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Edmonton Convention Centre Saturday November 29 8:00 P.M.

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presented by the U of A Ski Club





From Centre Field

by Alex Shetsen

The United States of America protector of democracy for the free world? Hah!

What a laugh. The Americans claim to be the saviours of liberty in our world. A difficult task, we all know - made even more difficult by the fact that the Americans have themselves lost whatever democracy they may once have had.

With the recent disclosure by the White House that arms were secretly shipped to Iran in exchange for American hostages held in Lebanon, the Republican Administration has revealed itself to be almost unmatched in its hypocrisy, cynicism, trifling with democracy and totalitarian tendencies.

Reagan was elected in 1980, by an anguished America with the hope that he would be able to rescue 60 Americans held captive by an insanely theocratic government in Teheran.

Reagan, for his part, promised not to make any concessions to Khomeini. He didn't have to. Jimmy Carter, in his final days as president, secured release of the hostages, who were freed just as Reagan was inaugurated.

Ever since then, Reagan's government has pursued a policy of declared war against terrorism. Iran, unlike Libya, was never actually bombed; but for six years, with almost every turn of his tongue, Ronnie denounced the regime in Teheran as evil terrorists and continued the "no negotiation - no surrender" line.

So what happens eventually? A

week or so ago, Reagan announces that he shipped arms to Iran. To make it worse, he denies that it is in exchange for hostages: it is simply a good-will gesture.

The announcement is hypocritical because it goes flat against everything Reagan has said about Iran in the last six years. It is cynical, not to mention stupid, because Reagan expects to appease a fanatic regime that considers the USA equivalent to Satan

Finally, the way the deal was carried out in secret, against the wishes of the State Department, without consultation with Congress, and with complete assuredness the media and the public would swallow the news when the story got out shows incredible trifling with democracy and totalitarian tendencies reminiscent of the Soviet Union at its worst.

What is even more upseting is the fact that the public reaction in the States has been far more subdued than it should have been. Where are the calls to impeach Reagan for abuse of executive power? Imagine Nixon getting involved in something like this....

Reagan has executive privilege to do this, you may claim? Not in a democratic society with a supposedly open government.

Fine, the Americans can allow their democracy to be frittered away in cases like this. They do have the freedom to lose their freedom. But having lost their freedom, it is a tad pathetic to see them cry LIBERTY every 35 seconds.

Watch your Boks

by Dean Bennett

There is a new type of petty theft taking place on campus. Where at one time it was purses and wallets that were lifted on a regular basis, the past six months have seen expensive clothing being taken from libraries and lockers.

"I don't know. Maybe it's the economy or something," said Ralph Oliver, Chief Security Officer for Campus Security. "People are taking Sun Ice Ski Jackets and Re-Bok running shoes if it looks like they'll

The majority of these thefts come when people leave their possessions unattended in the library or do not bother to lock their day

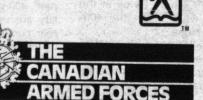
Oliver suggested that one possible solution is to put your initials somewhere on your expensive articles of clothing. That way, if, for example, your coat is stolen and you see somebody walking around in it, you can positively identify it as being yours.

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