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That 70's Show: The Editorial Cartoons of Bill Sanders

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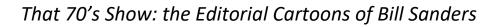
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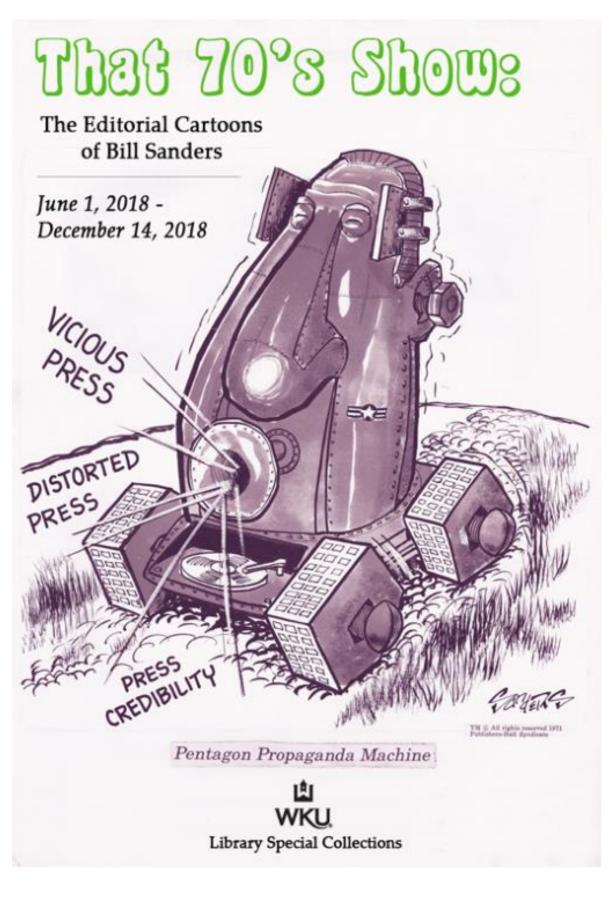


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Acknowledgements

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Cartoons

Bill Sanders

Additional Materials

Loyd S. Aton James Bohannon Robert "Mike" Bradley John Fleenor Belmont Forsythe Captain Bill Houston Mike Irwin Edwin & Linda (Todd) Phelps Patrick Powers Julius E. Rather Doug Verdier Robert Westerman WKU Amateur Radio Club

Thank You

A special thanks to Dr. John Parker (retired) and Dr. Scott Lasley, WKU Political Science Department, for their assistance with this exhibit.

Introduction

During his 32-year professional career, Bill Sanders drew thousands of editorial cartoons, capturing the follies and occasional triumphs of nine presidential administrations from Eisenhower to Clinton. Passionate about civil rights and keenly interested in national and international affairs, Sanders used his cartoons to skewer politicians on both sides of the aisle when he felt they deserved it. His philosophy of cartooning? "Each cartoon should be drawn for one purpose, to convey a message or opinion. It might be flavored with humor or be bitter with sledgehammer seriousness, but the opinion should reach out and grab the reader by the collar."

That 70's Show presents an overview of Sanders' opinions on some of the more critical and controversial issues and figures of the 1970s. Drawn using his trademark philosophy of "go for the jugular," the thirty-eight cartoons in the exhibit represent Sanders' views on the War in Southeast Asia, the Nixon Administration and the Watergate scandal, presidential politics, civil rights and social justice issues, arms control, international affairs, and economic and environmental policy.

Biography

Growing up in Springfield, Tennessee, Bill Sanders showed a talent for drawing at an early age. A star athlete, his cartoons were first published in the Pompano Beach High School (FL.) yearbook. After spending one year at the University of Miami, he enrolled at Western Kentucky State College in 1951. A football walkon, Sanders played the backup quarterback for two years before setting an NCAA passing efficiency record in 1953.

While attending Western, Sanders acquired the nickname "Whitey," met his wife Joyce, and earned a degree in English. WKSC Art Professor Ivan Wilson and Joyce's uncle by marriage, Gene Graham, a columnist with the *Nashville Tennessean*, encouraged his interest in art and cartooning. In 1953-54, Sanders contributed cartoons to the student newspaper, the *College Heights Herald*.

Sanders' life took a turn after he turned down a tryout with the Cleveland Browns and accepted a commission in the U.S. Army. Initially assigned to a mortar platoon in Korea, Sanders was eventually put in charge of the *Stars & Stripes* unit in Seoul. It was there that a chance encounter with a book on cartoonist Herblock in the Post Library led him to become a professional cartoonist.

After stints at *Pacific Stars and Stripes* in Tokyo, the *Greensboro Daily News*, and the *Kansas City Star*, Sanders spent 24 years at the *Milwaukee Journal* where he typically drew six cartoons a week. Sanders' cartoons were syndicated nationally and can be found in the collections of museums and libraries across the country.

Over the years, Sanders has maintained his ties to his alma mater, donating hundreds of his cartoons to WKU Library Special Collections and returning often to attend football team reunions and talk with Journalism students about the art of cartooning and the role of journalists in American society. In 1997, he was inducted into WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Five years later, the Kentucky Museum featured his work in the exhibit, *Bill "Whitey" Sanders' Comic Opera.*

Today, Sanders continues to draw and blog his reaction to current events in his blog, *Sanders Cartoon/ Commentary*.

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Cartoons

'Boy! It's a relief to hear that!' May 3, 1971

During the Spring of 1971, the Nixon Administration's policy on domestic wiretapping was challenged. Attorney General John Mitchell's argued that wiretaps "to protect the nation from attempts of domestic organizations to attack and subvert the existing structure of government" without a court-issued warrant were permissible. On June 8, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled against his position. Later that month, Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-NY) publicly expressed his concern that the United States was "heading toward a police state."

In response, President Nixon declared that the United States "isn't a police state and it isn't going to become one." He maintained that the number of wiretaps carried out during his administration were half of those carried out between 1961 and 1963 and characterized the concern over domestic wiretapping as hysteria and political demagoguery.

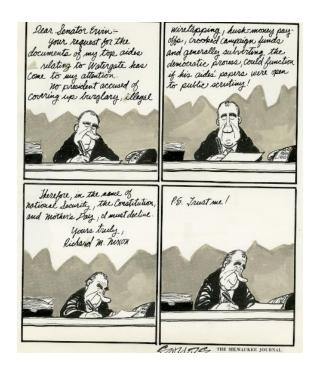
A copy of this cartoon is part of the records of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).



Uncaptioned cartoon about Nixon campaign slush fund October 29, 1972

During the fall of 1972, investigators sought to determine the particulars of the secret campaign slush fund maintained by the Committee for the Re-election of the President (CREEP). On October 25, the *Washington Post* asserted that former campaign treasurer, Hugh W. Sloan, Jr., had testified before a grand jury that White House Chief of Staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and four other individuals had access to a secret fund. Press Secretary Ron Ziegler denied its existence and Haldeman's connection to it, telling a reporter that White House Counsel John Dean had informed him "there was no secret fund."

One day later, the Congressional General Accounting Office (GAO) revealed the existence of a \$350,000 fund in the office of CREEP Finance Chairman Maurice Stans. That same day, the Chair of CREEP, Clark MacGregor, acknowledged the existence of a campaign fund in several interviews. Despite reports to the contrary, he maintained that some of the money in the fund was left over from the 1968 campaign. MacGregor also stated that, based on what he had been told, all payments from the fund were appropriate.



Uncaptioned cartoon regarding request for tapes July 9, 1973

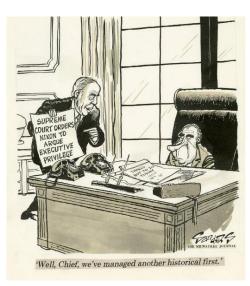
On July 8, 1973, President Richard Nixon sent a letter to Senator Sam Ervin, Jr. (D-NC), the Chair of the Senate Watergate Committee, informing him that for constitutional reasons he would not allow committee members to review his presidential papers or to interview him. Permitting the committee access would "jeopardize the fundamental constitutional role of the Presidency. … No President could function if the private papers of his office, prepared by his personal staff, were open to public scrutiny."

Nixon cited the separation of powers doctrine as the basis for his refusal to testify before the Watergate Committee. "The pending requests, however, would move us from proper presidential cooperation with a Senate committee to jeopardizing the fundamental constitutional role of the Presidency. ... The White House staff will continue to cooperate fully with the committee in furthering information relevant to its investigation except in those instances where I determine that meeting the committee's demands would violate my constitutional responsibility to defend the office of the Presidency against encroachment by other branches."



Uncaptioned cartoon concerning the Constitutional Power of Impeachment March 21, 1974

In March 1974, President Nixon's attorney, James D. St. Clair, asked to participate in hearings of the House Judiciary Committee with the power to review evidence and call and cross-examine witnesses. Would granting this request turn the hearings into a Constitutional trial? The Committee initially divided along party lines, but in April the Democrats agreed to allow the President's Counsel to "sit in on the initial sessions at which members will be given an overview of the allegations against Mr. Nixon and the evidence to support or refute those allegations." The compromise lost importance when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on July 24 that Nixon must turn over 64 tapes of conversations with his aides to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica. Sixteen days later, he resigned.

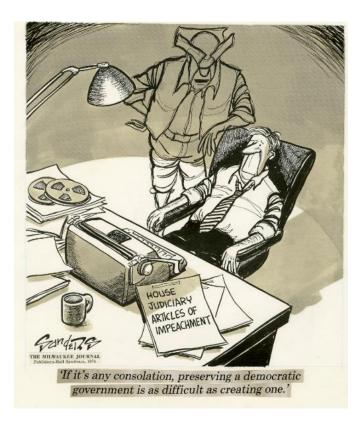


'Well, Chief, we've managed another historical first.' June 2, 1974

On May 30, 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on granting a petition for an expedited review of whether the Nixon Administration must turn over 64 tapes of conversations in the Oval Office. Earlier that month, Judge John J. Sirica had ordered their release for possible use in the upcoming Watergate coverup trial of seven former Nixon Administration officials, including H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, and former Attorney General John Mitchell.

During oral arguments, Nixon's attorney, James D. St. Clair, argued "for a thorough and carefully considered review of the substantial constitutional issues involved in this litigation." Meanwhile, Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski argued that release of the tapes was necessary because "this nation's constitutional form of government is in serious jeopardy if the President, any President, is to say that the Constitution means what he says it does, and that there is no one, not even the Supreme Court, to tell him otherwise."

On May 31, 1974, the Supreme Court in a four-sentence order agreed to hear the case, the first time the Justices had accepted a case that bypassed the Appeals Court since the Truman administration. On July 24, it issued a unanimous 7-0 decision (Associate Justice William Rehnquist had recused himself) that the Nixon Administration must turn over the tapes.



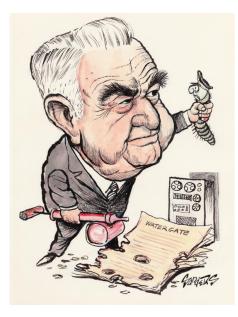
'If it's any consolation, preserving a democratic government is as difficult as creating one!' August 1, 1974

Between July 27 and July 30, 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted on five Articles of Impeachment that charged President Nixon with violating the U.S. Constitution, approving three of them. Article 1 citing Obstruction of Justice in relation to the Watergate coverup passed 27-11; Article II charging Abuse of Power, including the misuse of the FBI, CIA, Secret Service and Internal Revenue Service, was approved 28-10; and Article III accusing him of Contempt of Congress for disregarding its subpoenas passed 21-17. Articles that charged Nixon with violating the Constitution in the secret bombing of Cambodia and with income tax evasion and misuse of government funds related to improvements to his homes in San Clemente, CA, and Key Biscayne, FL, failed. While the majority of Democrats voted yes on all five articles, only a minority of Republicans voted to approve the first three. No Republicans voted yes on the last two articles. President Richard Nixon resigned his office on August 9, making a vote on impeachment by the full U.S. House of Representatives unnecessary.



'Well, let's go at it.' August 9, 1974

Vice President Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the United States on August 9 at 12 noon Eastern Daylight Time. In his address to the nation, Mr. Ford referred to the Watergate scandal as "our long national nightmare" and noted that "Our Constitution works. Our great republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here, the people rule." In closing, President Ford asked that the country "restore the Golden Rule to our political process" and that Americans pray for President Nixon and his family. "May our former President who brought peace to millions find it for himself."

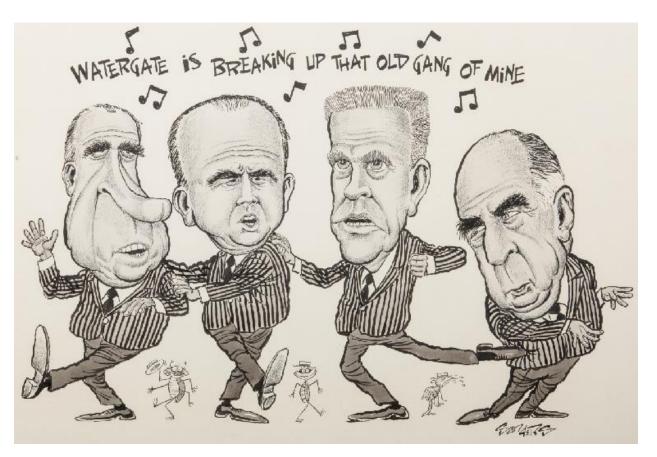


Uncaptioned Cartoon featuring Senator Sam Ervin, Jr. 1973 or 1974

This cartoon captures the bushy eyebrows and heavy jowls of Senator Sam Ervin, Jr. (D-NC), who became a household name for his leadership of the Senate "Watergate Committee." Appointed chair of the newly authorized Select Committee on Presidential Campaigns in February 1973, Ervin had no presidential aspiration and was widely recognized as a legal scholar and strict constitutionalist. Broadcast live on public television, the hearings attracted a national audience and Ervin became known as "Senator Sam."

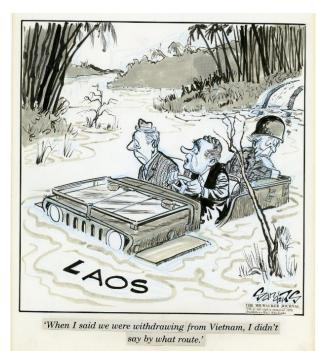
At the opening hearing on May 13, 1973, Ervin summarized their importance to the nation's survival. "The questions that have been raised in the wake of the June 17 break-in strike at the very undergirding of our democracy. ... And if these allegations prove to be true, what they were seeking to steal was not the jewels, money or other property of American citizens, but something much more valuable – their most precious heritage – the right to vote in a free election."

When he and President Nixon clashed over the doctrine of executive privilege as it related to tapes of White House conversations, Ervin noted that "there is nothing in the Constitution that requires the President to run for re-election. I don't think executive privilege covers any political activities whatsoever."



WATERGATE IS BREAKING UP THAT OLD GANG OF MINE 1974 or 1975

On March 1, 1974, a grand jury in Washington D.C. indicted former Attorney General and Director of the President's re-election campaign John N. Mitchell, White House Chief of Staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, and White House Domestic Affairs Advisor John D. Ehrlichman as well as two other aides and a lawyer from the 1972 campaign on charges of conspiracy. Six of the seven were also charged with obstruction of justice, two with perjury and three with making false statements. Less than a week later, Ehrlichman, along with White House aide Charles W. Colson, was indicted on conspiracy charges regarding the 1971 breakin at the office of the psychiatrist for Daniel Ellsberg, the federal contractor who leaked the Pentagon Papers to the *New York Times.* On January 1, 1975, the jury convicted five of the seven; seven weeks later Mitchell, Haldeman, and Ehrlichman were sentenced to terms of 30 months to eight years in prison.



'When I said we were withdrawing from Vietnam, I didn't say by what route.' March 24, 1970

During the Spring of 1970, the Nixon Administration bombed the North Vietnamese forces as they moved down the Ho Chi Minh Trail through Laos even while it was withdrawing 50,000 U.S. troops from South Vietnam. Although Laos was officially neutral, North Vietnam had perhaps 40,000 troops there, and the United States flew bombing runs out of Laotian and Thai air bases. The Administration's credibility over the use of ground troops in Laos was being questioned as it had recently revealed the death in ground combat of an American military adviser in 1969. At a March 1970 press conference, the President highlighted the importance of the 2000-mile border Laos shared with Thailand and the large population of ethnic Laotians living in Thailand. "If Laos were to come under the domination of a Communist North Vietnamese government, it would be an enormous threat to Thailand." Earlier that month, Secretary of State William P. Rogers had testified that "We have no present plan if it [Laos] is overrun [by the communist Pathet Lao] to use combat troops. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird made the importance of bombing the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos clear however, noting that "it does have a considerable effect on the safety and security of Americans in South Viet Nam."



'Well, whatta you know! We've been invited into the democracy we're defending.' December 23, 1970

"Old enough to fight, old enough to vote" was a rallying cry for many protestors during the Vietnam War. The Voting Rights Act of 1970 gave 18-year-olds the right to vote, but Oregon and Texas challenged the law in the courts. On December 21, 1970, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a narrow 5-4 decision in Mitchell v. Oregon that upheld the right of 18-year-olds to vote in federal but not state and local elections. At the time of this decision, nine states already had legal voting ages under 21, but only three of them, including Kentucky, gave 18year-olds the right to vote. After concerns were raised regarding the need for states to maintain dual voting systems, both Houses of Congress passed the 26th Amendment in March 1971 and sent it to the States for possible ratification. The 26th Amendment was officially certified after Ohio became the 38th state to ratify it on June 30, 1971.



'But I was only following orders!' January 1971

This cartoon compares the conduct of U.S. forces at the village of My Lai, South Vietnam, on March 16, 1968, to that of the German officers tried for war crimes at the end of World War II. Official after-action reports initially described the engagement as a fire fight with the Vietcong and minimized the number of civilian deaths. Reports of civilian casualties eventually grew to several hundred. The massacre became publicly known a year later, and the military handed down its first indictment in September 1969.

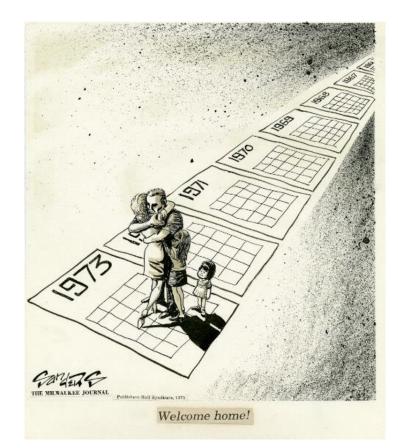
In November 1969, the U.S. Army launched an investigation known informally as the Peers Commission, and twenty-four officers and enlisted men were eventually indicted on a variety of charges ranging from dereliction of duty to murder. At his trial in January 1971, one sergeant admitted to killing "maybe 8 to 10, maybe more, maybe less" civilians but maintained that he was only following the orders of a superior officer. Five others were tried, but only Lieutenant William L. Calley, Jr. was found guilty. He was sentenced to 20 years in military prison but served 35 months of house arrest at Fort Benning, Georgia.



Mainliner May or June 1971

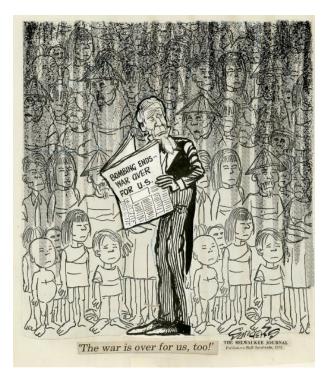
The release in May 1971 of a special Congressional study, *The World Heroin Problem,* proved explosive, particularly for its findings related to drug use by American servicemen in South Vietnam. Congressmen Morgan Murphy (D-II) and Robert Steele (R-CT) estimated that "10 to 15 percent of all U.S. troops currently in South Vietnam are addicted to heroin in one form or another" and that five to ten percent injected it while the rest smoked or sniffed it. The report also found that as many as one quarter of the men in some units were addicted, many of them within the first 30 days of arriving in country. The report's authors noted that "the drug culture in the Armed Forces reflects American society as a whole."

This report likely influenced the actions that the Nixon Administration took to deal with America's growing drug problem. At a June 1 press conference, the President described the problem of drug addiction in Vietnam as "not simply a problem of Vietnam veterans. It's a national problem." Later that month, his announcement of a "War on Drugs" included plans to test and rehabilitate servicemen in South Vietnam and upon their return to the United States.



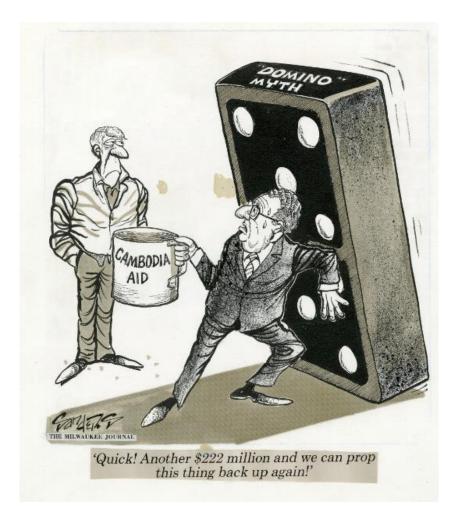
Welcome home! February 13, 1973

On January 27, 1973, the United States signed a ceasefire that led to prisoner exchanges and the end of official U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War. The North Vietnamese and Vietcong listed the number of American POWs at 592, and on February 12, released 142 U.S. prisoners as part of the first handover. Dubbed Operation Homecoming, the repatriation process began with the signing of the ceasefire in Paris and was to be completed in phases over a sixty-day period that corresponded to the withdrawal of American troops.



'The war is over for us, too!' August 19, 1973

On June 29, 1973, the U.S. Congress and President Nixon reached an agreement that ended funding for combat operations, direct or indirect, in Southeast Asia on August 15. Analyses of figures released by the Pentagon indicated that between 1965 and the cutoff date the U.S. military had dropped somewhere between 7.4 million and 9.7 million tons of explosives on North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Estimates of the tonnage used in Cambodia since the January Vietnamese cease fire ranged from 240,000 to 300,000 tons. In comparison, one news outlet reported that 2.05 million tons were dropped during World War II and 635,000 in Korea.



'Quick! Another \$222 million and we can prop this thing back up again!' February 27, 1975

In February 1975, President Ford warned that "An independent Cambodia cannot survive unless the Congress acts very soon to provide supplementary military and economic assistance." Secretary of State Henry Kissinger invoked the specter of Eisenhower's "Domino Theory," the belief that if one country in Southeast Asia fell to communism, all would. "I know it is fashionable to sneer at the words 'domino theory' ... we've been torn apart by the Vietnam war long enough. But I do not believe we can escape this problem by assuming the responsibility of condemning those who have dealt with us to a certain destruction." Unpersuaded, Congress refused to authorize additional spending, and Cambodia fell to the communist Khmer Rouge on April 17.



"Welcome to the slow learner's club." May 1, 1975

This cartoon bookends the withdrawal of French forces from Indochina in 1954 with the fall of Saigon 31 years later. The fall of the fortress of Dien Bien Phu to the Vietminh (North Vietnamese) following a 57-day siege led France to withdraw from Vietnam in 1954. Notably, President Eisenhower's refusal to sign a conference declaration that divided Indochina into North and South regions foreshadowed America's growing involvement in the region.

Twenty-one years later, the Vietcong surged into Saigon after the South Vietnamese government surrendered on April 30, 1975. It took 19 hours for helicopters to transport nearly 1,000 Americans and several thousand Vietnamese to American ships. Four Marines were killed during the evacuation, marking the end of U.S. involvement in a war that drew 500,000 American service personnel and resulted in 52,000 deaths. In his official statement, President Ford noted that the fall of Saigon "closes a chapter in the American experience."



'25 years and he still thinks <u>I'm</u> on <u>his</u> leash.' August 17, 1970

This cartoon places the then ongoing Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the United States and the Soviet Union against the backdrop of the 25th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima (August 6, 1945) and Nagasaki (August 9, 1945).

During this second round of SALT talks, American negotiators presented an "outline" which called "for numerical limitations on all offensive and nuclear delivery systems." Under it, both nations would be free to determine the actual breakdown between "land- and sea-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers."

The third round of talks began in November 1970 with negotiations continuing for nearly two more years. On May 26, 1972, President Nixon and General Secretary Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and the Interim Agreement on Strategic Offensive Arms.



'Caution, comrades! He's armed with the most dangerous weapon in the Soviet Union!' February 12, 1974

The publication of *The Gulag Archipelago, 1918-1956* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in December 1973 created a worldwide sensation. The author used the knowledge he had gained from spending 11 years in Soviet prison camps and in exile in remote parts of the Soviet Union to write an historical and psychological examination of a system he traced back to Lenin. Fearing the confiscation and destruction of his manuscript, Solzhenitsyn had it smuggled to Paris and published. After Soviet authorities failed to persuade the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970 to leave the Soviet Union, they revoked his citizenship for "performing systematically actions that are incompatible with being a citizen" and involuntarily deported him to West Germany on February 12, 1974.



Uncaptioned cartoon concerning Middle East Peace Agreement May 31, 1974

In 1974, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger mediated the settlement of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. Over eight days in January, he engineered a compromise between the Egyptian and Israeli governments that saw the disengagement of their forces along the Suez Canal (Sinai I). Four months later, in a 32-day period, he made frequent trips between capitals in the region and negotiated the establishment of a buffer zone on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria. During this period, the media began referring to his negotiating style as "shuttle diplomacy," a phrase that remains in use today. One year later, Kissinger brokered a second agreement between Egypt and Israel (Sinai II).



'We regret your side provoked an incident by running into our axes!' August 1976

On August 18, 1976, North Korean soldiers attacked a work party of American and South Korean servicemen who were trimming trees in the joint security area known as the demilitarized zone. Two American officers died, and four American and five South Korean soldiers were wounded. In response, the United States increased its military presence in the region and requested a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission. Four days later, North Korean leader Marshall Kim II Sung released a statement that "it was regretful that an incident occurred" and that an "effort must be made so that such incidents may not recur in the future." He did not take responsibility for the attack however.

In early September the United Nations command and North Korea reached a fourpart agreement designed to lessen the likelihood that such an incident would occur again. It provided for the installation of a cement line 20 inches wide by two inches high marking the demarcation line at the armistice commission's conference site in Panmunjom. On April 27, 2018, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in symbolically stepped over this line twice during a one-day summit meeting. It was the first time a North Korean leader had entered South Korea since the Armistice was signed in 1953.



Charmer March 4, 1973

On March 1, 1973, eight members of the Black September Organization took control of the Saudi Arabian embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, during an embassy party. When the Sudanese government did not meet their demands, the terrorists killed the U.S. Ambassador, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission, and one Belgian consular official. Concerned that a country in the region would grant asylum to the terrorists, President Nixon issued a statement that "the perpetrators of the crime must be brought to justice" and U.S. officials lobbied their counterparts throughout the region. Convicted of murder in June 1974, the hostage takers were flown to Egypt and eventually released to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).



To Whom It May <u>Not</u> Concern August 29, 1973

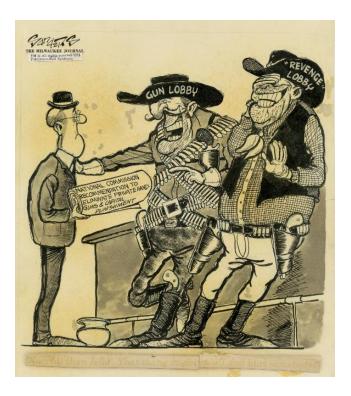
The Irish Republican Army (IRA) took its campaign of terror to England in July and August 1973. Members planted bombs at railway stations and in department stores across London and sent letter bombs to governmental and institutional targets. Secretaries at the House of Commons and the London Stock Exchange were injured after handling mail that contained letter bombs, and the IRA even sent one to the British Embassy in Washington D.C. News reports during this period tallied 30 letter bombs in London in one week and 70 injuries and three deaths over a two-month period. In response, British authorities issued the largest bomb alert since World War II.



'That takes care of the press, student unrest, Michigan State University, Yale, Spock, permissive middle class parents, ministers and the National Council of Churches. What's your schedule for tomorrow?' May 1, 1970

In a speech delivered on April 27, 1970, Vice President Agnew urged universities to adopt a "nine point get tough policy" that included "an end to appeasement" of students, "a clear and concise set of rules for campus conduct," no negotiations "under threat or coercion." He also called out the President of Michigan State University for agreeing to increase black student enrollment and blasted the President of Yale for voicing skepticism that eight Black Panthers currently on trial for murder and kidnapping could get a fair trial.

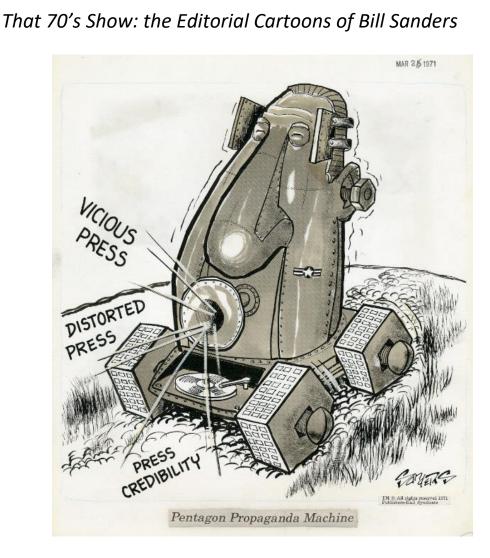
Agnew also took on parenting and the role of religion in family life. He criticized "affluent, permissive, upper-middle-class parents who learned their Dr. Spock and threw discipline out the window when they should have done the opposite." The Vice President maintained that student protestors were "dropped off by their parents at Sunday School to hear the 'modern' gospel from a 'progressive' preacher more interested in fighting pollution than fighting evil – one of those pleasant clergymen who lifts his weekly sermons out of old newsletters from a National Council of Churches that has cast morality and theology aside as not 'relevant" and set as its goal of honor the recognition of Red China and the preservation of the Florida alligator."



Kearful thar fella. That thang might go off and hurt somebody. January 12, 1971

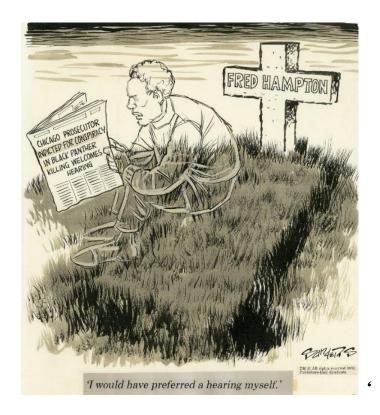
On January 8, 1971, the National Commission on Reform of Federal Criminal Laws released a report that called for the registration of all firearms and for a ban on "the production and possession of, and trafficking in, handguns, with exceptions only for military, police and similar official activities." Advocates said outlawing handguns would lower "crimes of violence and accidental homicide" because they "are distinctively susceptible to criminal and impetuous use, and … are not commonly used for sporting purposes." Opponents believed that banning them "would be unenforceable" and that it "will not reduce the incidence of violent crime since criminals will probably still be able to obtain them."

The final report also recommended keeping capital punishment as a sentencing option "if the defendant is convicted of intentional murder or treason." Opponents noted that capital punishment "falls unequally on rich and poor, black and white" and the "extreme difficulty of defining criteria for the imposition of the death sentence." Proponents maintained that the sentence "serves to express the special horror of the community against the ultimate crimes."



Pentagon Propaganda Machine March 25, 1971

The Nixon Administration had a combative relationship with the press. CBS's broadcast of *The Selling of the Pentagon* angered Vice President Agnew when it alleged that the Pentagon spent at least \$30 million annually burnishing its public image. Expenditures included \$6.5 million for films released to various media outlets and \$2 million for press releases. After the documentary aired, he accused the network of knowingly using "error and propagandistic manipulation" and described it as "a subtle but vicious broadside against the nation's defense establishment." Agnew also maintained that there was a "widening credibility gap between the national news media and the American public."



'I would have preferred a hearing myself.' August 27, 1971

On August 24, 1971, a grand jury indicted Cook County States Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan and 13 police officers on charges related to the December 1969 raid that killed Fred Hampton, the chair of the Illinois State Black Panther Party, and Party organizer Mark Clark. The original investigation assigned blame for the shootout on seven suspected members of the Black Panthers, including Hampton and Clark. Problems with the investigation emerged however, including a finding that nearly 100 shots were fired, mainly by the police. Ultimately, a special state's attorney was appointed in June 1970 to review the case. The subsequent grand jury indictment listed several overt acts, including improper processing of a crime scene, providing misleading and false information to a newspaper, staging a knowingly false reenactment, and giving false testimony. Sixteen months later, after several newly discovered witness statements cast doubt on the testimony of four of the Black Panthers, the trial judge acquitted the defendants, citing a lack of evidence. Hanrahan's political career was finished however, and in 1982 the Federal government, Cook County and city of Chicago agreed to pay \$1.85 million to nine plaintiffs to settle a civil lawsuit.



Hostage September 16, 1971

On September 9, 1971, more than 1,000 prisoners at the Attica State Correctional Facility in New York rioted over prison conditions, taking 42 guards and civilian employees hostage. Their demands included religious freedom, no censorship of reading material, access to adequate drug abuse counseling, less cell time, and improved recreational facilities. New York Commissioner of Correctional Services Russell G. Oswald agreed to 28 of their demands but ultimately ordered the retaking of the prison by force. When the riot was over, the death toll stood at nine hostages and 33 prisoners; one hostage later died from his injuries. Reactions to the riot and the brutal methods used to end it were mixed, with many officials voicing concern over prison conditions in America. The day after the standoff ended, Attorney General John Mitchell announced plans for a national conference on correctional reform.



"You Gotta Hand It to Our Northern Brothers! They Don't Mess Around!" September 2, 1971

Ordered to integrate in the fall of 1970, the Pontiac, Michigan School Board maintained that school integration "will cause a white flight that will convert the city of Pontiac into a black municipality." Even so, the board eventually agreed to implement a busing plan that would affect 8,000 of its 24,000 students in the fall of 1971 while its appeal worked its way through the courts. The most dramatic protest to the plan was the bombing of ten school buses on August 30, 1971, one week before the start of the school year. On September 9, the FBI arrested six area Klansmen, eventually convicting five of them on related charges.

The National Action Group (NAG) led the local opposition. Nine of its members were arrested for interfering with the operation of the buses, and 300 picketed the offices of the school board. In other protests, auto workers shut down a GM plant for one day, and a police union made a \$300 donation to NAG. On October 27, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously refused to take up the case.



Uncaptioned cartoon about Title IX June 5, 1975

According to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." In terms of athletic opportunities for women, the regulations called for equal opportunity, not equal funding, and addressed issues such as the selection of sports, provision of equipment and supplies, scheduling of games and practice time, provision of locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities, and opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring. Vocal in its opposition to Title IX, the NCAA argued for an exemption for the major revenue sports – football and basketball.

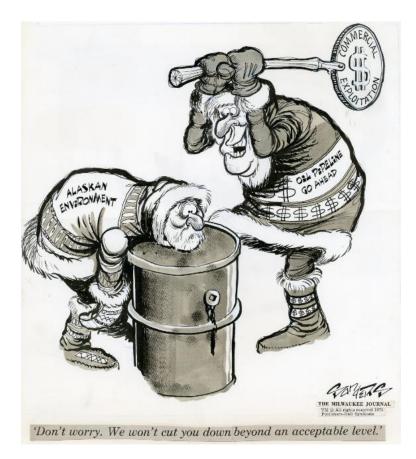
On May 27, 1975, President Ford signed regulations to implement Title IX and sent them to Congress for its review. Title IX applied to 16,000 school districts and 2,700 institutions of higher education that received federal aid. Once in effect, elementary schools had one year to comply with the regulations and all other schools three.



Uncaptioned editorial cartoon concerning the National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights October 18, 1979

Tens of thousands of Americans participated in the National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights held on October 14, 1979. March organizers announced five demands:

- 1. Pass a comprehensive lesbian/gay rights bill in Congress.
- 2. Issue a presidential executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal Government, the military and federally contracted private employment.
- 3. Repeal all anti-lesbian/gay laws.
- 4. End discrimination in lesbian mother and gay father custody cases.
- 5. Protect gay and lesbian youth from any laws used to discriminate against, oppose and/or harass them in their homes, schools, jobs and social environments.



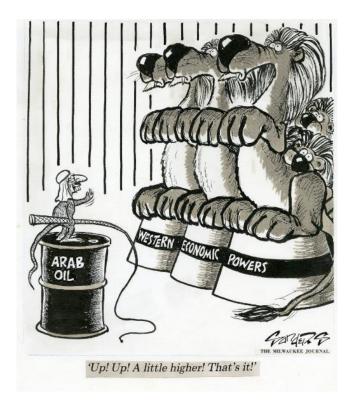
'Don't worry. We won't cut you down beyond an acceptable level.' January 15, 1971

The discovery of millions of barrels of oil on the North Slope of Alaska in 1968 triggered a national debate over the benefits of building the 800-mile long Trans-Alaska pipeline. On January 13, 1971, the U.S. Interior Department acknowledged the irreversible damage the pipeline would do to the environment but noted that this oil was "essential to the strength, growth and security of the United States" and that environmental regulations and oversight would "reduce foreseeable environmental costs to acceptable levels." Final approval of the pipeline took nearly three more years with President Nixon signing the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline Bill into law on November 16, 1973.



Listen, my good woman! Even with these record high food prices you housewives have it better than most people in the world!' August 13, 1973

In 1973 rising prices and inflation hammered American consumers. Foreign demand for US grain was soaring, and in July of that year the U.S. Department of Agriculture lowered crop production estimates. Even so, the Nixon Administration planned to remove existing export controls on soy beans later that year and to refrain from placing new controls on other grains and foodstuffs. It acknowledged that this would lead to higher food prices but maintained that this was necessary for U.S. trade policy. In early August the USDA estimated that the price of food for the year would increase between 18 and 22% over that of 1972.



'Up! Up! A little higher! That's it!' September 27, 1974

In September 1974, the six-month-long OPEC oil embargo had only recently ended and the oil producing countries seemingly had the upper hand. President Ford noted that "exorbitant prices can only distort the world economy, run the risk of worldwide depression, and threaten the breakdown of world order and safety." Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was even more direct: "...the world cannot sustain even the present level of prices, much less continuing increases. … What has gone up by political decision can be reduced by political decision."

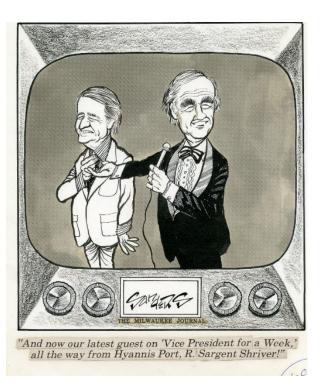
The response from oil producing countries was largely negative. "The establishment of [OPEC] was a direct consequence of the developed countries' use of a policy of outrageously low prices for our raw materials as a weapon of economic oppression." A headline in one Lebanese newspaper read "Ford Threatens to Seize Arab Oil by Force of Arms," and the President of Venezuela linked the world food crisis to "the high prices at which the developed nations sell us agricultural and industrial machinery."



News Item: Agnew Beans Golf Partner February 10, 1970

This cartoon links an episode at the 1970 Bob Hope Desert Golf Classic, in which Vice President Agnew hit his playing partner with a golf ball, to the effect President Nixon's "Southern strategy" was having on the Republican Party. Many experts maintained that to break up FDR's coalition of northern and southern Democrats, the "Party of Lincoln" had abandoned the interests of its moderate, northeastern wing in favor of emphasizing issues such as local control, law and order, and fear of black Americans.

Known for his tough, often biting speeches, Vice President Agnew maintained that there was no "Southern strategy." Instead, he noted that the Republican Party was "writing the south [sic] back into the Union again by using an even hand and a fair approach rather than writing the south [sic] off like the Democrats are doing." He declared that the charge of a "southern strategy" [sic] was "composed of 50 per cent politics and 50 percent sour grapes. … For the first time in a century the Republican Party is a force in the south, [sic] and it is a force for good."



"And now our latest guest on 'Vice President for a Week," all the way from Hyannis Port, R. Sargent Shriver!" August 7, 1972

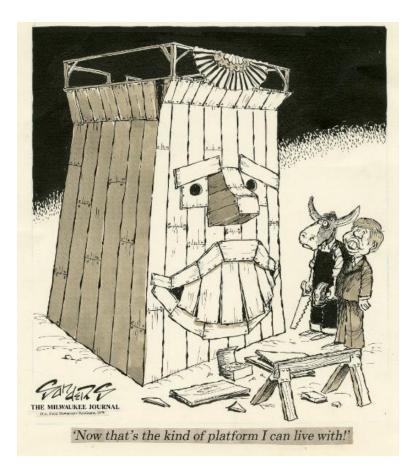
On July 14, 1972, Democratic Presidential candidate Senator George McGovern of South Dakota selected Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri as his running mate. Several days after Eagleton accepted his Party's nomination for Vice President, it was revealed that he had sought treatment for nervous exhaustion and fatigue in the 1960s. Although McGovern initially responded that he had confidence in Eagleton, he faced increasing criticism for the process used to vet his running mate. The result? Citing his desire to "not divide the Democratic Party which already has too many divisions," Eagleton stepped down on August 1.

McGovern considered several other candidates but eventually chose R. Sargent Shriver to join him on the ticket. Although he had never held elected office, Shriver had been the Director of the Peace Corps, led the Office of Economic Opportunity, and had served as the U.S. Ambassador to France. Additionally, his connection to the Kennedy family through his marriage to Eunice Kennedy, the sister of Jack and Robert, was a bonus.



GOP '76 White House Pool November 1975

American presidents running for re-election often have an easy path to their party's nomination. Not so President Gerald Ford, who was forced to fend off a challenge from Ronald Reagan, the former governor of California. Announcing his entrance into the race on November 20, 1975, Reagan ran as an outsider, proclaiming that "Our nation's capital has become the seat of a buddy system that functions for its own benefits – increasingly insensitive to the needs of the American worker who supports it with his taxes." He also pledged that he would not engage in personal attacks on the incumbent. "I'm going to abide by the 11th Commandment: Thou shall not speak ill of another Republican." The Ford presidential campaign responded that Reagan's appeal was "much too narrow even within the Republican Party" and that any of the Democratic contenders would defeat him in the general election. President Ford narrowly won his party's nomination on the first ballot but lost the election to the Democratic nominee, Jimmy Carter.



Now that's the kind of platform I can live with!' June 17, 1976

In mid-June 1976, the 153-member Democratic Platform Committee produced a Party platform through a process marked by compromise rather than the usual factional infighting. It called for "a comprehensive national health insurance system with universal and mandatory coverage ... replacement of our existing inadequate and wasteful [welfare] system with a simplified system of income maintenance, substantially financed by the federal government ... ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment ... a full and complete pardon for those who are in legal or financial jeopardy because of their peaceful opposition to the Vietnam War, with deserters to be considered on a case-by-case basis ... annual targets for employment, production and price stability and full and vigorous enforcement of all equal opportunities laws and affirmative action."

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For additional cartoons and materials related to Bill "Whitey" Sanders, visit KenCat (<u>http://westernkentuckyuniversity.pastperfectonline.com/</u>). For more information, call 270-745-5083 or send an email to spcol.wku.edu.