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and Vini Carbona

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Point of view

I have always believed that it's impossible to fully understand anything, and acquire a learned opinion, unless a fair attempt is made to view the issue from as many points of view as possible. The main ingredient in objectivity is not presuming you know it all.

During the next few weeks, albeit intermittently, I would like to share with readers some of the subjects that I have recently researched myself, to perhaps provide a measure of insight to anyone that may not have had access to the information and is interested. For the benefit of Spanish-speaking area residents, who have even less access to such information, a Spanish translation will accompany each entry.

I will examine and describe topics such as Soviet deception techniques, Cuban influence operations, disinformation and the Czechoslovak connection, and so on, not to make the issue too dry, I will reserve the right to postpone an entry if there is something else I would rather write about due to newsworthiness or occasion.

My main research topic

during journalism school was disinformation/influence operations, the manipulation of public opinion through a myriad of deception games, forgeries and other overt/covert action. The aim of this series will be to allow the reader the right to draw his or her own conclusions and to be able to "spot" possible propaganda and manipulation in international news.

After earning my undergraduate degree in political science, I had definite views concerning world events. From this situation I drew conclusions as to the United States' relation to the rest of the world. I had concrete opinions about nations such as Cuba, the U.S.S.R., the Communist Bloc and NATO. How I felt is unimportant. Suffice to say that it was two years later that I realized how wrong and underinformed I was.

Virtually one year ago I had the exceptional opportunity to study from a man whose peculiar point of view I had never expected to encounter. His name or rather, one of his names is Ladislav Bittman (Dr. Larry Martin). He was a major in the Intelligence Service of Czechoslovakia.

The Front

by Vini Carbona

when he defected to the U.S. in 1968. Behind him was a fourteen-year career as an expert in "disinformation," called "the spreading of lies and deception by an intelligence organization in order to mislead their opponents."

One of the most salient and interesting facets of this intriguing person is his ideological formation. He began his life as a vigorous young communist, believing what he was told: Once the Soviet System prevails over the world, all of the people will be free and equal. Once he began

to learn that intelligence operations in the Soviet System stood for disruption, and a tremendous hunger for power at the expense of anything or anyone, he became increasingly opposed to their routine practices. He evolved into a "reformist," comparable to Hungarian reformists earlier and Poles yet to come. He was often referred to by his superiors as "the over-politicized baby." The KGB, and particularly "Department D" (for disinformation), had no time for reformists. They were only interested in advancing

their Soviet-dictated brand of communism throughout the world by means of propaganda, forgeries, political influence operations: Active measures. Bittman escaped to West Germany as Russian tanks began to roll into Prague. He spent the next 10 years in de-briefing sessions with the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence organs of this, and other NATO countries, enlightening them as to the extent of Soviet propaganda ploys. He has written a book on his experiences, named "The Deception Game" and

has recently ended another volume dealing with deception games in Soviet satellite nations.

One of my thesis requirements was fulfilled by a research article on deception games played by the Castro regime during the last exodus of Cuban political refugees, the Mariel Exodus. I was happy to, at the same time, provide Bittman with research for his latest work.

I will welcome lively discussion and inquiries in both languages.

Reader dislikes 'The Front'

Letters to the editor

I do not remember ever wading through such a hodge-podge of half-truths, untruths, generalities and inappropriate connections as those made by Mr. Carbona in his article, "The Front," (Headlight, August 12, 1982).

To Mr. Carbona's statement, "We are where we are because of hatred and misunderstanding," I say baloney! Although replete with imperfection, most Americans are proud of where we are and feel that our arrival here was based upon a caring, understanding appreciation for the rights of others.

To Mr. Carbona's statement, "Capitalism and free enterprise are old concepts, written for the past," I say baloney! It is my understanding that the Eagle Lake Headlight continues to be printed in the United States where the free enterprise system, as of August 12, 1982, continues to be a proud, symbolic and workable reflection of our democracy.

Furthermore, Mr. Carbona should be reminded that it is unlikely that this system will ever be replaced, since it has resulted in a higher standard of living for all Americans, as compared to any other people under any other economic system.

Mr. Carbona's point that the Europeans are concerned by their potential proximity to conflict is well understood. However, the overall point is lost in simplistic analogies between the United States and Europe.

Mr. Carbona questions, "Can unity and brotherly love exist only in the movies." He cites an entertaining example of Americans, Russians and

Vietnamese flying about in the USS Enterprise in peaceful serenity. Could it be that he has forgotten about the treacherous, totalitarian Kling-ons for whom the good-guys had elaborate defensive and offensive weapons used to preserve peace and brotherly love? If he thinks that communism is any the less vicious than Kingism, then he should spend some time in Poland, Afghanistan or Cuba.

I find Mr. Carbona's statement, "We must stand fast and strong" quite paradoxical in light of the six columns of anti-nuclear, anti-strength anecdotes. To stand fast and strong has many meanings to different people. I sincerely hope that this country will continue to stand fast and strong so that all of us, including Mr. Carbona, may enjoy First Amendment protection for free-dom of speech, as well as all of the other freedoms for which we are the beneficiaries. There are communism, fascism and other totalitarian methods awaiting those who do not support the strength of this democracy and take care not to undermine its traditions.

I say "Here, here, and hip, hip, hurrah" to Mr. Carbona or anyone who is interested in furthering peace, equality, love and justice for all, but cannot in good conscience, be anything but critical of a job or article which is

poorly done. For my part, the entire article was not "The Front," as much as it was a personal affront.

C. Curtis Laughlin, M.D.

Editor's note:

Democracy and Free Enterprise are as distant from one another as reading and understanding.

Doctor Laughlin unfortunately takes the sentence "We are where we are because of hatred and misunderstanding" completely out of context. In turn, I pray he does not mean to say "our arrival" at a point where we can obliterate our civilization "was based upon a caring, understanding appreciation for the rights of others."

Also, his comparison of standard of living is faulty in that he does not recognize that a departure from a rigid free enterprise system is the main reason why there are so many Japanese tourists and businessmen globetrotting.

I also do not agree that long-established democracies like England and France "could soon be consumed by the communist bloc." There is no comparison in standards of living: People do not defect to the communist bloc. He owes Europeans a certain measure of credit.

Urging the Poles to revolt against a totalitarian regime, without effective diplomatic and economic sanctions, only gets persons like Lech Walesa thrown into detention camps. What I object to is indiscriminate rabble-rousing.

V.C.



Strake Talk

CHANGING ATTITUDES ABOUT DWI

Few things in this country have changed as much during the past few years as public attitudes on drunk drivers. It is a change we can all be thankful for.

Most of that change, in my opinion, can be attributed to the organization of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), and the attendant publicity and editorial support they have received from our newspapers. They have succeeded, where others have failed, in drawing attention to the tragedy that has claimed the lives of thousands of Texans.

It was not long ago, for instance, when some public officials who ought to lead by example were openly contemptuous of our laws against driving while drunk. Much of this problem started nine years ago when my opponent became Lt. Governor, and helped pass the law reducing the legal drinking age from twenty-one to eighteen years of age. Now

Mr. Hobby, feeling the heat of irate parents and loved ones, and perhaps personal remorse, has said he favors tougher drunk driving laws—another switch from a previous position.

Political promises, however, are easily made. If a politician can't get excited about an issue of this magnitude in nine years, it seems unlikely that he would get excited and pursue corrective legislation in another four years.

So I hope the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers will stick to their guns, and I hope they continue getting support from the people of our state. Their efforts to put an end to this carnage on our highways has my support, and I hope it has yours.

Of one thing we can be reasonably sure: Starting next year we will have a new Lt. Governor, and that will make it easier. If you have thoughts on this subject, please write me at 1213 W. 34th, Austin, 78705.

George W. Strake, Jr.
Paid Political Advertisement, Texas for Strake 1213 W. 34th
Street, Austin, Texas 78705, Bayard Friedman Treasurer

Council, From Page 1
were expressed that the plant may not be finished on time.

In other matters, council:

•Decided to advertise for a person to fill the position of city dog catcher.

•Set the date September 2, at 6:30 p.m. for a tri-city meeting. Mrs. Paula Peters of the Texas Historical Commission will discuss "downtown rehabilitation."

The cities of Weimar and Columbus will send guests.

•Decided Klockman will discuss the hiring of a new secretary-dispatcher for the police station. Fifteen applicants have been interviewed.

•Announced that Cable

TV representatives will attend the next council meeting to discuss reception problems. Council urges all concerned citizens to attend.

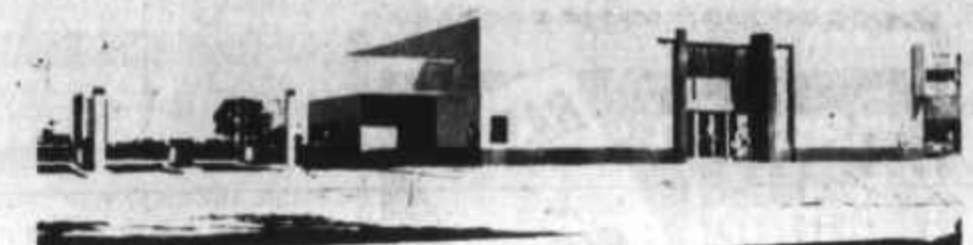
•Said mosquito fogging began two or three weeks ago. Fogging is done every three days throughout the city.

•Decided to look into the possibility of helping the volunteer fire department restore the old city firetruck, at the request of councilman Kohlefeld.

•Praised the fire department for their work toward a rescue unit and the "Jaws of Life." "A lot of tax money has been saved and we have one of the finest rescue units."

THE FIRST National Bank

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434



Community Calendar

September 1982

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Eagle Lake Rotary Club, 12:10 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. A.A.R.P., 2:30 p.m., Methodist Church Building. Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School. Project Main Street Town Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers.	2 Sheridan WMU, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan Baptist Church. Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. Eagle Lake Lions Club, 12 noon, Eagle Lake Community Center. Rice Freshmen vs. El Campo, 5:30 p.m., Here. Rice JV vs. El Campo, 7 p.m., Here. Altar Society, 7:00 p.m., Dider Hall. A.A.U.W., 7:30 p.m., Martha Sibley home.	3 4-H Club, 4:15 p.m., Club House. Rice Varsity vs. El Campo, 7:30 p.m., There.	4 Work Day, Colorado County Fair, Columbus.
5 St. Mary's Parish FESTIVAL 11 a.m., Noda Work Day, Colorado County Fair, Columbus. Knights of Columbus, BBQ Sale, K.C. Hall, Pendleton St.	6 LABOR DAY Schools closed for Labor Day. First National Bank closed for Labor Day. Post Office closed for Labor Day Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Practice, 7 p.m., Fire Station. Boy Scouts Troop 334, 7:30 p.m., Scout Hut. VFW Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Hospital conference room.	7 Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. KC Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Andrew Hall. Colorado County Fair Association General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Columbus Elementary School Cafeteria. Alpha Delta Phi, 7:30 p.m., Janice Obenhaus home. Martha/Dorcas Sunday School Class, 7:30 p.m., W. L. Bauer home.	8 Eagle Lake Rotary Club, 12:10 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. Eagle Lake Study Club, 2:30 p.m., Winterman Library. Defensive Driving Course, 7 p.m., Farm Bureau office, Columbus. Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School.	9 Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. Eagle Lake Lions Club, 12 noon, Eagle Lake Community Center. Free Immunization Clinic, 1-4 p.m., Ugarie Clinic, 706 S. McCarty. Eagle Lake 7th & 8th vs. Hallettsville, 4 p.m., There. Rice Freshmen vs. Hallettsville, 5:30 p.m., Here. Rice JV vs. Hallettsville, 7 p.m., Here. Defensive Driving Course, 7 p.m., Farm Bureau office, Columbus. Eagle Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps, 7:30 p.m., Ambulance Hall.	10 Masonic Lodge, 8 p.m., Masonic Lodge. Rice Varsity vs. Hallettsville, 8 p.m., There.	11 SEA Ambulance Benefit BBQ 11:30 a.m., Sheridan Work Day, Colorado County Fair, Columbus.
12 Work Day, Colorado County Fair, Columbus.	13 Commissioners' Court, 10 a.m., County Courthouse, Columbus. 4-H Club, 4:15 p.m., Club House. Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Practice, 7 p.m., Fire Station. Microwave Class, Weimar High School Cafeteria. Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School. Colorado County Fair meeting, 7 p.m., National Guard Armory, Columbus. VFW Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. Rice School District Board of Education, 8 p.m., Administration Building, Altair.	14 Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. KC Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Andrew Hall. Eagle Lake City Council, 7:30 p.m., Eagle Lake City Hall. Xi Pi Psi, 7:30 p.m. Monday, September 13 Continued Boy Scouts Troop 334, 7:30 p.m., Scout Hut. Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Hospital conference room.	15 Eagle Lake Rotary Club, 12:10 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School.	16 Colorado County Fair Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. Eagle Lake Lions Club, 12 noon, Eagle Lake Community Center. Sheridan WMU, 1:30 p.m., Sheridan Baptist Church. Colorado County Historical Commission, 7 p.m., Farris 1912, Covered Dish Supper. Parents Reaching Out, 7:30 p.m., Wallvogel Center, Columbus. Garwood-Sheridan vs. Schulenburg, 5 p.m., There. Rice Freshmen vs. Needville, 5:30 p.m., There. Eagle Lake 7th/8th vs. Needville, 5:30/7 p.m., There.	17 Colorado County Fair Rice Varsity vs. Needville, 8 p.m., Here.	18 Colorado County Fair EAGLE LAKE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1987 REUNION Thursday, September 16 Continued ville, 5:30/7 p.m., Here. Rice JV vs. Needville, 7 p.m., There.
19 Colorado County Fair	20 Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, 12 noon, Broese's, 4-H Club, 4:15 p.m., Club House. Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 p.m., Fire Station. Boy Scouts Troop 334, 7:30 p.m., Scout Hut. VFW Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. Microwave Class, Weimar High School Cafeteria. Alpha Delta Phi, 7:30 p.m., Gail Guthman home. Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School.	21 Colorado County Soil and Water District, 9 a.m., Ag. Building in Columbus. Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. KC Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Andrew Hall. Colorado/Payette County LVNs, 7:30 p.m., CPL Building in Columbus. VFW Post 8783, 8 p.m., Eagle Lake Recreation Center. VFW Auxiliary, 8 p.m., Fire Station.	22 Eagle Lake Rotary Club, 12:10 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School.	23 Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. WMU Friendship Fellowship for Senior Citizens, 11:30 a.m., Sheridan Fellowship Hall. Eagle Lake Lions Club, 12 noon, Eagle Lake Community Center. Garwood-Sheridan vs. Damon, 4:30 p.m., Garwood. Eagle Lake 7th/8th, Hempstead, 5:30/7 p.m., Here. Rice JV vs. Hempstead, 6 p.m., There. Eagle Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps, 7:30 p.m., Ambulance Hall. AUTUMN BEGINS	24 Rice Varsity vs. Hempstead, 7:30 p.m., Here.	25 Social Security, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Box 646, Brenham, TX 77833. SCORE For appointment, call Columbus Chamber of Commerce, 732-5851. Regular Services, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Voter Registration and Auto Registration offices located in basement of Colorado County Courthouse. Regular Services, Monday through Friday, 8 to 12 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m.: Driver's License office, located on main floor of Colorado County Courthouse.
26 Call The Headlight 234-2783 To announce your activities please call Marilyn at The Headlight, 234-2783. The Calendar is published on the 1st Thursday of each month.	27 Commissioners' Court, 10 a.m., County Courthouse in Columbus. 4-H Club, 4:15 p.m., Club House. Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Business meeting, 7 p.m., Fire Station. Boy Scouts Troop 334, 7:30 p.m., Scout Hut. Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School. VFW Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center. Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Hospital conference room.	28 Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. KC Game Night, 7:30 p.m., Andrew Hall. Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus, 8 p.m., KC Hall. Eagle Lake City Council, 7:30 p.m., Eagle Lake City Hall. Xi Pi Psi, 7:30 p.m.	29 Adult Night Classes, 7 p.m., Eagle Lake Middle School. Eagle Lake Garden Club, 2:30 p.m., J. R. Thomas home. Eagle Lake Rotary Club, 12:10 p.m., Eagle Lake Community Center.	30 Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m., Kevin Court Apt. Eagle Lake Lions Club, 12 Noon, Eagle Lake Community Center. Garwood-Sheridan vs. Weimar, 5 p.m., There. Rice Freshmen vs. La Grange, 5:30 p.m., Here. Eagle Lake 7th/8th vs. La Grange, 5:30/7 p.m., There. Rice JV vs. La Grange, 7 p.m., Here. Sunshine Class, 2:30 p.m., Ophelia Raabe home.		

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