



Features

EDITOR: KRICKET MORTON



TERRORISTS: THE IMPENDING CRISIS

BY PALMER BROWN

"We will not tolerate these acts of violence by outlaw nations any longer" were the words spoken by former President Ronald Reagan after yet another terrorist act claimed the lives of innocent people. Terrorism. What is it and how should the United States of America respond to acts of terrorism as the leading nation in the world? Webster defines terrorism as "the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion," but how to deal with it has received heated debate and continues to be an underlying question in the foreign policy of the United States. An airplane carrying hundreds of passengers blows up in mid-air as a result of an undetected bomb; a car carrying a bomb is driven into a market full of people killing innocent women and children; hijackers take over a plane full of people and declare that if their demands are not met that they will kill the passengers one by one; these are just a few of many examples of terrorism. Almost every night, the news carries a story of some sort of terrorist act. But the question remains: How should we respond?

Other actions, which may not be defined as terrorism have occurred recently at the direction of several leaders who have been accused of terrorist acts in the past. Two Libyan jet fighters fired upon two United States fighters during maneuvers in the Mediterranean Sea. In response to this, the United States jets returned fire and downed the two Libyan fighters. Libyan President Murrar Kadaffi claims that the incident occurred in retaliation for his building of a chemical plant.

A recent type of terrorist threat occurred when Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the murder of Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, a book that angered millions of Muslims around the world. While some may not view this action as terrorist activity, few would argue, however, that this type of policy has a place in the world.

The issue still remains: What actions must be taken in order to prevent terrorism? This subject is a controversial one as no one knows the right answer that will work every time. Former President Reagan raided Libya with jets and destroyed military bases in retaliation for their part in terrorist activities. While methods such as this one cause much controversy, the action clearly has made Libya think twice about performing terrorist acts in the future. Now that President Bush is the head man, what will the United States' policy be? For the best results, President Bush should copy Mr. Reagan's approach: Get tough with terrorists. That is the best policy.

BE AWARE OF SUN'S DANGERS

As spring break approaches, many people are devising a plan so they can get that savage tan for the prom. Before they beat a path to the river or the beach, they should be aware of the consequences. Possessing a rich tan has gone in and out of fashion over the centuries. In times past, pale skin was prized by members of the upper class as a symbol of their station in life since only peasants and laborers who toiled outdoors became deeply tanned. Today a deep tan is valued as a symbol of youth, health, and glamour.

But the new badge of a lifetime spent in the sun is skin cancer. Sun exposure prematurely ages the skin and promotes skin cancer as surely as cigarette smoking is associated with lung cancer.

A tan is actually the body's reaction to damage by the sun. The skin darkens by producing more pigment called melanin as a way of protecting the body from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

A reaction caused by the sun's light can cause changes inside skin cells. The changes produce wrinkles, loss of skin elasticity, mottling of color, growth and enlargement of small blood vessels and development of precancerous and cancerous skin growths.

Skin damage is time related. A dose of sunlight is more damaging to young skin because young skin cells multiply more rapidly and over a longer life span, meaning that sunlight-induced errors are amplified. The long term effects of sunlight may take up to 25 years to appear.

To protect against the burning rays of the sun, you should always apply a sunscreen with the appropriate SPF or sun protection factor. The higher the SPF number, the greater the protection. For example, an application of the sunscreen with SPF 3 allows you stay in the sun three times longer than you normally could without burning. Sunscreens should be applied 30 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied after sweating, exercise, swimming or drying off with a towel.

If you do get a sunburn, saturating the skin with moisturizers will help with surface dryness, but does not reverse cellular damage. Applying moisturizer before sunbathing actually increases the effect of ultraviolet light. You should only moisturize your skin with a sunscreen before going outdoors.

By taking these simple precautions, you can keep your skin healthy and youthful appearing for many years to come.



Jennifer Johnson and Suzanne Smith "waste" some time at Burger King.



Later they opt for a little MTV.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? CHAPTER TWO

BY BETH CHILDRESS

What is there to do in this town during the weekends? This is a question asked by many teenagers and young people throughout this vast land mass known as Stanly County. Actually there are numerous things you can do in this huge metropolis. As you know, you can go get your dad's pick-up truck and cruise the Sky, but all you would probably end up doing is wasting gas or getting pulled by the cops because you went through two times in a 30 minute period. Another place to cruise would be down by the BK and have a little excitement as you ride over the bumps in the Big Lot's parking lot. If you're one of those "big spenders" you can head for the movies and take in a flick for \$4.50.

However, the best thing to do is to keep your ears open for a party. Once you hear about one, it's time to make that long-awaited trip to Norwood. With your purchases, you can indulge yourself with fine beverages at the party. If you're the evil type, you can go out and tear up mail boxes, shoot out windows, roll someone's yard, or break into cars. But before you do these things, you should think of the consequences.

Last but not least, you can be a couch potato and sit at home watching MTV or Saturday Night Live. These are just a few of the fun and somewhat recreational things to do in the big city of Albemarle!

GRAFFITI: ARTWORK OR DESTRUCTION?

BY WARD MISENHEIMER

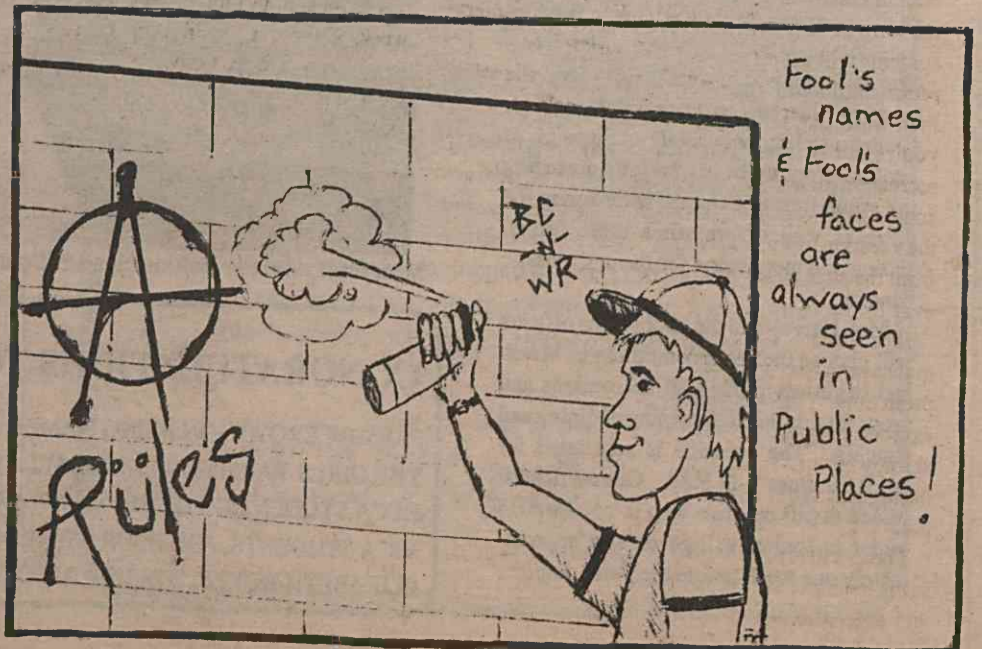
Recently there have been countless cases involving graffiti and destruction of private property in our school and in surrounding schools. Bathroom walls are becoming filled with satanic messages, personal names, and phone numbers. In many instances, when people are behind closed doors they feel compelled to leave a lasting contribution to the next "generation". AHS has relatively few problems with graffiti, with such comments as "Call Maybelle for a good time" or "S.P + R.N." being major offenses.

No one knows exactly why people engage in defacing public property. The reasons are probably as varied as the people who do it. Mr. Morgan, our principal, feels that insecurity is a key reason for writing on public walls. Other faculty and adults feel that students don't respect the rights and property of others. On the other hand,

teenagers feel that it is a way others get their kicks and have a good time, or maybe graffiti writing is a way to break the rules without getting caught.

This endless fight to stop graffiti will probably never be completely resolved, but there are a few suggestions to make the situation better. At some schools, a certain area or wall has been designated for art work, graffiti, and other writings. A final suggestion may be a campaign by faculty and students to take pride in their school.

Much tax money is spent each year in order to improve school facilities. Each summer the school maintenance department spends hours painting and repairing damaged walls. If none of these reasons for keeping our school clean seems important, maybe an old saying will hit home: "Fool's names and fool's faces are always seen in public places."



FULL MOON

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