

Firing scars Carter image with women

The spectacle of a politician combining a liberal image with a conservative program has become routine in America's increasingly media-oriented elections.

So, characterizing President Carter as one of these hybrid types should strike few readers as an untoward novelty. Certainly his 'business as usual' approach to international affairs, in which human rights comes in second best to defense budgets and autocratic regimes, has incongruously complemented his blue-jeans-and-sweaters informality.

But probably nowhere in the realm of

current domestic politics has the presidential lip service prospered to the detriment of an interest group as profoundly as in the area of women's rights.

A few months ago Carter demoted his special liaison officer Midge Constanza into forced retirement. Later he showed up in Utah, with a bastion of anti-feminists and anti-Equal Rights Amendment forces, to deliver a speech in which his ERA trumpet was mysteriously muted into a squeak.

Last week, the President axed the outspoken Bella Abzug as co-chairer of his National Advisory Council on Women. That move, so far, has ignited

the protest resignations of 25 other women from the 40-member council.

Carter's aides have sought to construe Abzug's firing as a result of her acerbic style, not because of policy differences. However, the former chairer's criticism of certain presidential economic policies affecting women cropped up as one contributing factor in her departure.

Thus, both Abzug's priorities and her outspokenness appear to have conspired to bring about her fall from presidential favor.

What befell the one-time U.S. representative from New York reflects the

all-too-common fate of persons who accept so-called advisory posts at face value.

Such appointees usually are expected to drum up support for official programs. At the local level one sees this ploy used by city councils and school districts in the guise of budget advisory committees set up, in fact, to promote an accompanying tax-levy proposal.

Those who take advisory tasks seriously and offer counsel instead of consent or criticism in place of applause will likely find themselves in Abzug's place: out the door.

Bernau fine pick as OSL leader

University students appear to have gained a "triple threat" for their lobbying efforts in this year's session of the Oregon legislature.

Former ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau, chosen Sunday as executive coordinator for the Oregon Student Lobby, will join two ASUO appointees in representing student interests in the capitol.

Selection of Bernau, now a graduate student at Willamette University's schools of law and business administration in Salem, bodes well for passage of a bill allowing student access to course evaluations. As ASUO president, he championed a uniform and accessible system of assessing the quality of course design and teaching at the University.

Bernau was an active, hard-working student official and undoubtedly will bring those qualities to his new post. He has already indicated his intentions to forego a term of college in order to devote full time to his lobbying task.

His selection comes as welcome news.



greg wasson

tabled indefinitely

The Rideout rape case focused the world's attention on Salem, propelled a right-wing petition drive to repeal Oregon's law allowing women to charge their husbands with rape and prompted discussions of the level of consent a marriage license implies.

"If I want sex, should my wife be able to legally refuse me?"

Most of us on E. 22nd Street think so.

Used to be the deal was: "You give me a home and I'll sleep with you" you seldom got one without the other. But, as women have become less financially dependent on men, the terms of that bond have changed.

My moral training says sex and marriage are two separate issues. The first is tied to the second only in that two persons who care enough to marry are usually tuned into the call of the loins.

The sentiment that links matrimony with making love is often part of an unrealistic—or at least unhealthy—view of sexual relations.

"Why buy the cow," asks Ann Landers, value-guru

of the uptight segment, "when the milk is free?"

Well, that's old-age thinking for you. It's little wonder the divorce rate's so high when using sex, or the promise of it, is seen as a legitimate part of the courting game. It's a negative way to relate, wielding the lure of naked flesh in order to blackmail and manipulate.

However, that's a problem for the spiritual plane. On the physical one, it's legitimate for women to demand control over their bodies and that they not be considered their husbands' sexual property. Physical aggression is seldom a valid response and taking someone sexually is especially vile.

The legal recognition that a man may not rape his wife is an integral part of eventually viewing women as people, rather than possessions. Any efforts to weaken Oregon's law at the Legislature or by initiative should be resisted.

Popular logic says you can't thread a moving needle. A marriage license shouldn't be permission to force that needle to be still.

yours

Carter hypocrisy

President Carter's recent statement at the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that "human rights are the soul of our foreign policy" is about as hypocritical as could be in describing the policies pursued by the U.S.

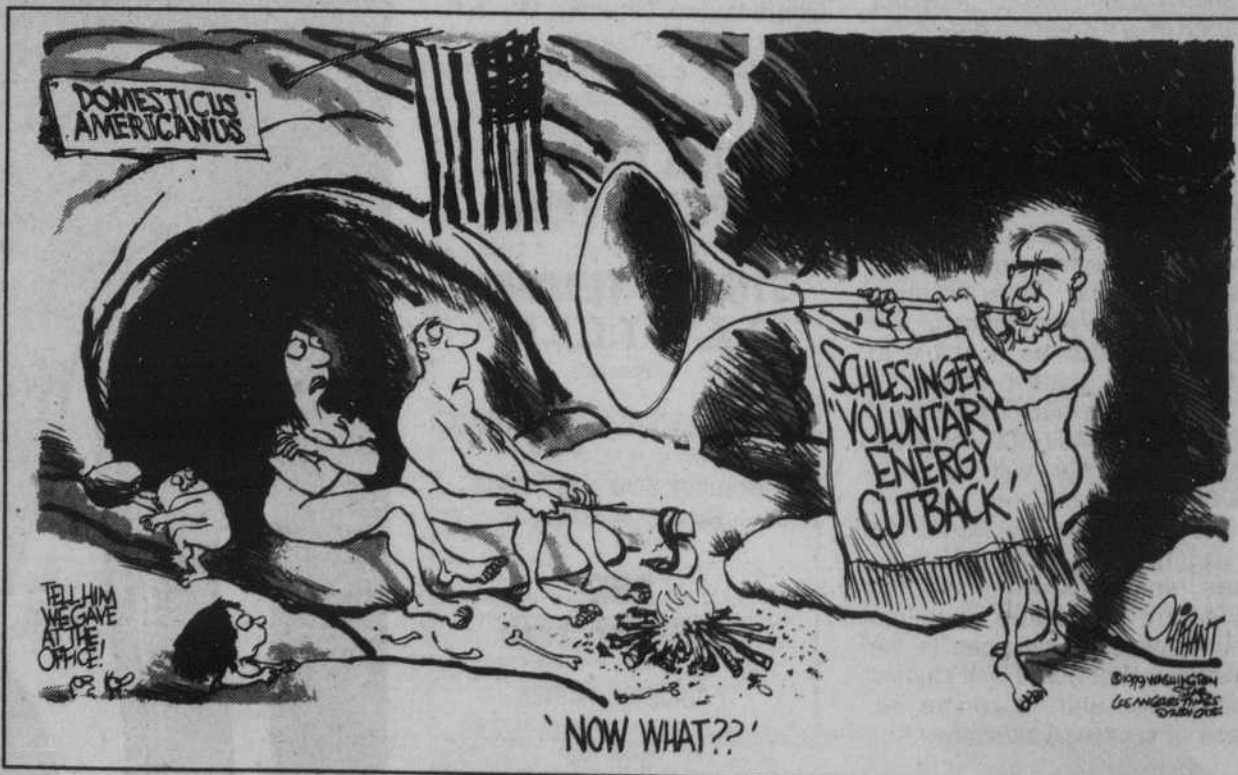
Among the countries that Carter cited for violations were the Soviet Union, Chile, Nicaragua, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda and Cambodia. Is it not ironic that

Nicaragua, Brazil, Chile, and Iran (most notably excluded from Carter's message) have been the recipients of U.S. aid and owe much of their knowledge about repression to the training given them by our military experts.

The U.S. has been the largest exporter of the anti-communist tone for decades and has been quick to support countries or leaders who sing the same tune, whether it be with CIA backing of coups, training of the military, direct aid or sales of military hardware. Once the military government is firmly established the influence of the U.S. declines; however, we still continue to provide aid in order that our international corporations remain in favorable status. (Nicaragua's aid was cut off only last year).

Similar policies of propping up weak governments in Cambodia and Ethiopia have paved the way for communist overthrows. When a pendulum is swung far to the right, then released, it swings equally far to the left.

President Carter attacked the Soviets for their repression of dissidents who wished to immigrate, then telephoned the Shah of Iran to personally express his support as thousands were shot in the street. Our geopolitics that have tried to match the Soviet expansionism by our own have created



political repression that equals that of the opposition. We fly the flag of freedom, human rights and justice into the communist battle, when the real force behind it is to protect our high lifestyle by continuing our grip on others' natural resources, labor and markets through economic stratification.

If there exists an answer to the problem of human rights' violations, it is in the relaxation of tensions between the superpowers so the rest of the world would not

be caught in the middle. Jimmy Carter is certainly not headed in that direction with the rhetoric he uses, just as the American people maintain a deep dislike for the Soviet people.

If the President and the rest of us Americans do not have the balls to admit our selfish desires instead of cloaking them in the pursuit of liberty and human rights, then the focal point of our morality is nothing more than an

illusion which blows in the wind.

This aftermath of the holiday season when you are enjoying your festive celebration amidst an array of material wealth, remember that it has been made possible at the expense of others' freedom. The "soul of our foreign policy" is money.

Fred McIntire
freshman, undeclared
Tuesday, January 16, 1979

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