

by W.W. Hodowanic

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" I asked him.

And my ten and a half year old son replied, "Oliver North."

I shot upright in bed, soaked in scared sweat, and thought, "Maybe there is a God if this is only a nightmare."

Characterizing Oliver North as a "Hero" is an antithesis to ethical parenting. Youngsters emulate their heroes: they pretend to be Superman, Batman, the Transformers. Little harm may be realized in doing this because these longtime heroes are "larger than life."

Colonel North is part of the perverse side of real life, in much the same manner as is AIDS. Humanity may one day find the means to eliminate AIDS but may face a much greater challenge in eliminating Colonel North's affliction: Ethical AIDS (E.A.).

North may have been infected at an early age, with videotapes of Joe McCarthy and Richard Nixon side by side. Or he might have witnessed a member of his family playing dominoes with John Foster Dulles. No matter how he got it, he, like all E.A. carriers, would love to vote for Nixon for President again, much the same as any junkie needing a fix. (These people also videotape insurance promos featuring Lorne Greene and Ed McMahon.)

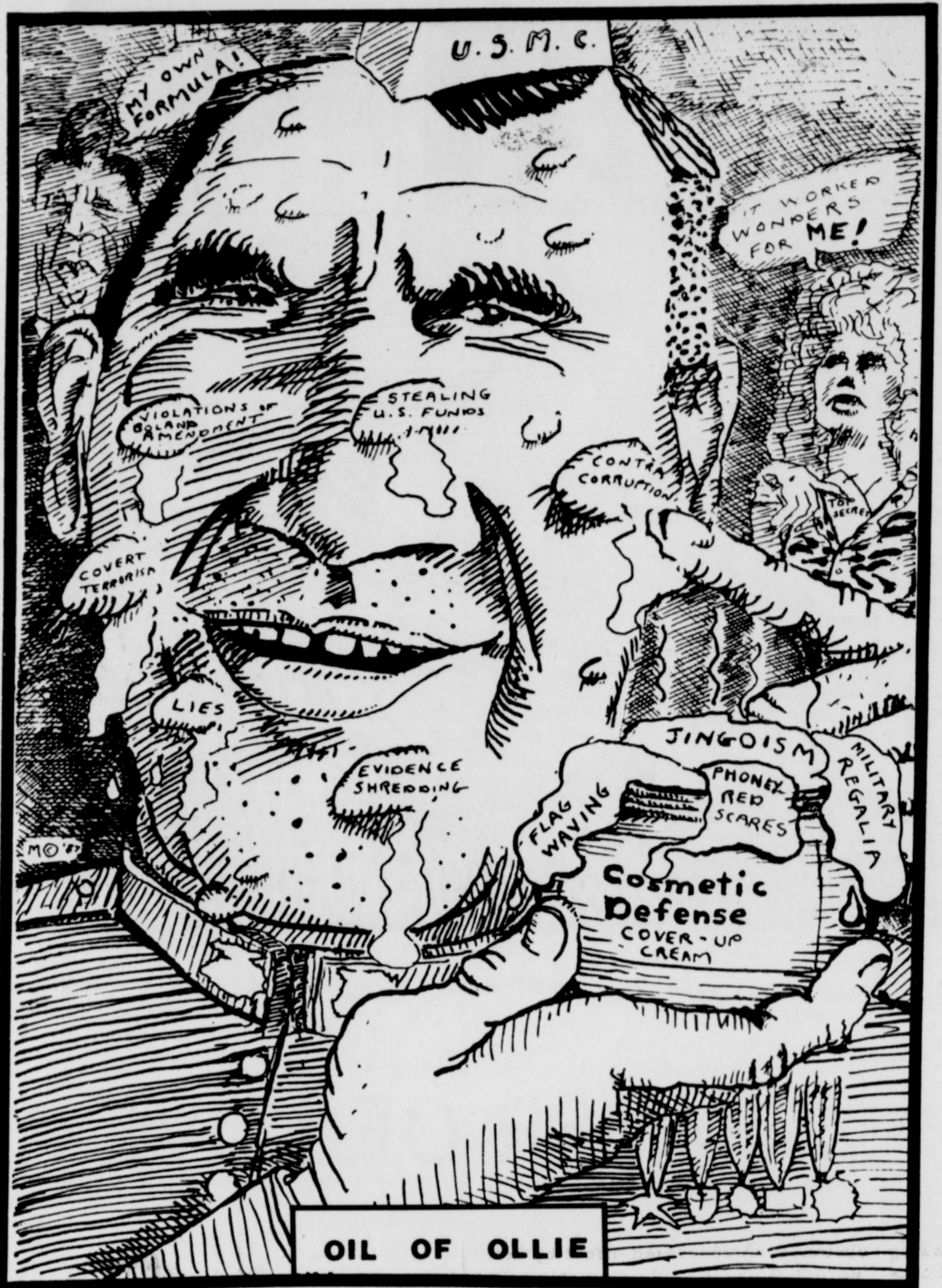
Is E.A. coincidental to America's ongoing teenage suicide epidemic? To more Viet Nam veterans killing themselves here since the war than got offed in the war?

Symptoms of E.A. have become commonplace during the Reagan years. The President's phony laryngitis, the inability of paid officials to be quoted without the assurance of anonymity, the ever-popular, "I can't remember" to sidestep accountability, and the contras, are just a few of the symptoms.

An E.A. carrier himself, Secretary of Paranoia Caspar Weinberger has sniveled aloud about not being able to procure enough weaponry to blow the world apart in a minimal time, "... because we are guided by what the public wants," he whines.

Though the majority of Americans polled have for some time now been opposed to contra aid (a chronic E.A. infection), and though Congress has duly represented this stance, this above-the-law-and-disorder Administration continues to bugger its own citizenry, forcing it to swallow massive excretions of "aid" used to make more Nicaraguans homeless countrymen, women and children.

The death-throe moans and groans of tens of thousands of Nicaraguans are heard by those in a vacuum of misery, though the American public caught a brief, trill note from the bullet ricocheting inside the head of Benjamin Linder.



THE SPREAD OF ETHICAL AIDS

Remember the pullout from Viet Nam and how within a year no one besides Jesse Helms (a walking advertisement for the art of lobotomy) would admit to ever having supported the Viet Nam War? Selective amnesia is a malignancy of E.A.

Well, the pendulum is swinging back, though ever so slowly, and it is time to join in the fun and buy a "chance on Nicaragua."

Just send all of the \$\$\$ in your pockets to: "Just Say No" c/o The White House, Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C.

Be sure to include the exact milisecond of the minute, day, month and year when you think that the Administration will disavow the contras.

All contestants get their names in the FBI computer, and the winner gets either (a) two pieces of Presidentially-split firewood or (b) a kiss from Nancy — whichever has less splinters.

Though Ronald Reagan, et. al, has been the best thing to happen to this country (once and for all clearly defining the parameters of ineptitude, greed, deceit and hypocrisy), Molly Yard, newly elected President of N.O.W., has joined a growing chorus of those seeking his impeachment. In light of this, the administration has developed a contingency plan.

On April 4, 1984 President Reagan laid the groundwork by stating, "Our halls of government are as sacred as our temples of worship."

An anonymous insider named Pat has assured me that the President will avoid any possibility of impeachment by swapping jobs with the Bakkers. Tammy and Jim get to push Mary Kay Cosmetics from the Oval Office while Ronnie takes over the checkbook at P.T.L.

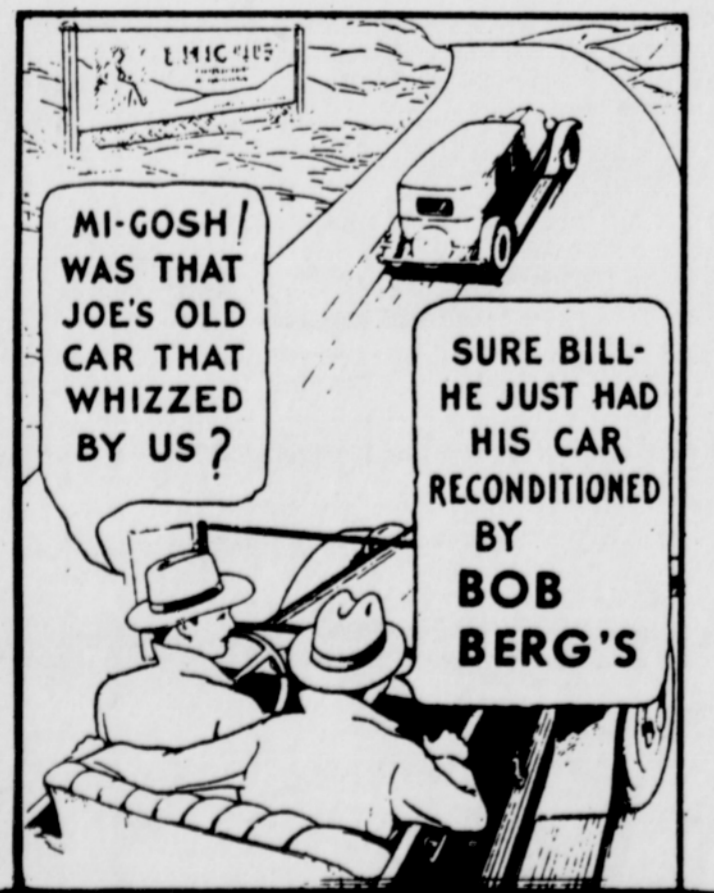
When asked to confirm this story, yet another anonymous Pat assured me that "There will be no more false profits."

As a bonus — in the event that yet another Supreme Court vacancy occurs, President Jim

and Tam would nominate Reagan to hunker down on the Court.

1988 is fast approaching and America needs to be on the lookout for an E.A.-free candidate. With his concluding remarks to Colonel North, Senator Inouye proved himself to be E.A.-free — a proponent of diplomacy over warfare. A fitting campaign slogan might be: In the land of the blind, the one-armed man is king.

About the writer, W. W. Hodowanic wrote that he is "an Otter Rocker, member of tri-county senior and disabled services advisory council, founder of C.A.N.C.E.L., Gimp Panthers, and ping-ponger extraordinaire." The cartoon of Oliver North is from the Anderson Valley Advertiser, a weekly newspaper near Mendicino, California, and was drawn by a woman who wishes to remain anonymous, signing her work "M".



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