

EDITORIAL

An open letter to Ronald Reagan

An open letter to Ronald Reagan, President, the United States of America

Dear Mr. President,

As a Canadian citizen, I am deeply concerned about the course your government has taken. It seems that in much American foreign policy, coercion and diplomacy have become synonymous.

It appears that force, even nuclear war, is held by your regime to be the instrument capable of choreographing the diplomatic dance, in which the manipulation of threats of violence and the use of violence itself in dealing with crises has been defined as a kind of American pastime. Let us not forget that the diplomacy of violence has been tested (i.e. Vietnam) and found wanting.

Americans and Canadians have become increasingly aware of the pitfalls of your foreign policy. Attempts to impose democratic institutions on others forcibly have failed miserably. Never before has America been so unpopular in the world and never before has the western alliance been so torn.

I am a true believer in the supremacy of democracy, however, what is being exported to the third world is not democracy.

In your recent talks with Mr. Gorbachev you discussed arms reductions; did you also attempt to address world poverty, hunger, and disease? Did you discuss the fact that your government's expenditures on military hardware could easily feed and clothe the world's poor?

It is in the spirit of community that American democracy grew strong and powerful. The christian values of giving to and loving thy neighbour seem to stop somewhere in the diplomatic circles of Washington.

America can no longer continue to brandish the sword of justice without substance. Military power is not enough to convince the Third World that ours is the better form of government. We must prove our adherence to the virtues of democracy and justice in order to establish faith among our allies.

As you can see, I am an idealist but I do believe that an initiative to deal with issues of world survival such as poverty and starvation is needed. This would reinforce the humanistic intentions of our democratic tradition.

On another note, Mr. President, in dealing with terrorism and the "extremist" factions of Mr. Khaddafi, I applaud your efforts. The people being harmed by these fanatics are innocent of any ideological battle being waged and thus are victims of an outrageous crime. To show strong retaliation in this instance is to gain friends for America. No country, whatever its ideology, should tolerate such immoral crimes against humanity. I have found some words by Charles Yost that I feel are appropriate; "A leader may symbolize what is best in his people, like Pericles, or what is worst, like Hitler, but he cannot successfully express what is only in his heart and not in theirs."

Sincerely,
Richard Hutchins
University of New Brunswick
Fredericton, New Brunswick



The Brunswickan is out. On time, I might add. What has changed since 1985 you ask? Well, I'll tell you, if you're that interested. We are looking for some students to do some part-time typesetting. This would be about 4-6 hours per week, at above minimum wage. The experience gained from learning to operate our phototypesetters can often lead to a job after university. Many Bruns alumnus have gone on to jobs with Canadian Press and various printing shops in Fredericton and the Maritimes. If you can type FAST and ACCURATELY, then apply in writing to THE BRUNSWICKAN, ATT: Cal Johnston, Rm.35, SUB, UNB Campus. Do it now!

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back all the staffers from last term, I hope you'll all be with the paper for a while. Also, greetings go out to Jamie Aitken, our first new staffer of 1986. Jamie will be working in the darkroom as our resident photo technician, fancy name for a guy who mixes chemicals all day. As our first member of the new year, we'll be parading Jamie through the SUB and down to the LB Gym in a diaper with a 1986 banner around him. We won't be announcing when, so keep an eye out for him.

Our editorial this week is different, in that its in the form of an open letter to the demon, oops, I mean the Prez of the US. Personally, I think Reagan is dangerous to himself, the US, and the world. Anyone who listens to what a fascist like Jerry Falwell should not wield the kind of power that the US President has. I preferred Carter.

Hutch wanted me to say something about him beating someone at trivia or what not, I can't remember exactly, but it can't be that important. I'm sure he probably cheated.

No letters to the editor this week. We received one on Wednesday, but that's past our deadline. Doesn't anyone out there write letters anymore? Maybe you can't find anything to complain about? Well, don't worry about it, I can. These complaints will be in list form in next week's gory installment of the Mugwump Journal.

Today's Bruns general meeting is an important one. We'll be discussing who should fill the position of Managing Editor/Co-Editor. With Brenda Paul's departure, we are once again understaffed.

This week's Bruns is a good one, I think. The news is good, the editorial is good, and the sports and entertainment are also at their usual levels of excellence. Just a note to look in the sports section of this week's issue for a very good article on various sports figures and how the year 1985 went for them. Way to go, Quiggles. (that's the name Ken prefers to go by in the office. Hey, Ken, just kidding! Put down that desk!)

If you got an invitation to the Brunswickan-Aquinian Christmas Party and didn't go, you missed a great party. Beaver Foods, Ltd. handled the food, and great food it was. Moosehead Breweries must also be thanked for their help. There was even a surprise guest star. The only problem is, who do we get as a guest for our April party?

