

A time bomb called Philippine Islands

Two years have passed since a banner reading "Long live President Reagan, Long Live President Marcos" was spread across the Rose Garden at the White House. Side by side underneath the banner stood Pres. Ronald Reagan and Pres. Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. The two heads of state shook hands and smiled as news cameras recorded the historic moment.

Why was this moment historic? Because when violence completely engulfs the Philippines and the eventual overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship occurs, Americans will need to look back on that fateful day in the Rose Garden. They will then have a chance to understand how a country like the Philippines, once strong in its praise for American ideals, could turn so anti-American.

Already we see signs of this change. Protesters in the Philippines who once shouted for an end to the Marcos dictatorship, now shout for an end to the "U.S.-Marcos dictatorship." So far Reagan has remained silent on the Philippines problem. In so doing, it is clear that he plans to "stay the course" in his support for this brutal dictator.

In Iran, continued support for the corrupt and repressive regime of the Shah resulted in fanatic anti-Americanism and complete political chaos in the region. The United States supported the Shah because, in the words of Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., "It is better to support a dictatorship that is anti-communist than one that is pro-communist." This kind of thinking, shared by Reagan, has succeeded in doing one thing: creating enemies of the American people.

Today the Philippines is a time bomb waiting to explode. Since the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino in August 1983, there have been constant, massive street demonstrations calling for an end to Marcos' rule.

Filipinos realize that without U.S. support the dictatorship of Marcos would come to an end. There is a growing anger among Filipinos that the United States, which claims to stand for freedom and democracy, has, through its continuing support of Marcos, become an enemy of democracy in the Philippines.

This anger is now reaching the boiling point. Last Friday violent clashes between anti-Marcos demonstrators and police occurred once again in the streets of Manila.

The taking of hostages in Iran and the deaths of Americans in Lebanon are tragedies few Americans want to see repeated. It's time for the United States to end its support of Marcos before friends become enemies.

Voter registration a good idea for students

On Monday students at the University will have a chance to become part of National Student Voter Registration Day. Throughout the nation students will organize to make the student vote a vital part of America's political process.

There are a lot of important reasons why students should go out and register to vote Monday. Of particular concern to students are issues of educational funding and financial aid. Under the Reagan administration both have taken heavy budget cuts.

Other important issues include the nuclear freeze resolution, draft registration, the not-so-covert U.S.-backed "contra war" against Nicaragua, the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion, and toxic waste clean-up. The list goes on.

The 1984 election will be critical for what lies ahead in this country. Students must go out and vote for the kind of future they want to see for themselves and for their children. As University Pres. Paul Olum said in a statement issued to students and faculty last week, "The success of our democracy depends on informed citizens exercising their privilege to vote." He is completely right.

The ASUO and OSPIRG also agree with Olum. Both organizations are dedicated to informing students of happenings at the local and national levels that affect student life and society as a whole. Students who are not yet registered to vote will be able to do so at special tables set up by the ASUO and OSPIRG at key points around the campus Monday.

We encourage students to make their vote count this year by registering. By organizing voter registration and by getting out to the polls Nov. 6, students can help put America back on its feet. It's time we made a difference. Register Monday.



letters

Sorority games

I was walking up 15th Street towards the University, when I observed two women decorating what appeared to be an army tent on the lawn of a sorority. The women were wearing khaki skirts, and their house was festooned with camouflage netting. It looked like a bizarre mock-up of a war camp, complete with USO girls.

I asked one of the women if they were purposely decorating with a militaristic theme. She replied that they were celebrating the 40's. I am outraged, and so should anyone with any sensibility. WWII is a horrifying part of the world's history. It is an insult to the millions sacrificed in that war to make-pretend sorority games around a theme of death and brutality.

The military theme in itself is vulgar. How distressing to think that intelligent young women "rushing" this sorority could be attracted to such a foolish use of symbols of war.

Per Dahlin
Graduate, English

Spaced out

Space exploration offers us a bright future. The space shuttle program is an essential step in research — which will benefit us on earth — and eventual mining and colonization will bring back rewards far in excess of what we are now allocating. President Reagan deserves praise for his support of the space program and scientific advancement.

Did you know that if an ultra-liberal senator from Minnesota named Walter Mondale would have had his way in 1971 we wouldn't have a space shuttle program? He voted against the program but fortunately his side lost their battle to eliminate funds, (American Sentinel, Jan. 23, 1983). Now Mondale opposes establishing an orbiting space station which Reagan strongly supports for research into science, energy production, and other worthy purposes, (Discover, Sept. 84).

To ignore the possibilities of space not only means scientific stagnation but eliminates the only source for future generations of unlimited resources. Mondale's shortsighted approach to issues reminds one of the Vikings who ignored North America when they had the perfect opportunity to colonize it. They lost a continent and we'll lose much more if we make the same mistake.

President Reagan is committed to the advancement of America and the entire human race while Mondale, apparently, is only committed to what will give him power. He has changed little since the 70's.

Who would you rather have in the White House?

Michael Cross
History, Political Science

Please help

I need some help from the College Republicans. I've been trying desperately to get a message to the Reagan campaign staff, but I haven't been able to reach them. I went to the library and looked through the Washington, D.C. directory under "H" for Hollywood, and "S" for special effects, but I couldn't find any listing.

All I wish to communicate is that there seems to be an oversight in the President's campaign scheduling. Somehow Mr. Reagan never gets to go into any of our nations numerous ghettos or barrios — with bible and flags waving — to tell the people that everything in America is peaches and cream, thanks to the Reagan administration.

So, do any of you think you could pass the word along? I'm sure the President would receive quite a reception.

Roscoe Caron
Eugene

letters policy

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Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

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