part of their learning experience instead of merely observers of a mechanical process. The teachers care about their students and it shows. And that, more than anything else, will keep me at Cortland for a sixth year.

Press editorial policy

The Press welcomes letters from readers. All letters to the editor submitted for publication must be typewritten, double-spaced and received at The Press office, Room 111, Corey Union, no later than 3 p.m. on the Monday before Friday's publication. All letters must contain the writer's name, class year, major, and phone number for clarification.

Letters longer than 300 words will be edited by The Press in such a way as to preserve brevity, without altering the syntax of the letter. All letters will be run verbatim. Letters too long for editing or those in question will be returned to the writer for clarification and/or shortening.

Letters must be devoid of personal attacks or they will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. The Press reserves the right to accept or reject any letters received, and all letters become the property of The Press.