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## letters

### Reagan — Bush

As university students, soon we will head out into the job market and our aspirations may take many of us to different parts of the United States. In the coming presidential election, we have the American freedom to choose our leader for the future. The state of the nation's economy will be vital to the success of each one of us.

While it's true that Oregon's economy is still suffering from the lingering effects of the Carter administration, in the last four years the stability of the nation's economy as a whole has steadily increased.

There are facts that we already know to aid us in our decision. For instance, inflation rates have remained steady at less than 4 percent for the last two years. Also, 6.2 million new jobs have been created since 1980. Unemployment has decreased from 12.5% during the last administration to 7.3% currently and is dropping. (The economy is considered at full employment at approximately

The Reagan administration's economic policies have graciously handed the college students of the '80's a country of opportunity. One would be foolish to ignore the pertinent facts. Make the right choice for your future, vote Reagan/Bush

Lori Armstrong Eugene

#### Praise Reagan

I'd like a chance to respond to Kenneth Hacker's distortions (ODE Oct.11) of our president's excellent record on protecting Americans from crime especially children.

The National Republican Party Platform condemns child

pornography. Also, President Reagan has supported strong legislation to crack down on child pornographers. Way to go! NBC aired a documentary on August 25 showing studies that prove child pornography greatly contributes to child molestation.

Republicans and conservative Democrats supported this legislation and the only opposition came from liberal so-called "civil libertarian" types who believe it went contrary to "freedom of speech." Fortunately, they can't show one bit of evidence that the founders of this nation believed everything on paper was protected speech.

In 1982 Reagan supported and signed the "Missing Children's Act," sponsored by conservative Republican Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida. He also successfully fought for the creation and funding of the "National Center for Missing and Exploited Children." He has also strongly supported drunk driving crackdowns - along with funding - to stop the senseless slaughter of men, women, and children on our nation's streets.

Almost all of us will be parents within the next few years and crime control will not only affect us but our children as well. President Reagan has a record which is pro-victim and which any sensible and intelligent person would support.

Lori Parkman

#### Don't censor

Response to Scott Kerlin's letter (ODE Oct. 12).

I'm afraid you've missed the point. Ron Munion makes the point that "rights" should not be contingent on the approval of others. It is really quite a simple argument. In this case it means that students should be allowed to hear the Marines speak even if you don't approve. It's okay to protest, but wrong to obstruct others' freedoms.

Why don't you organize a peace rally? Find a creative way to express your concerns. Share the wisdom of lessons learned with us kids. Set up an anti-war booth on the other side of the EMU. You should express your

Bearing in mind the diversity of our student body, I find it remarkable that you feel comfortable postulating on the "Impact of that War." I am too young to have been in the war, but the war still had an impact on me. My brother lost his leg, my cousin lost his life, and I watched my mother cry every night during the evening news.

don't like having the Marines here, and I don't want to see others lose their lives. The fact remains that I have not been given the right to censor or block others from exposure to opinions I don't feel comfortable with - and neither have you.

> Alex Gardner Pre-med

#### Think about it

I realize that this is the season for educated people to be writing letters in support of their favorite candidates. Regardless of whether they are

analytical, independent minded people for Mondale and Farraro, irrational cultists for the Rajneesh candidates, or young conservatives blinded by a sense of nationalism which borders on fascism.

Truly I could not understand how intelligent people could be whipped into a frenzied state as German citizens were by Hitler...until I heard George Bush speak in his debate against Ms. Ferraro.

I do not seek to accuse the Reagan administration of being fascist, only of taking advantage of the American peoples' pride in the same manner as a fascist leader would. Nationalism may be a good and useful feeling. but abused national fervor is nearly as dangerous as abused religious fervor. Evidence of this may be seen in current times in Iran and from the Jonestown massacre.

I challenge everyone to divorce themselves from this nationalism and think of themselves as a world citizen when they are choosing a candidate. Do not be disillusioned by reports of the "evil" Soviets. I have been there and the people were friendly, but even more afraid of the U.S. than Americans are of them.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." But don't join the crowd without asking why it is there.

**Scott Brandt-Erichsen Political Science** 

### **Human rights**

Dan Goulet's letter of Oct. 5 wherein he reports that "at least 95% of all human rights violations world-wide occur at the hands of left-wing death squads'' - constitutes a disclosure of incredible magnitude.

Mr. Goulet's findings would surely be received with intense interest by the members of Amnesty International. Their work, which was honored with a Nobel Peace Prize, seemed to indicate that human rights violations occur the world over in countries ruled by people with political philosophies as diverse as humanity itself.

I urge Mr. Goulet to make his findings available to another recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize: Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina. Mr. Perez Esquivel, himself once jailed and tortured by the military government in Argentina in the late 1970's, was recognized for his work in human rights in Latin America.

Goulet's statement that 95% or more of all human rights violations are committed by left-wingers certainly puts a different glint on things. One wonders, however, if the untold thousands of prisoners of conscience wasting away in jails from Iran to South Africa, Chile to Guatemala, Turkey to the Phillipines, or South Korea to Mexico, will get any comfort from the fact that they are in that five percent group being oppressed and beaten by nonleft-wingers.

For those thousands who have already died in jail or at the hands of torturers worldwide, the news, of course, comes too late to be of any solace at all.

> Scott Logan Eugene

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