

Reagan - the acting President

by Steven Walker for Canadian University Press

Ronald Reagan walks across the White House lawn to the waiting helicopter, shrugging, palms up. A 70 year old man who looks 50, he smiles slightly, showing two nice bright rows of Hollywood teeth. Ronald Reagan who, in a flannel shirt, could be anybody's uncle, always exudes confident optimism.

The man who the *New York Daily News* refers to affectionately as "Ron" looks like he should be in charge. One can almost hear the music; "He's got the whole world in his hands..."

Unfortunately, it's true. Ronald Reagan manipulates the press, the U.S. Congress, the American public, and in some measure the world more successfully than few people ever have.

Heads of State and public figures file from his office speaking of his sincerity and grace. They are often won over to his point of view by what they refer to as his "awesome powers of persuasion."

On the air and in public he is poised and relaxed. When he speaks he does so with a controlled voice and demeanor that come across as perfectly natural.

Hostile questions are deflected with a joke. Jeers are neutralized with a thoughtful remark. Vociferous critics are caught off guard by the fresh simplicity of his "first let's have a jelly bean" approach.

Reagan's act has been perfected through years of stage practice at dramatic projection in which meaningless dialogue is pumped up with rationalized, temporary sincerity. It is a trick that any good actor knows. Talk yourself into believing what you are saying and the world thinks you mean it.

No one but a professional actor could bring it across with similar class and wit. In terms of effective style, Ronald Reagan

should certainly go down in history, as number one.

But the trouble with Ronnie isn't his style, it's his substance.

The following is only a partial list of Reagan's "accomplishments" since he assumed office as the most powerful politician in the Western world.

He has substantially damaged the U.S. social welfare program. This program, designed to help improve the condition of the large social underclass, took 30 years of work to build. This segment of the U.S. population composed mainly of inner city racial minorities now shows signs of becoming a unique and permanent American phenomenon.

He has given large multinational corporations, through lax enforcement of anti-trust laws and special tax breaks, the green light for unrestrained expansion in North American and abroad. The mul-

man from Argentina, actually saved people's lives. In so doing, Reagan has also jettisoned a rationale for popular Third World support of the West.

He has substantially eroded, in a single year, the living standard of lower and middle class Americans and Canadians by raising interest rates and purposely causing a recession.

He has destroyed through the relaxation of existing pollution controls, a legislative and grass roots campaign to clean up an increasingly poisonous environment.

He has continued to push nuclear power down the throats of a growingly unwilling population, even though it has been proven dangerous and is now economically disadvantageous. Since no safe method of disposing of nuclear waste has been developed it also represents a growing future menace of unparalleled

aggravated the principal reason for the U.S. having one of the worst rates of violent crime in the world. He has even become a victim to it.

He has psychologically set the stage for what was formerly unthinkable: a limited nuclear war on the European Continent. In so doing he has alienated European opinion, isolated the United States and, some think, irreparably divided the NATO alliance.

Worst of all, through intentional agitation and a demonstrated unwillingness to seriously negotiate, he has set into motion the most gargantuan struggle for arms superiority the world has ever seen. It is a race which shows every indication of draining the world's resources and heightening tension in every world conflict. He has pushed the arms race, formerly out of control, into the twilight zone.

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tinational already have a power and influence which many people believe exceeds that of government.

He has strengthened and aided, through pledges of friendship and arms, undemocratic and dictatorial regimes all over the world. Some of them indulge in worse repression of their civilian populations than anything the Soviet bloc has ever dreamed of.

He has demolished Jimmy Carter's well intentioned human rights campaign. Carter's effort, as in the case of the Jewish expatriot newspaperman Jacobo Timmer-

proportions.

He has brought U.S. - Canadian relations to a 30 year low by attempting to bully the Canadian government on its energy policy, by renegeing on the Fisheries Treaty and hedging on the Alaska gas pipeline. In addition, his government has steadfastly refused to seriously address the problem of acid rain.

He has denounced gun control, dismantling the federal agency which is responsible for what little there is. Through this attitude he has further

The theoretical basis on which the arms race was built goes back to shortly after World War II when it was recognized by world leaders that it has only been in times of military superiority by a single nation that the world slipped into conflict.

Accordingly, there would be peace as long as there was a balance of power.

Dr. George Wald, a lecturer on disarmament, has stated that the Pentagon operates on a somewhat different principle. Wald feels Pentagon thinking is: "Never negotiate from a position which is equal to, or inferior to that of your

Daniel Rodier. Scholarship student. Dedicated to becoming a marine biologist.

Will he make it?

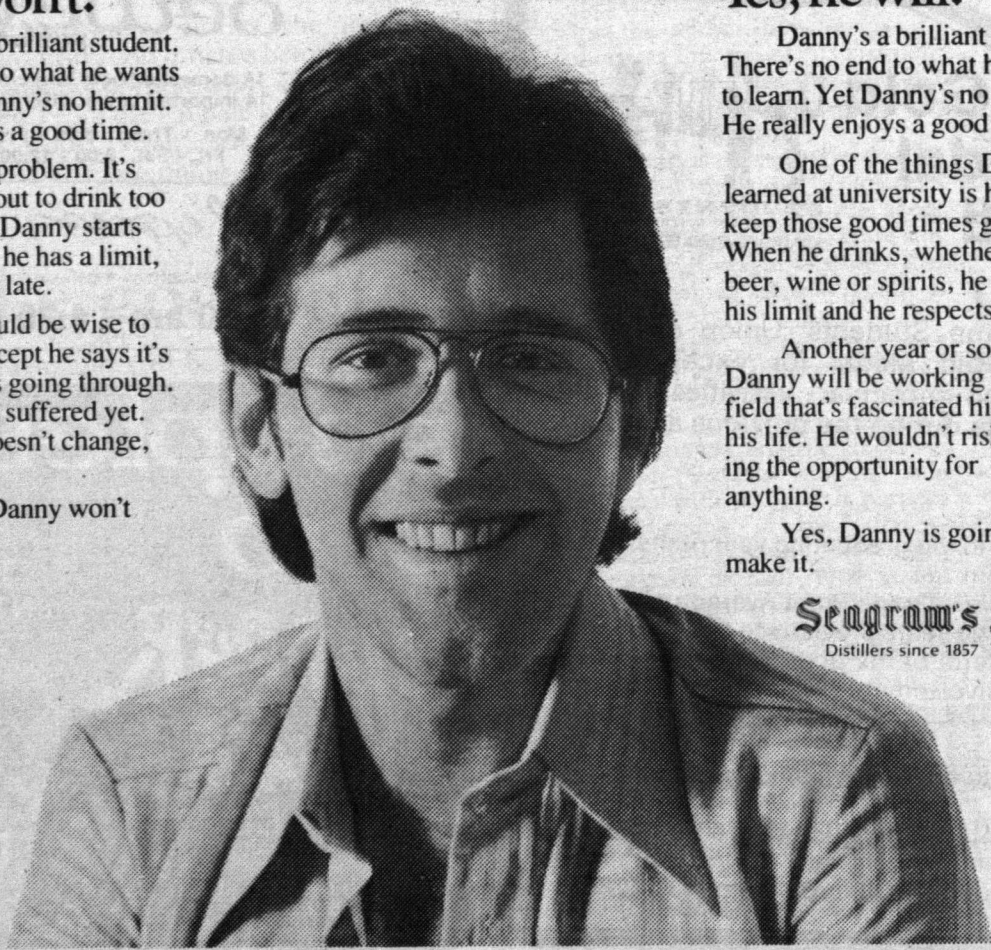
No, he won't.

Danny's a brilliant student. There's no end to what he wants to learn. Yet Danny's no hermit. He really enjoys a good time.

That's the problem. It's not that he sets out to drink too much, but once Danny starts he often forgets he has a limit, and then it's too late.

Danny would be wise to see a doctor, except he says it's just a phase he's going through. His work hasn't suffered yet. But if Danny doesn't change, it soon will.

And, no, Danny won't make it.



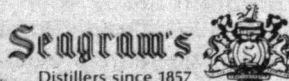
Yes, he will.

Danny's a brilliant student. There's no end to what he wants to learn. Yet Danny's no hermit. He really enjoys a good time.

One of the things Danny's learned at university is how to keep those good times good. When he drinks, whether it's beer, wine or spirits, he knows his limit and he respects it.

Another year or so, and Danny will be working in a field that's fascinated him all his life. He wouldn't risk spoiling the opportunity for anything.

Yes, Danny is going to make it.



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