

Corky trinidad sampler

1989

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Corky Trinidad Sampler

CORKY
TRINIDAD **SAMPLER**

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

Trinidad: I've never seen a great cartoonist who tried to be loved by everybody

Francisco Fernando Macario Felipe (Corky) Trinidad Jr., 44, has been the political cartoonist of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for 15 years.

Born in Manila, he earned a BA in journalism from the University of Ateneo de Manila in 1960, at the age of 20, became the political cartoonist for the Philippines Herald. By 1965 his cartoons were distributed widely in Asia and reached U.S. readers through reprints in Time magazine and twice-a-week appearances in the Chicago Sun-Times, which led to distribution of his work by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate. He was the first Asian cartoonist syndicated nationally in the United States.

Trinidad also was the creator of Nguyen Charlie, the daily cartoon on the Vietnam War that ran for five years in the Pacific Stars and Stripes.

In addition to developing six cartoons a week for the Star-Bulletin, Trinidad teaches a class in political cartooning at the University of Hawaii and does a syndicated comic strip for a hobby.

He was nicknamed Corky at birth by his grandmother, after a character in the Gasoline Alley comic strip.

By CORKY TRINIDAD

An editorial cartoonist is only as good (or as bad) as his understanding of and his newspaper's attitude toward his craft.

So even the most brief summary of how he goes about doing his work must take both into account.

First, I think I'm one of the few lucky cartoonists. I work for a newspaper that has a journalistic attitude toward the editorial cartoon and an editorial philosophy compatible with my own.

Very few newspapers in the United States use editorial cartoons correctly. Most think of them as editorial illustrations. Other newspapers impose restrictions on topics, enforce slants, deny editorial judgments or require styles and formats deemed popular at the time.

You might have an Honore Daumier or a Paul Conrad on the staff. But if such talented people are made to draw only cartoons based on corresponding editorials, those artists would be in limbo.

That's why I agree with Bill Mauldin, who disdains the title "editorial cartoonist." The craft cries out to be treated for what it should be: a cartoon commentary.

I'm glad my newspaper agrees—some-



Corky Trinidad

"The cartoon—to be really good and true to its purpose—must go beyond the specific subject matter for its content. The ultimate purpose is to take a very particular, topical subject and react to it in a way that sets down a universal principle. . . . Drawing from a particular event a more universal statement or truth makes the cartoon timeless, not just timely. . . ."

times wholeheartedly, sometimes grudgingly—with Bill, too.

Aside from following the basic journalistic aims of informing, instructing and entertaining, the editorial cartoon first and always must take a stand. It must make a statement. It must *be* a statement.

I never have seen a great cartoon that sat on a fence. I never have seen a great cartoonist who tried to be loved by everybody on all sides of an issue.

The cartoon—to be really good and true to its purpose—must go beyond the specific subject matter for its content. The ultimate purpose is to take a very particular, topical subject and react to it in a way that sets down a universal principle. News events come and go, and specifics change as fast as newspapers print them. So when you deal only with the surface of those topics, the cartoon is no better than the funnies or a doodle. It may be loved, but it will be forgotten within seconds. Drawing from a particular event a more universal statement or truth makes the cartoon timeless, not just timely. Conrad's cartoons are like this. The universal lesson drawn outlives the specific event it deals with.

This is the professional motivation and personal belief that I go by. I don't know if I succeed day after day, event after event, six days a week within deadlines. Probably not. But the purpose every day is to try.

I also agree with Pat Oliphant, who hates to be labeled. I think that cartoon-

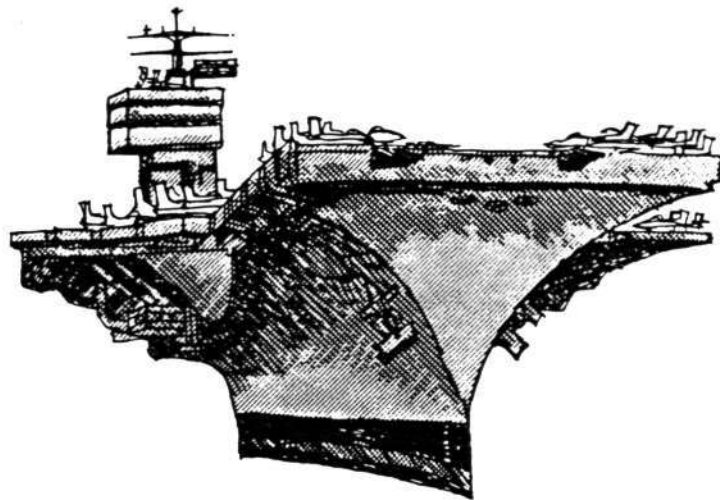
ists shouldn't be tagged. It's always a surprise to me when some of the newer ones advertise themselves as conservative or liberal or whatever. It's bad enough that newspapers sometimes seek a cartoonist the same way: deciding in advance that they want an Oliphant-type or a (Jeff) McNelly-type or a lighter-side-of-the-news type or an acidic type.

We can't approach a topic that way, knowing before analyzing the issue what the treatment should be. The great cartoonists are not voluntarily predictable, in my view. To analyze, to arrive at an editorial judgment and then to make a statement is one function of the cartoonist, and I think he has to be intellectually and politically free to do that. Otherwise, one is just doing cartoons supporting one's leanings, which is not journalism but propaganda.

Fortunately, my newspaper agrees with Oliphant, too.

The Star-Bulletin editorial section always has been an open vehicle for debate and exchange of all political thoughts, persuasions, ideas and opinions. from its own editorial stands to the freest exchange of ideas from syndicated materials, local writers and some of the most opinionated readers anywhere. Partly due to the attitude of the editors—who like the section to seek its own debates and to generate its own waves—and partly due to the Hawaiian readers—who prefer this freewheeling exchange of ideas and opinion—it's a cartoonist's kind of section,

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



STAR-BULLETIN
CORKY
TRINIDAD



If you ask me - those reports on drugs in the military are greatly exaggerated...

The presence of military personnel in large numbers in Honolulu makes this cartoon by Star-Bulletin's Corky Trinidad local as well as national commentary.

too. Some of the hardest-hitting cartoons printed are submitted by readers.

As a result, the way I do my work is a combination of all these qualities and attitudes and circumstances. I just come in and do the work expected of me and agreed upon by a handshake 15 years ago. The handshake was a mutual understanding that both sides knew what the editorial-cartooning job entailed.

I think the cartoonist is responsible for every phase of his work. He has to have the editorial judgment to decide the best topic of the day, the responsibility to know or learn relevant data to analyze

CORKY

the issues involved and the flexibility to execute the slant suggested by the subject.

A few drawing skills help.

My newspaper expects me to know the job. If there's a newsbreak at 3 a.m., my editors know I'll rush in at 3 a.m. There

is no need for the usual editorial meeting or for four or five rough sketches of different topics from which editors choose one, because I am expected to be aware of what the topic should be. In a kind of responsible freedom, I just come in, do my cartoon and turn it in. Usually the cartoon's stand coincides with the newspaper's editorial stand. Occasionally it does not.

But my newspaper prints that cartoon anyway—sometimes right next to the editorial expressing the opposite opinion.

But then, the Star-Bulletin is a classy newspaper. ■

CORKY
TRINIDAD



“Look, it’s premature
for me to think
of pardons...”

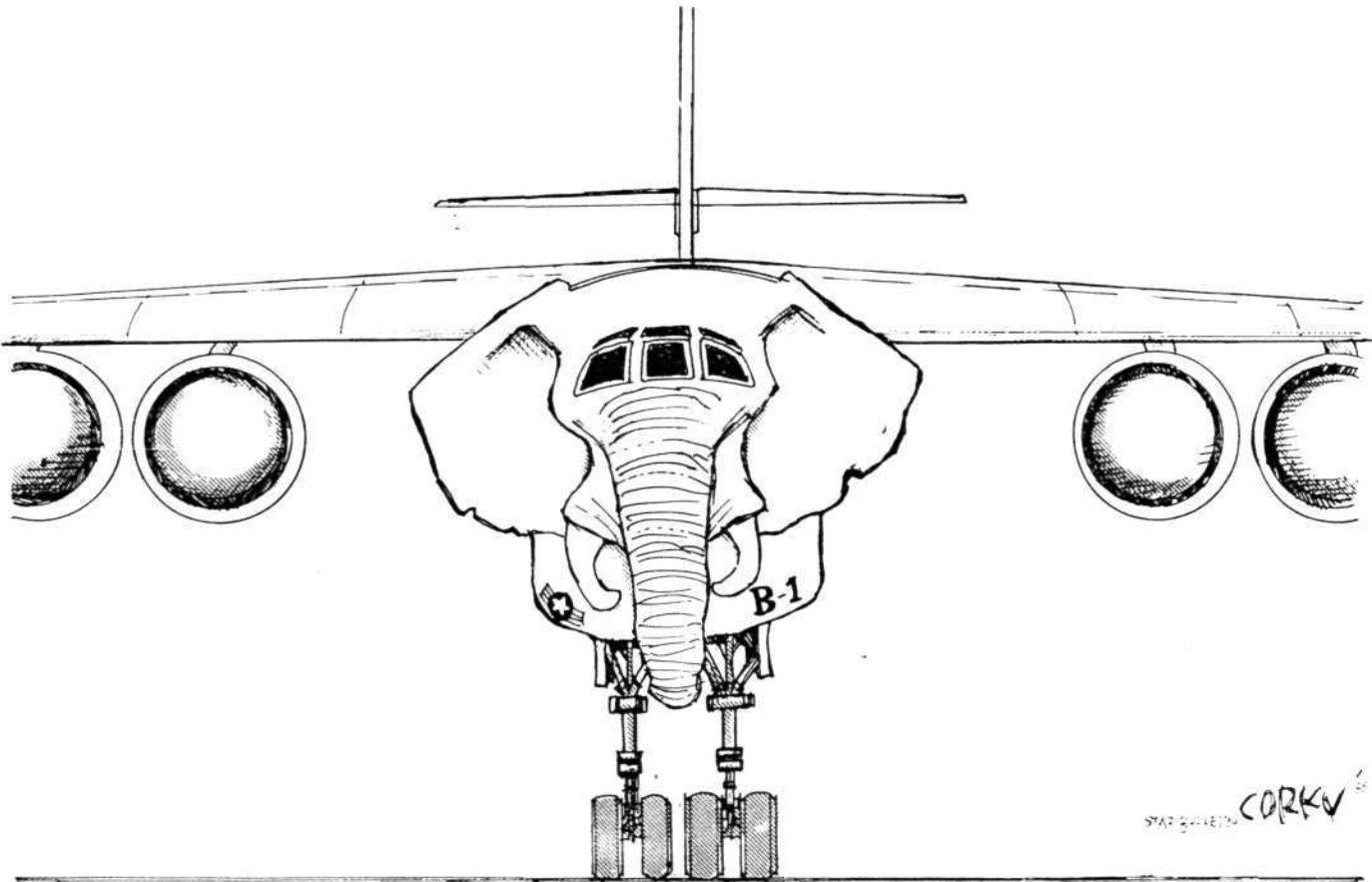
...I’ll leave that
for the next
president...”



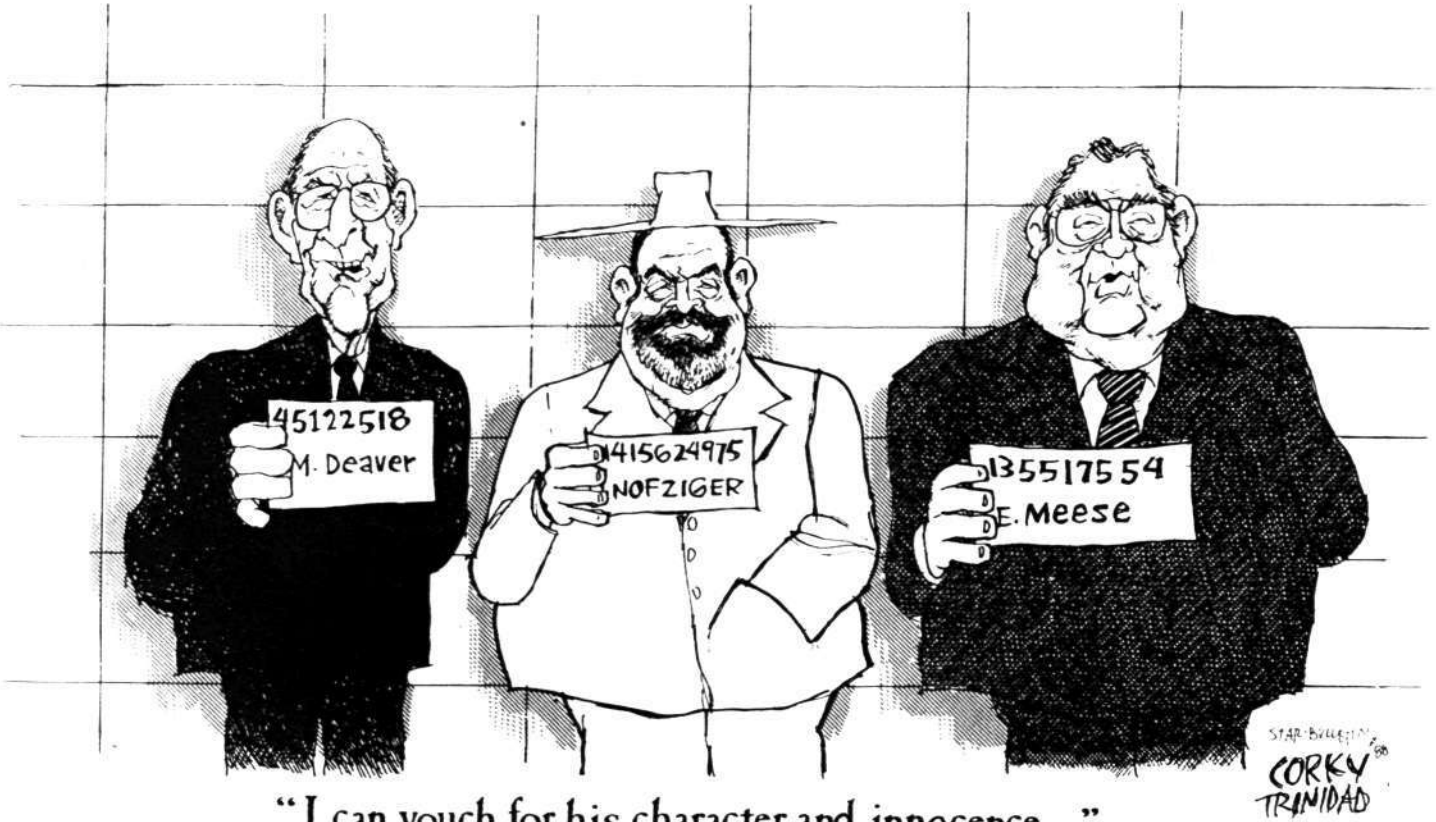
STAR-BULLETIN
CORKY
TRINIDAD '80



"AND THIS GOVERNMENT OF THE GUN, FOR THE GUN, BY THE GUN ..."



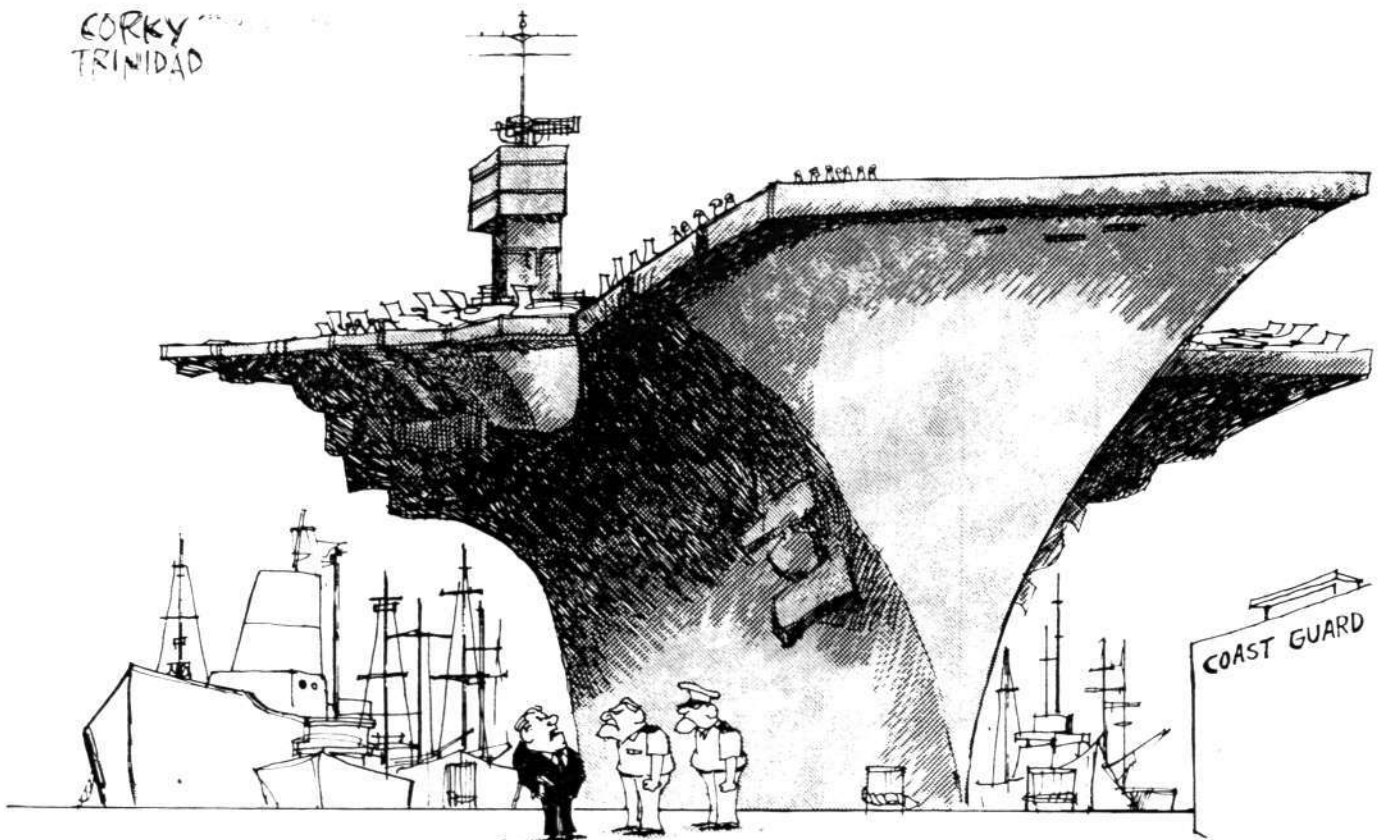
The White Elephant



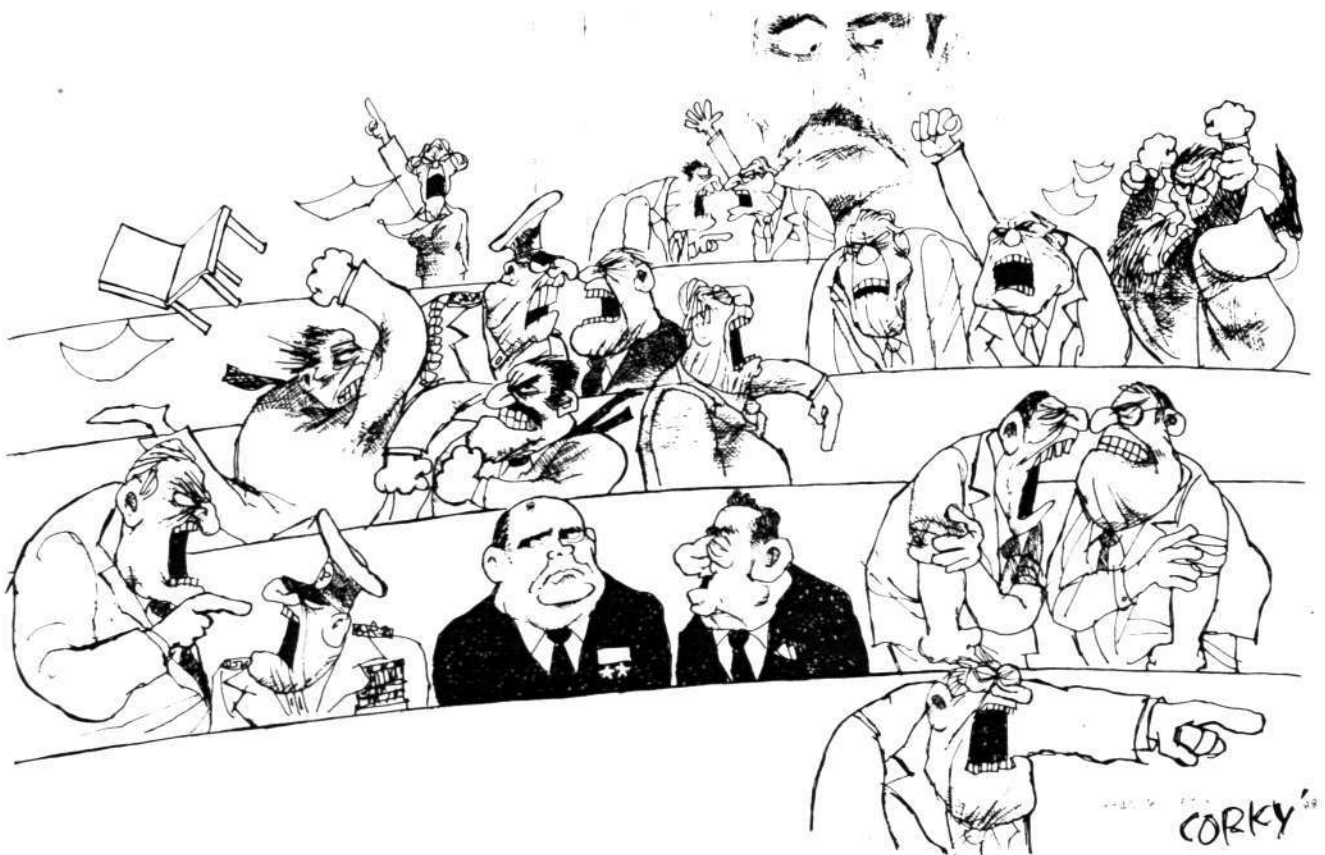
“I can vouch for his character and innocence...”

Still a dream...





"I'M SORRY, BUT THE LAW IS THE LAW: WE CONFISCATE ANY SHIP WHERE WE FIND ANY AMOUNT OF ANY FORM OF DRUG..."



"I THINK YOU'RE WINNING, MIKHAIL ... I SEE SIGNS OF DEMOCRACY TAKING HOLD..."

To the rescue?...

CORKY
TRINIDAD



This is the Kuwaiti tanker.



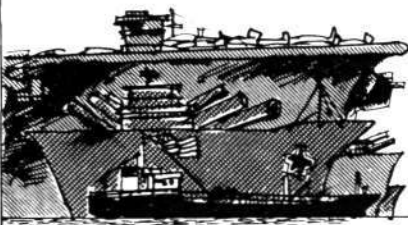
This is the Kuwaiti tanker flying an American flag.



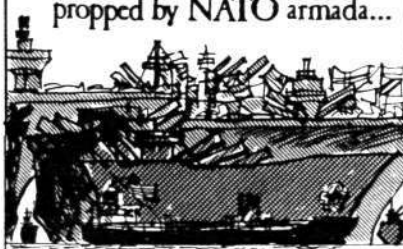
This is the Kuwaiti tanker flying an American flag escorted by a Russian ship.



This is the Kuwaiti tanker flying an American flag escorted by a Russian ship guarded by the U.S. fleet.



This is the Kuwaiti tanker flying an American flag escorted by a Russian ship guarded by the U.S. fleet propped by NATO armada...

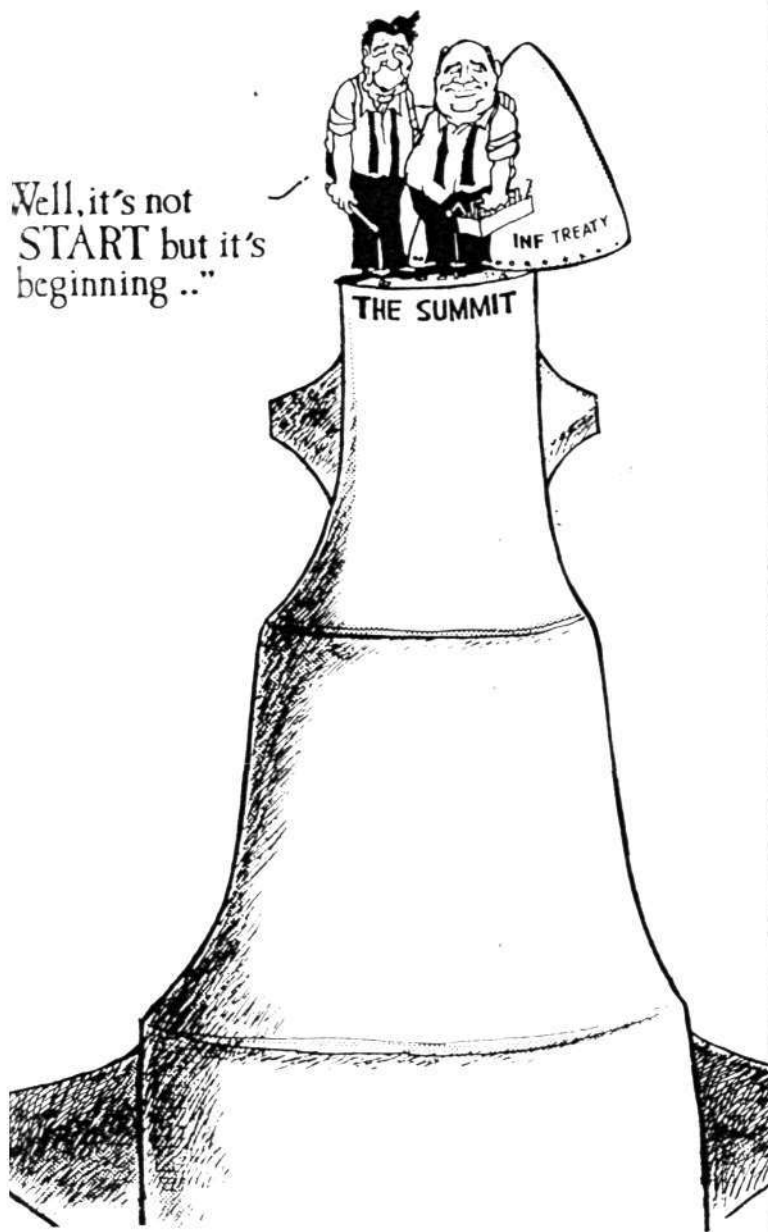


That a terrorist sank.

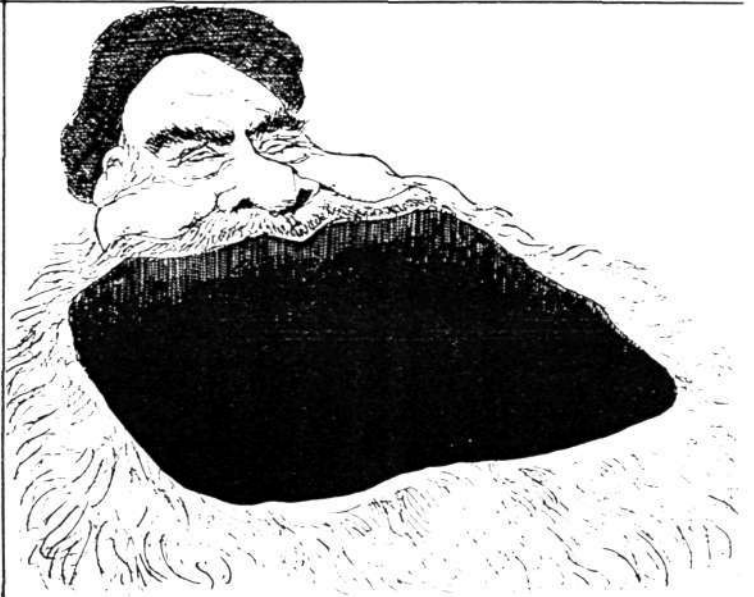


CORKY
TRINIDAD

1987



m USA TODAY



Persian Gulf

I will reject any tax hike congress will try to force on you!

...well, maybe a uh, revenue incre income adjustmen cr...temporary revenue enhancement ??...



CORLEY



se special interest groups are
ticizing my appointment!...



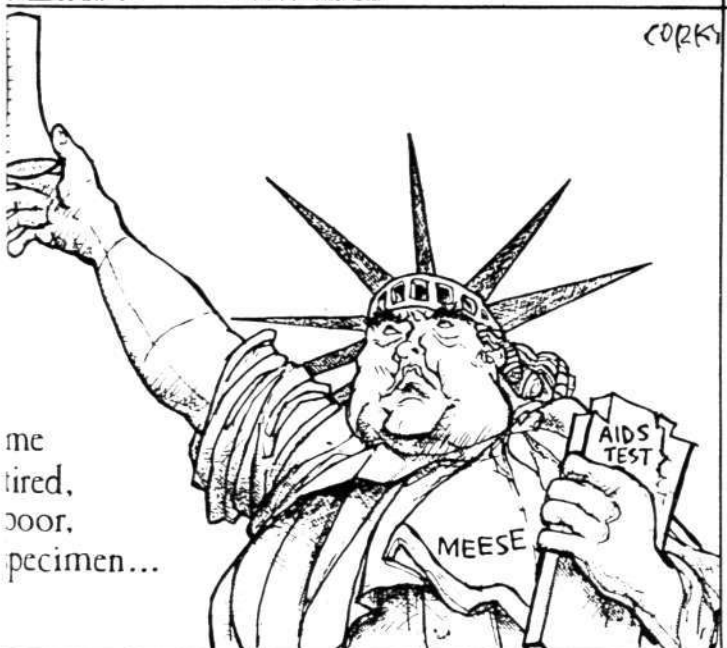
The Weinberger Radar

When you see
a blip:

1. Determine if blip
is Iranian, Iraqi,
Russian or other;
2. See if it is hostile
or friendly;
3. If blip makes a
menacing or
threatening gesture—
shoot!
4. You've got ten seconds.



The holy war begins...



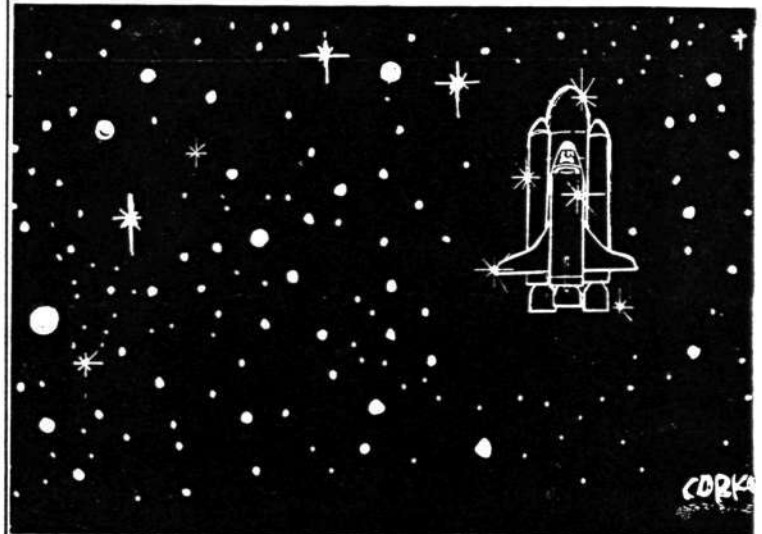
me
tired,
poor,
specimen...



Heaven, I'm in heaven...

FRED ASTAIRE

1986

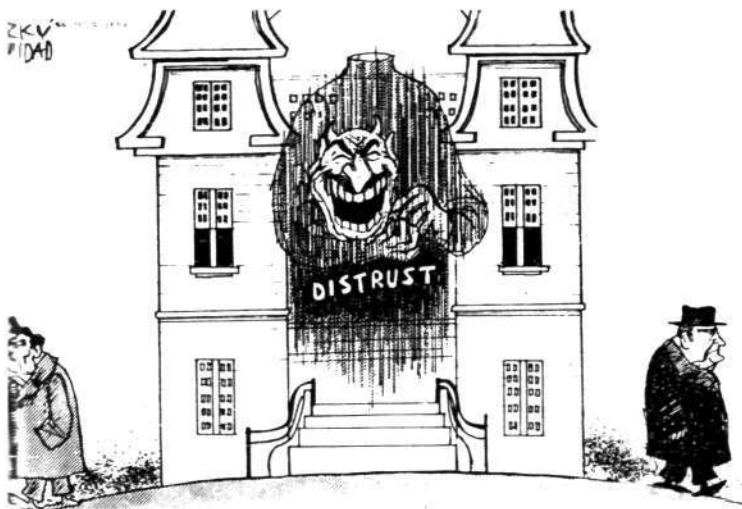


Constellation Challenger

THAT WISHY WASHY PRESIDENT CARTER IS A WIMP WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE LEADERSHIP TO STAND UP TO THOSE IRANIAN TERRORISTS! AND IF I HAD MY WAY, I'D GIVE 'EM...



The good news is - not one of us knew what was going on 'round here all this time...



The ghost at Hofdi House

We've had an accident at the plant...serious but small...

just two casualties, nothing to worry about, no danger to the public...

CORKY TRIND



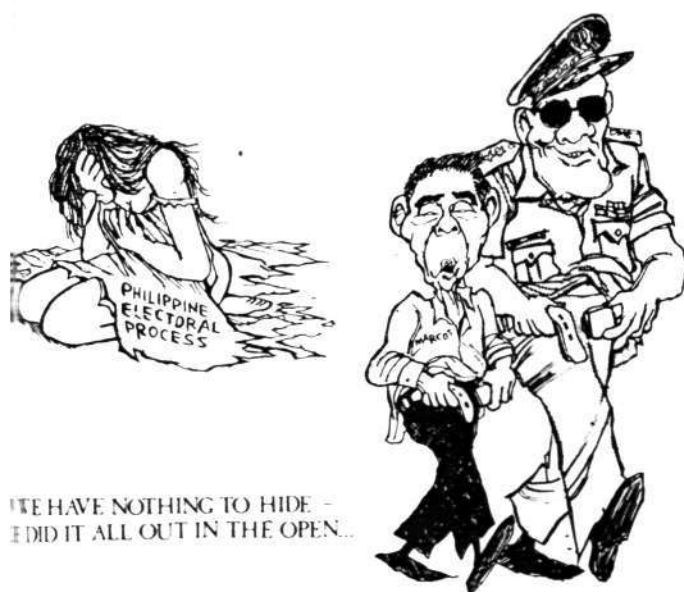
Meltdown



new every court decision was a step closer to this...



CORKY TRINIDAD



WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE -
WE DID IT ALL OUT IN THE OPEN...

Just a wholesome family show -
Leave it to Deaver

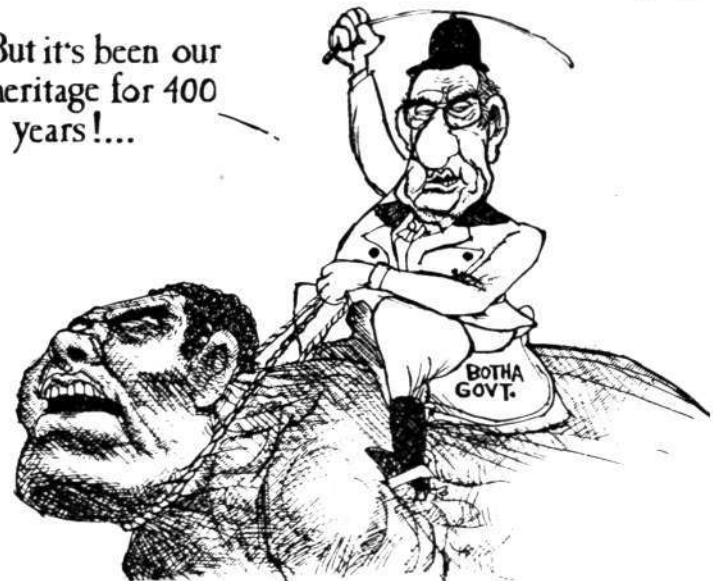


CORKY TRINIDAD



The Family Hostage.

But it's been our
heritage for 400
years!...



CORKY TRINIDAD

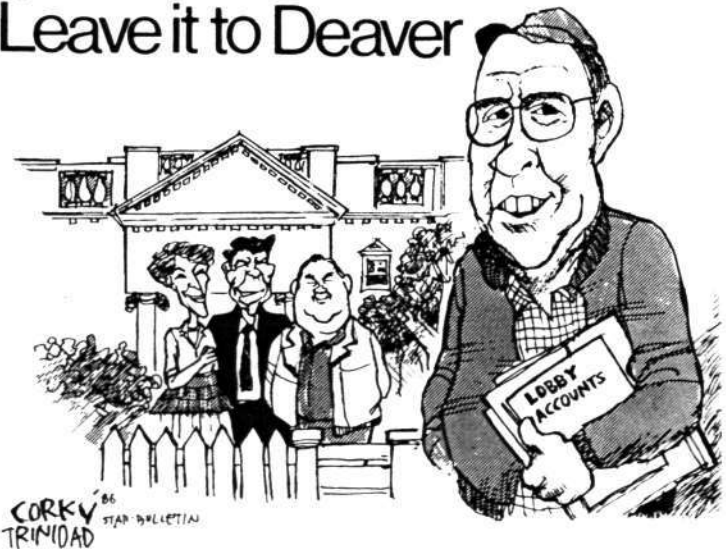


I knew every court decision was a step closer to this...



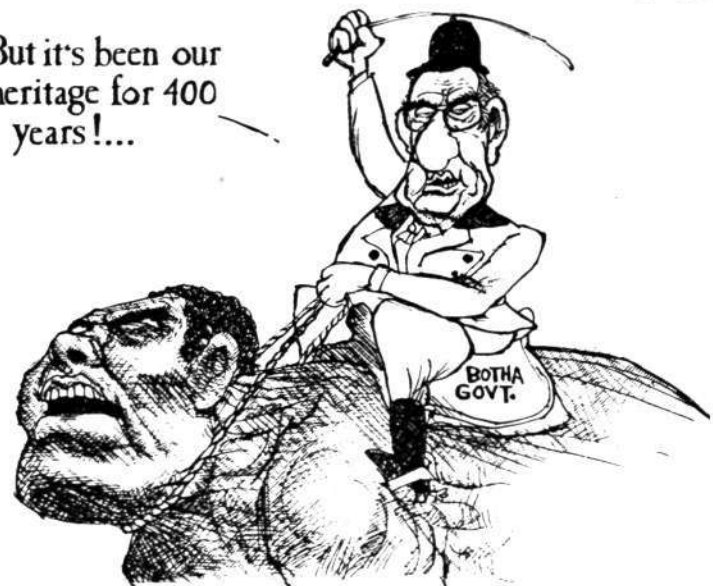
WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE - WE DID IT ALL OUT IN THE OPEN...

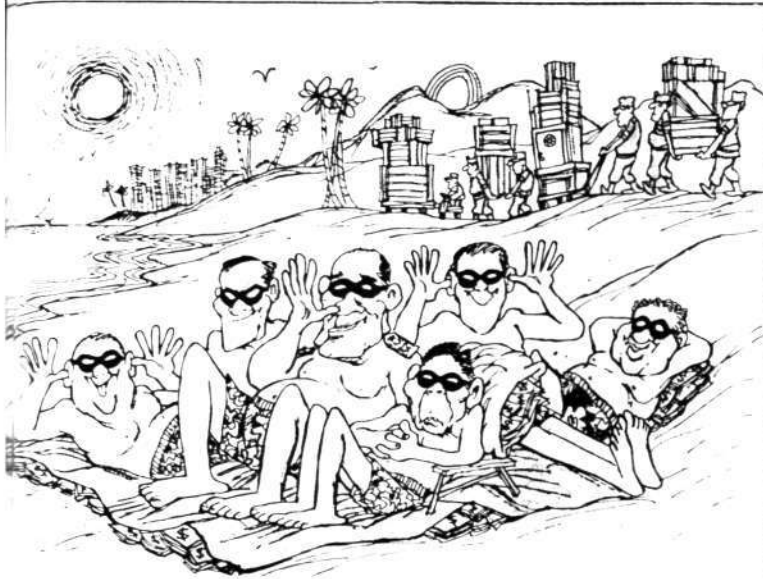
Just a wholesome family show -
Leave it to Deaver



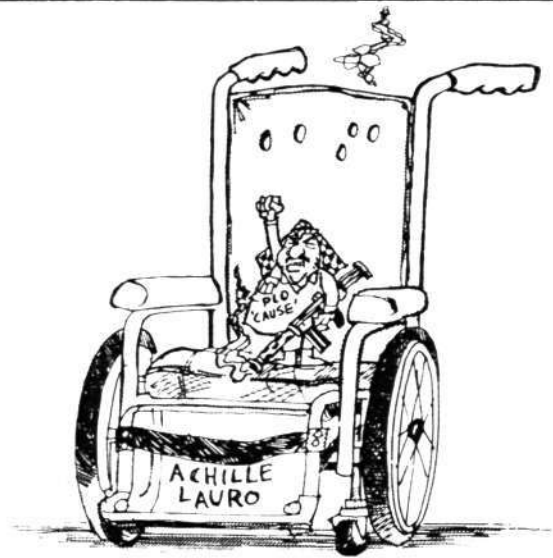
The Family Hostage.

But it's been our
heritage for 400
years!...





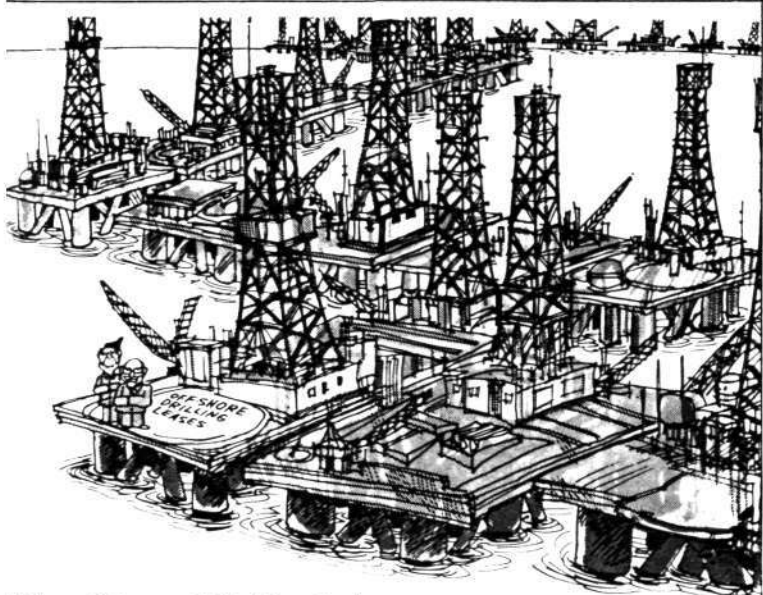
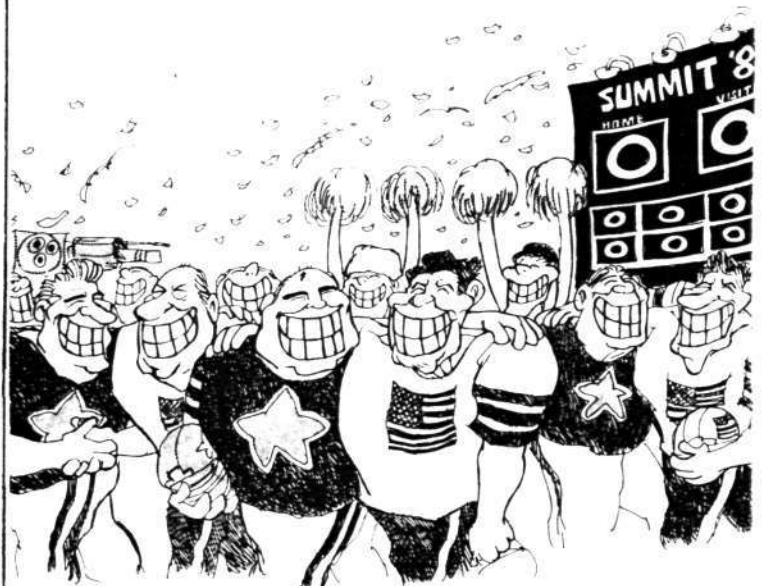
... And they lived happily ever after.



Big Man



The Reagan "line of death"...

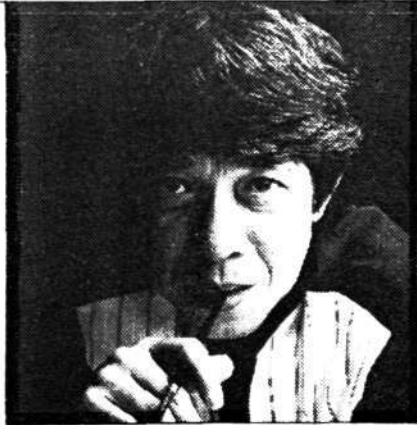


The Great Wall of America



Juliette May Fraser

Corky's corks



Corky Trinidad
Editorial cartoonist

"The editorial cartoon first and always must take a stand . . . make a statement . . . be a statement.

"I have never seen a great cartoon that sat on a fence. Usually the cartoon's stand coincides with the newspaper's editorial stand. Occasionally it does not.

"But my newspaper prints that cartoon anyway — sometimes right next to the editorial expressing the opposite opinion.

"But then, the Star-Bulletin is a classy newspaper."

That's how Corky sees it. Enjoy his point of view daily in the Star-Bulletin.



Right where you live.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin