

Opinion

No American Dream

The President of the United States could damn well stop blaming the current depression on past administrations. While he's at it, he could damn well stop talking about the "American Dream."

Current unemployment of 10.1 percent has not been caused by "decades of past mistakes." It is the result of one year and 13 days of tight credit, business failures, loss of international trade, decline in aid to education, loss of governmental services and the jobs they gave.

The "American Dream" does not exist. The American reality is to have a job.

It is all very fine to live for the next drop in interest rates or the Dow Jones average. If there is an inherent American fantasy, it is to make a million overnight on the stock market.

The reality of the current economy, on the other hand, is found easily in any paper or trade magazine. The nightmare of unemployment is a different "roller coaster" and far more frightening.

Curbing inflation is a worthy objective. But curbing inflation at the price of jobs is defenseless. An "attack on inflation" is ludicrous if the rear flank of employment and education are defeated.

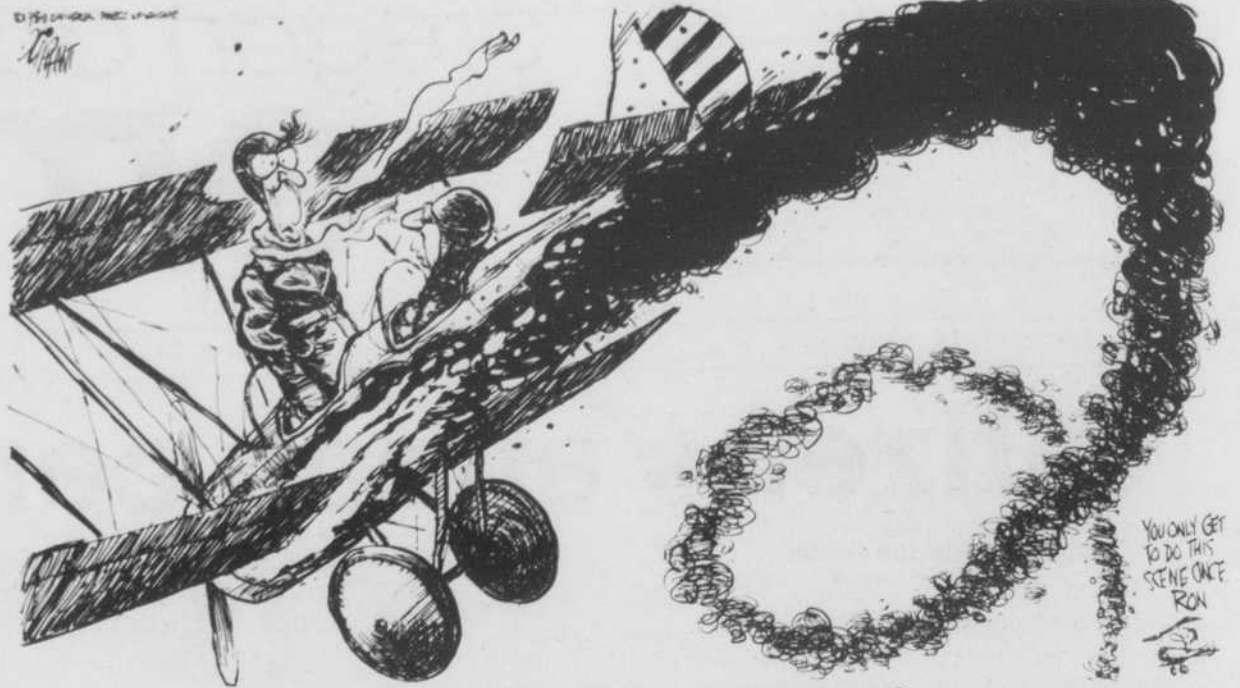
President Reagan reiterated his stance yesterday, "This administration means business," with a big "B." Reagan has never claimed to be labor, with a big "L," or government with a big "G" or even business with a small "b." He intends to hold to his current course and listen to his advisors who will show him the "guideposts on the road to recovery."

Meanwhile, he'll blame the misery of his administration on the New Deal or Jimmy Carter or even Richard Nixon.

If Reagan had read any recent history, he would have learned that current inflation problems began when Lyndon Johnson decided to increase our participation in the war in Vietnam, continue with his Great Society social programs and not increase taxes.

It is sort of like increasing the defense budget, cutting back on taxes and social welfare programs. Neither add up to a balanced budget. Reagan must realize that he has created the worst deficit ever. The difference between then and now lies in the number of jobs that were plentiful in industry and government during earlier administrations.

Something's wrong when the President, in the midst of the worst unemployment since 1941, numerous business failures, and a bizarre bull market, tells us prosperity is just around the corner.



'CAPN VOLCKER, MAY I BORROW THE PARACHUTE?'

jonathan siegle editor's note

The sentencing of Benjamin Sasway to 2.5 years for refusing to register for the draft should surprise no one. America is a class society.

This is a country which values property over people. Benjamin Sasway doesn't want to go to war to save Big Macs for democracy.

So we throw him in the slammer.

And Ronald Reagan pledges to the country he will not rest until prayer is restored to public schools.

This is supposed to be moral America, right? You know, Jesse Helms, Jerry Falwell, Donnie and Marie? So Sasway takes his moral stand against war and we give him 2.5 years to suffer for it.

Swell. Klaus Von Bulow is out on bail after being convicted of killing his wife. He's rich. He's free. Ma and Pa Hinckley spend half a million bucks to put their twerp of a son in the nut house instead of the big house. They're rich, too.

Ad nauseum. Even the lady with the torch needs repair.

It is foolish to believe the United States is a classless society. Car sales are down, yet sales of luxury cars, expensive motor homes, and boats are doing quite well.

In 1977 unemployment was 7.4 percent. In 1981 it was still 7.4 percent. Today its 10.1 percent. And today, in the middle of the worst unemployment since 1940, we're in the middle of a

bull market.

Lane County passes a special tax levy to fund the police. Human services, no; cops and robbers, yes. Another new war is declared on drugs; drug education funds are eliminated. Congress debates when human life begins, and the federal budget runs out of dough for planned parenthood.

If Sasway had knocked over a liquor store, with his face and record he'd probably have gotten probation.

Benjamin Sasway is a hero. He put himself on the line. Whether you agree or disagree with Sasway's stand, you can't argue — he got screwed.

I'm reminded of Richard Pryor's definition of justice: just us. That's it. Us. US.

letters

Non-credit

Unfortunately, the casual use of the term "class" to describe a SEARCH non-credit workshop has caused confusion.

In particular, Vice-Provost Paul Holbo has expressed his inability to discern the difference between a credit class and a non-credit class. This is certainly a valid point and a concern that we share.

Please, in the future, for those who have not the access or the inclination to check our catalog (wherein all offerings are clearly marked) we at SEARCH would appreciate it if all "classes" be clearly labeled as either credit or non-credit.

Mary Hope
SEARCH

Freeloaders

With the large percentage of the male students at the University eligible for draft registration and the attention given to the freeloaders currently supporting their conviction, I would like to declare my support of the United States Government's decision to prosecute and incarcerate these people. My only complaint is that the punishments are too easy (sic) and too few (sic).

I propose to all of Oregon's lawmakers and to the Federal Justice Department that government grants and financial aid be cut off to nonregistered (sic) eligible students.

The government has no moral

obligation to handout (sic) special low-interest, delayed payment loans to young men that won't support it. And there is no reason why the government should ever give them any food stamps, welfare, social security (and in their old age their Medicare/Medicaid benefits. Those should be reserved for those citizens that have served their country — or at least demonstrated their willingness to do so.

Freedom to do as you please is the basic right of all American citizens and I support that. Everyone should have the right not to register — just don't expect the governments support if you are unwilling to support that very same government.

Don't attempt to equate this

as an effort to blackmail the population for their support of a war machine. Everyone still would have the right to vote and change military policy or work within the system for change.

Disagreement with a few military policies (expected by any person intelligent enough to realize that 28 million people are never going to exactly agree on everything) is no reason to reject the whole principal (sic) of national defense or one's obligation to their country.

Rick Gallher
USMCR

Devil's work

Nick Pappis and his anti-rock'n' roll followers are obviously the devil's handiwork. They are trying to suppress free expression and the creative human need for music. Sure subliminals are possible to pick up on subconsciously, but let's get serious Nick — in reverse at slower speeds than the recording is listened to? Ha! Pure adulterated garbage!

Yes, the devil is a shrewd operator. He knows what type of world he's up against. So in order to corrupt it he's trying a new approach.

The devil is using a reverse thinking. Yes, he's using an evangelical record burning ex-rock'n'roll musician to cast souls into the fiery furnace.

First by destroying free expression and breaking the human spirit. Then when everyone is left just like leaves carried helplessly by the winds of every change, he injects the poison of Satan's will into the hearts and minds of the masses.

Is this what you want to happen to our world? No, I say we all should stand courageously against this demon of doom. Fear not what he says! United we stand, divided we fall. Long live Rock!

Gregory Koester

To the rescue

It is reassuring to know that there still are people who will get involved and offer help during an emergency.

On Oct. 7, I was involved in a car accident. Immediately after the collision, several bystanders came to offer assistance. One of these individuals in particular, Casey Dale, tended to my minor injuries and remained at the scene until the police and the paramedics had arrived.

In addition, Paul Dexter and Barbra Kilbury witnessed the collision and voluntarily offered their names if needed as witnesses. The attending police officers and paramedics also did their best in alleviating the anguish of both drivers.

Kathy Miskill
senior, journalism

Thursday, October 14, 1982

oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday, except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

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Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Photo Editor
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