

Hiroshima blast lesson for future

Fifty years ago, the United States wiped out 60 percent of the Japanese city Hiroshima with a single atomic bomb.

When President Truman decided to use a bomb that has more power than 20,000 tons of TNT, he put an end to a devastating war and introduced the world to the atomic age.

"When that missile struck the earth, it blew up in the greatest man-made explosion in the history of the world," wrote *Newsweek* magazine in 1945.

Since then, the United States has been both criticized and praised for its decision to fight the Japanese with atomic weapons. Some say the bomb was needed to save American lives. Others claim it was inhumane, killing too many innocent people.

In a recent poll of Americans, only 44 percent support Truman's decision to drop the bomb. But in a similar poll 50 years ago, an overwhelming number of Americans said they approved of the bomb.

Regardless of how Americans view the atomic bomb, what happened at Hiroshima during World War II must never be forgotten. All Americans should be educated on how America wiped out two Japanese cities with the most deadly weapon ever known. People need to know the scientific and historical significance of the atomic bomb.

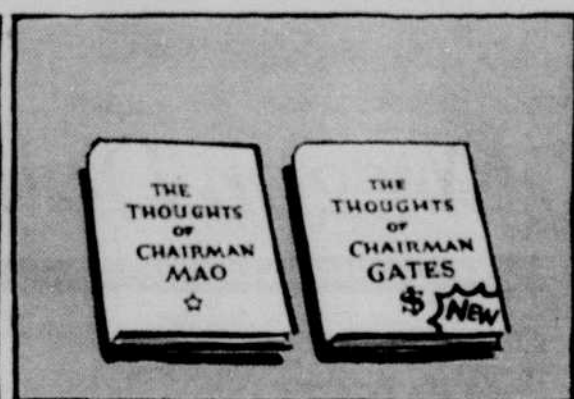
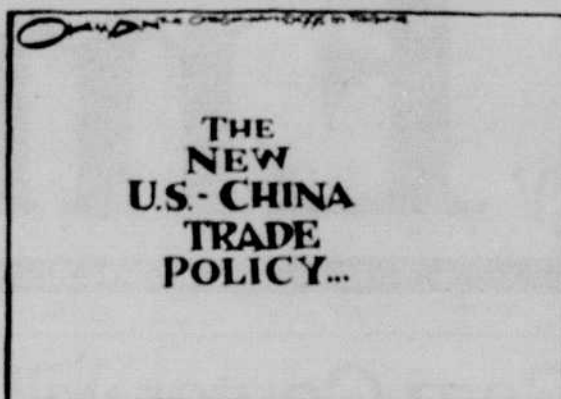
Efforts to remember the bomb are steering in the wrong direction. Recently people lobbied for a United States stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bomb. The proposed stamp featured a mushroom cloud design, resembling what the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki looked like after the two bombs were dropped.

Stamps are meant to glorify events in U.S. history, and there's no reason to celebrate the loss of 210,000 Japanese men, women and children. Printing a "mushroom cloud" stamp would be offensive to people whose ancestors died from the bomb. How would Americans feel if the Japanese printed a stamp of Pearl Harbor? We can be thankful the U.S. Postal Service canceled plans to print the stamp.

Museum displays about the bomb also have been canceled recently because they are too sensitive for those who remember what happened.

Instead of celebrating our victory over the Japanese, Americans of all generations need to be educated on the events of World War II and the effects of the atomic bomb. In a recent poll, 60 percent of Americans didn't know which president ordered the bomb to be dropped. That's a sad statistic.

For the millions of people born after 1945, it's impossible to imagine the suffering caused by the atomic bomb. It's important to educate the ignorant to make sure everyone realizes the serious consequences of Truman's decision. It would be far too tragic for history to repeat itself.



OPINION

Presidential hopefuls looking for votes



PRIMO A. J. FONTANA

Since it's finals week, I decided that I would cover that favorite topic of every columnist's heart, presidential handicapping. It may be early, but if they've started running, then I had better start covering.

So, in alphabetical order, to be fair, here's a list of people who are already or are probably going to be in the race.

Lamar Alexander: This former governor of Tennessee and Secretary of Education is running on the "Washington Outsider" angle. He already has a catchy slogan: "Cut their pay and send them home," which is what he intends to do with Congress. Although he is well-respected by moderates of both parties and some far-right conservatives, he may lack the charisma and stamina for the long haul. A potential vice president.

Pat Buchanan: That's right, the GOP's Brutus of 1992 is at it again. Look for this militant, isolationist conservative to make light of the great rift between Republican moderates and right-wingers. He doesn't have a replacement player's chance against Greg Maddux, especially after the disastrous GOP Convention of 1992.

Bill Clinton: As far as I've heard, Clinton still is the president. Things may look bleak for Bubba now, but he's been here before. If his staff can succeed in painting the Republicans as ruthless and cold, which shouldn't be that hard, he just may squeeze out yet another term.

Bob Dole: Newt and his foaming-at-the-mouth cohorts in the House have been the best thing to happen to Senate Majority Leader Dole. He is playing the elder statesman, and has had the luxury of loosening up on *The Late Show* and in other informal settings. He has been bitter and

callous during presidential bids in the past, but if he can keep his attitude chipper, he can't be beat. It's Dole's race to lose at this point. He can get the money, the moderates and enough conservatives to make the Christian Coalition happy.

Bob Dornan: Rep. Dornan, R-Calif., the loosest of the loose cannons in the House, is running at this point apparently just to make Clinton look bad. Dornan's chances are slim. He is so conservative that he makes Rush Limbaugh look like Ralph Nader. His influence will, like Buchanan's, perhaps widen the gap between the GOP's moderate and conservative factions.

Phil Gramm: Senator Gramm's biggest lead at this point is in dollars. He had a large surplus after his last campaign for the Senate, and he is very well-connected in the higher echelons of Republican fund raising. Ethical questions have arisen right and left regarding Gramm, quite notably in the most recent issue of *The Nation*, and his negative charm may make Dole look like a cuddly old grandpa. He is second to Dole in the GOP rankings now, but new competitors from the moderate sector of the GOP may soon take his place if he can't gain at least a little charm.

Richard Lugar: Sen. Lugar, R-Ind., officially entered the race last week. His name recognition is low, but he is very well-respected as a Senate moderate. Lugar's career may be stellar, but he may not have an angle or the charisma necessary to differentiate him from the field.

Arlen Specter: I must admit, that of the people truly running, Sen. Specter, R-Penn., is my personal favorite. He has already handed out pamphlets in New Hampshire that say: "Join Him In The Effort to Restore American Greatness Through Traditional Republican Values." He is strongly pro-choice, and believes that a moderate such as himself must be elected president in order to ameliorate what he calls "a party divided by intolerance and bigotry."

He has already stood up strongly against the conserva-

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tives of the GOP in the Christian Coalition. When their leader, Ralph Reed, announced that abortion would be a litmus test in 1996, Specter said, "If Ralph Reed says I'm unfit to be president because I'm pro-choice, I'm prepared to stand up and look him in the eye and tell him he's wrong — and raise hell about it."

If Specter can paint himself as fiscally conservative and socially liberal in the mold of the hot GOP governors such as Bill Weld of Massachusetts or Christine Whitman of New Jersey, he has a real shot. At the very least, he may open the doors of the Republican Party to the 20th century on social issues.

Pete Wilson: Wilson's racist and unconstitutional Proposition 187 has caught on like wildfire in the new "angry white male" electorate, and this could take him to the top. However, if this issue backfires in the courts, as the smart money says it will, he could lose his popularity. Also, during his victorious reelection campaign for the governorship of California he pledged that he would not run for president in 1996.

So there you have it folks, my field of nine. There may be smart ones, and fine politicians at that, but we should still be concerned at the lack of true innovation.

Although Specter may be a bit progressive, none have shown a propensity for the type of leadership which this country has seen in its finest presidents, such as Jefferson, Madison and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Hopefully a leader will arise, for 1996 or the near future, who can truly lead this nation forward.

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