Martin Stupid Levenson politician tricks

I wonder if David Letterman has ever considered having a segment on his show called "Stupid Politician Tricks"?

There certainly wouldn't be a shortage of contestants.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has to be considered a leading contender for whatever prizes Letterman thinks are appropriate.

His support for Secretary of State George Shultz's refusal to grant a visa to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yassar Arafat is not only stupid and shortsighted, but counterproductive and dangerous.

Arafat was to address the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday. The fact that he was even invited to do this is encouraging for prospects of peace in the Middle East.

The PLO has just held a conference where they adopted UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which

implicitly recognize Israel's right to its existence.

This is a remarkable turnaround for the PLO, and represents the best chance in quite a while for resolution of the Middle East turmoil

As well, the UN has achieved a stature unprecedented in its history, due to its recent successes. It has moved effectively on issues like the Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan and the negotiation

of peace terms in the Iran-Iraq war.

There is a new will to achieve at the UN, and the PLO as an organization is taking its most conciliatory stance ever. So it would seem natural for the UN to attempt to address the issue.

The U.S. government's defense of their position is that Arafat may have known of and/or condoned terrorist activities directed against U.S. citizens. This defense is hypocritical. Shultz and Reagan are both in positions where they may have known of, and/or condoned what some people would consider terrorist activities.

The bombing raid on Tripoli comes to mind, as does the invasion of Grenada, and the shooting down of a passenger airplane in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. position is counter-

productive as well. Once again, the U.S. can be portrayed as preventing a peaceful solution. Once again, the PLO can label the U.S. as an enemy. And once again, U.S. citizens will become the targets of PLO extremist assas-

That's why the U.S. government stance is dangerous.

It doesn't matter if you are Jewish, Palestinian or Arab; the only way to obtain peace in the Middle East will come through mediation and compromise, on the part of all parties.

Some leaders may have to back down on their hardline positions.

Reagan should override Shultz's action, and contribute to the possibility of peace in the Middle

It's a hell of a lot easier to eat words than bullets.

'Give me sanity or give me a 9!'

by Kisa Mortenson

I was in terminal hell...

I was told the computer before me was user friendly, but who was kidding who?

Hours of confusion had produced little and the assignment was due in less than a week. What would it take to finish the impossible task?

Around me, other happy users grumbled. The T.A., Juan, wandered about the class, an easy target for displaced aggression. Complaints to the T.A. ranged from "I told it what to do" to "It's not listening to me."

Yes, I, along with other students in the class, were beginning to talk to these plastic, microchip filled machines. Were we all becoming stereotypical computer nerds? We couldn't.. this was only a 200 level course!

Could years of normal (basically normal) behavior be wiped out in beginners' first attempts to program?

With less than a week left to do the assignment and little help in sight, it had all come down to mental health or computer literacy. What a choice! Give me sanity or give me a 9!

From the National Film Board of Canada

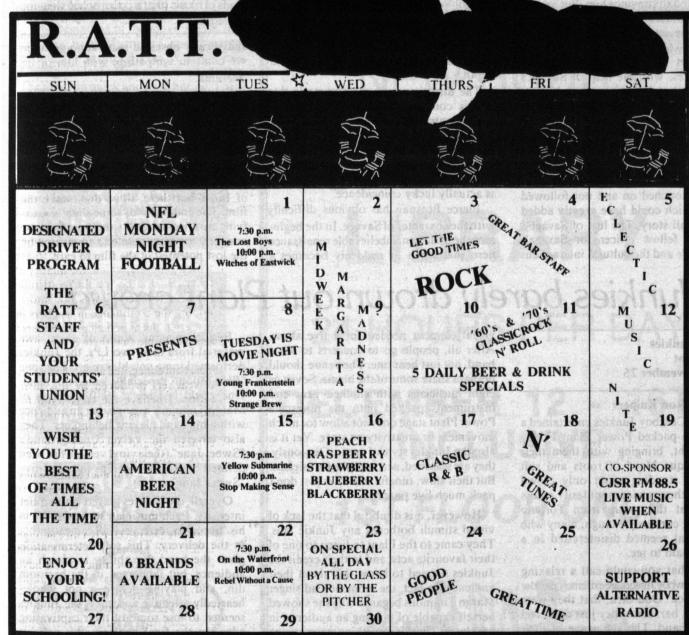


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