

## Violence continues to shadow American life

When many of today's students were in grade school, a then-prominent political activist said violence is "as American as cherry pie."

While the name of H. Rap Brown today has sunk into what some would consider well-deserved anonymity, his baleful analysis of the position violence holds in American life remains depressingly accurate to many people. Indeed, one of the most horrifying aspects of the shooting of Pres. Ronald Reagan was the familiarity of it all — for many Americans, it seems as though violent occurrences have become the norm rather than the exception.

Many feel that America is undergoing a renewed surge of violence. The murder of John Lennon in New York last December, the killing of children in Atlanta, and the shoot-out between Nazis and communists in North Carolina brought back vivid memories of the turbulence of the late

'60s with its urban riots, campus unrest and political assassinations.

Other events also have supported the thesis that a renewed surge of violence is taking place in America. Children are murdered in Atlanta while Nazis gun down communists in North Carolina.

However, most of the violence directed against individuals such as Lennon and Reagan

### OURS

has little in common with the political violence we associate with various authoritarian and totalitarian regimes. Elsewhere in this paper, University history professor Richard Brown points out that "our form of government, despite its failings, has a high degree of legitimacy with the people."

Brown says that political assassinations and

attempted assassinations in this country traditionally have been derived from mental instability rather than political motivations.

The reaction of local businessman Peter Murphy, a personal friend of the President, was similar. Anyone seeking political prominence has to live with the threat of violence, he told the Emerald. The only alternative would be for the President to remain shut up in the White House, isolated from all contact with the people.

In an interview conducted 10 years ago, Brown made a recommendation that holds true today:

"What we should do," he said, "is give attention to violence as a general historical problem in American society. If we don't take this problem seriously, we are not likely to do much about it."

That was 10 years ago. It appears little has been done about it, and the problem continues to throw a shadow over American life.

### YOURS

#### Infanticide

Re: Mr. Albrecht's recent letter noting an increase of infanticide over recent years with the legalization of abortion. Indeed, infanticide occurring in hospital nurseries across the land is on the rise. Legal authorities are largely ignoring the reports, an expected response since the killing of infants in the womb is perfectly legal.

A film titled, "Who Shall Survive?" (funded by the Kennedy Foundation), shown to first year medical students across the country, chronicles the death of a newborn boy. The infant, born at John Hopkins Hospital, died of dehydration because care was withdrawn. The child was mongoloid and also suffered duodenal atresia, which is easily corrected by a surgical procedure. Instead of care the infant was wheeled to a corner of the nursery and left to die. An order NPO, nothing by mouth, was attached to his crib. "Who Shall Survive?" can be interpreted by the first year medical student as an acceptable example of a difficult situation in the care of newborn.

A recent issue of the magazine *Science '81* deals with the subject of genetic screening. Two articles are entitled "Who Shall be Born?" and "Wrongful Life." As the writer states, "AFP may be the first of many simple checks for defects . . . the beginning of

quality control for children."

We have already bought abortion. Some hospitals quietly practice infanticide by simply withdrawing medical care. When we lose respect for one part of life (the unborn) we lose respect for all of life, for even our "imperfect" children.

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#### Land planning

During the past two years many of us farmers in Malheur County have brought to light scores of problems in Oregon's land use planning detrimental to agriculturists.

Because a farmer is not allowed to sell 1 to 5 or 10 acres of land we have documented cases of individuals that could not hold their operations together during the years of low agricultural prices and some were forced to sell their farms below normal land values.

A sad and tragic event now taking place in Sonoma County, California will undoubtedly help prove our point. Because of inflation, high interest rates and low apple prices, the entire apple growing areas are being faced with total extinction.

California's land use control is similar to Oregon's with minimum lot sales from 20 acres to 640 acres. Farmland in rural residential zones setup by land planners in the Sonoma County area is selling for

as much as \$50,000 per acre, but the apple growers are being prevented from selling 1, 2, or 3 acres which would help them hold on for a year or two until their agricultural prices stabilize.

According to news releases and personal reports we are receiving, many growers there are already pulling their orchards and some have already filed bankruptcy notices because other apple growers will not buy at any price. Other crops are not feasible on non-irrigated land and they are not able to sell a few acres to enable them to hold their farming operations together.

The professed purpose of land use planning is to help preserve farmland, but the inflexible rules sometimes work in reverse as in the aforementioned case where thousands of acres of farmland are being lost, hundreds of farmers are being put out of business and thousands of people connected to the industry are seriously affected.

I pray that the Oregon Legislature and all Oregon news media take note of this event. It could happen to any of our Oregon agricultural commodity groups.

Neil Venturacci  
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#### For Paul Olum

The University of Oregon will have a new President soon, and that new President will have before him — all the

finalists are male — a task which is impossible of execution. The new President will have to fill Acting President Paul Olum's shoes. There is only one man who can do that, and the powers that be in the Chancellor's office and at the OSBHE should realize that they are lucky to have Paul Olum. He should be offered the Presidency.

Paul Olum has earned the Presidency of the U of O because he has been the President in all but title. He could have eased his way along the safe and proven trails of mediocrity and tried not to rock any sacred boats. Instead, he has had the guts to speak the truth about this University and higher education in general. He has had the guts to protest the fiscal emasculation of this school, while others in the slaughterhouse reacted with little but a whimper. It is easy to find yes-men and reasonably competent administrators. It is extremely difficult to find a President, someone who will stand up for education and for the U of O. As other crises appear in future years, what kind of person is the Chancellor, the Board, the faculty, staff and student body of this school going to want in that hot seat in Johnson Hall? They are going to want a President they can trust, even when they disagree with him on occasion. In Paul Olum we have a proven President who has earned the respect and trust of the University community.

The State of Oregon is very lucky to have the opportunity to keep a man of this quality to run the U of O in a time of declining fiscal resources and no-win decision making. Paul Olum should be kept.

Alan Contreras  
Junior, political science

#### On abortion

Ms. Skinner has been led to believe that the fetus is not a human being. She compared it to an appendix and stated that, "like any other part of my body it is under my control and dependent on my will for its survival." The same could not be said of her heart, liver or kidneys which are also human tissue. Her survival depends on their functioning and on their will. Over them she has little control.

Doctors who perform abortions do not deny that what they are killing is a human life. As to their intent? "When you can solve in some other way all the problems I can solve by abortions, I'll be on your side," stated an abortionist to Fr. John Powell, professor of Theology, Loyola University.

If Ms. Skinner honestly looked into this moral issue of abortion and changed her mind, she would not be the first one.

Laura Foster  
Eugene

