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letters

Political crisis

Last fall, I had occasion to witness first hand the transformation of a normally taciturn and politically passive democratic society into one characterized by daily protest, unrest and open revolt. West Germany was going through perhaps its most profound political crisis since the creation of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Millions of West Germans, a wide majority of the voting populace according to all opinion polls, firmly opposed the stationing of American Pershing and Cruise missiles on German soil. They simply did not want any more nuclear weapons over which an American commander of NATO would have exclusive control. I couldn't blame them.

The coalition in power then, the one shoving those unwanted missiles down their throats, was the same one that a clear majority of the German voters had just elected the previous March. I was confused. Had the German people been duped? Was the missile issue one which arose after the election? No, neither was the

case. Surprisingly, many people who voted that coalition into power were devoting substantial time and energy to the protest movement. They called it the gravest issue of our lifetime. Some close friends of mine joined the Communist party and openly talked of revolution as it became increasingly clear that deployment of the missiles would proceed as scheduled. They were deeply frustrated. I couldn't blame them.

But what had happened in the election of March, 1983? How could democracy have so miserably failed to reflect the people's collective will? The answer: "That was an election on economic issues." The blame is their own.

It seems that the recent U.S. presidential election was on economic issues too. Who can blame a voter for thinking about his financial well-being?

I just wonder how long it will take the irresponsible, elitist and egregiously inhumane policies of a lameduck Reagan administration to once again instill the fire of revolt into the hearts of the American people. Long live democracy!

Gil Gott
German Dept.

Morally wrong

A few generations ago, a decision was handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States, concerning a man named Dred Scott. This decision reflected current popular opinion of much of American society. Stated simply, it declared that because Dred Scott was a black man, he was not to be considered fully human and therefore was not entitled to protection under the law.

In our generation, again reflecting the moral consensus of much of America, the Supreme Court has declared a living, human fetus to be less than a human being and thus not protected by law. Abortion has now become a legally sanctioned means of birth control.

Generally speaking, we now believe that slavery was morally wrong, in spite of what the law of the land declared, although large numbers of slave owners felt themselves to be fully justified in treating black people as non-human property. What do you suppose history (not to mention our Creator) will say about our treating our own offspring as less human, and killing them?

William Moore
Music

Gay tendencies

In response to Brandon Shepard and Fred Elledge's letters on the "GALA" article, if all you live for is to spit out hate and live to take one more jab at some minority you're in the wrong organization. Instead of being backed by Christianity, why don't you move to Grants Pass, join the Ku Klux Klan, and live happily ever after with very few minorities around to bother you? Or are the Church and KKK the same thing? Are they interchangeable?

Anyone can read what they want into and from the bible — it's been revised enough so people could do just that. If you can't stand to have your money wasted, why don't you change schools to BYU or some other degressive program. Education means also opening up your mind. Any first year psychology student could say that your fear of homosexuality, being so prominent to your existence, stems from the fact that maybe you fear it exists in yourself. From hearing you froth at the mouth every term on the subject, I'd say you are both reacting to the fear that you yourselves might have gay tendencies. It's a very common defense mechanism, so be reassured you are not a minority in that respect.

Ann Piazza
Senior, psychology

Good job

We of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and the lot owners' association, wish to express our thanks for the Nov. 3 efforts of the University's sorority and fraternity members in the cemetery. They enthusiastically did the finish work (weed-eating around the stones, demossing curbing, trimming shrubs, and raking) that has been financially impossible for the Association to do despite over \$3000 and four ten-day maintenance sessions each spent in the cemetery's 16 acres this year. Their attention to detail makes the part they were physically able to cover look like a well-kept park with plenty of visibility.

The University's Public Relations and Greek Public Relations Council's choice to make the cemetery their community service project of the year is recognition that they value it, their neighbor, for its historical significance and its place as quiet, needed "open space" in the midst of busy surroundings.

The project was very well organized to make it fun as well as work for the volunteers.

Special thanks go to the Council's members, Jeff Corah, Randy Putz, Carey Beneke, who supervised and did leg work obtaining needed tools and returning them. With future leaders such as the young men and women whom I saw working harmoniously together Saturday as I kept our maintenance building and rest rooms open, our future would seem to be in good hands.

Ruth Halmes
Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

Nature of man

Man is but an element in nature, unique and different from other life. Being human, man thinks and acts for himself, unlike other animals that are controlled by nature. Man is in control of himself and uses his knowledge to do what he feels is right.

Like a child using his knowledge without parental guidance, man has polluted his thinking by willfully killing his own kind. Man has also polluted his physical environment, the air he breathes and the water he drinks.

Aren't these self-destructive acts similar to that of a child trying to run before he can walk? Man seems to be falling on his face, like the child that learns to stand, and is so proud that when he starts to walk he tries to run.

All life is equal in the eyes of nature, no one life form is any more important than the next. Nature is balanced for the survival and reproduction of all life.

Only man can control himself. It's up to man to get back in touch with nature for his survival. As nature's interaction with life shows caring, so should man.

If there is a god, I believe God is love. Love is the highest degree of caring. Only through love and understanding can we start caring for each other.

Walt Zabel
Livermore, CA

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, 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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