

# "Lesser evil" policy means more injustice

In the on-going effort to convince the American people to support a renewed military build-up and to take pride in U.S. military intervention overseas, the Reagan administration has had to come to grips with a contradiction in its political philosophy. Specifically, why does the Reagan administration support right-wing dictatorships when it claims that the purpose of U.S. foreign policy is to promote democracy?

In reality, this kind of U.S. foreign policy has been going on for a long time, but in his quest to re-ignite American patriotism, Reagan has gone to great lengths to explain why the United States must support right-wing dictatorships, even brutal and repressive ones.

The argument goes like this: There is a big difference between a right-wing repressive dictatorship and a communist totalitarian dictatorship. A right-wing dictatorship, such as that of President Marcos in the Philippines "is a national problem." A communist dictatorship "is an international problem." More specifically, communism is an international threat to democracy, whereas a right-wing dictatorship is a national problem that does not threaten worldwide democracy. The idea is that the United States must support repressive dictatorships as the "lesser evil," in a struggle against communism which is the "greater evil."

Using this argument, the Reagan administration justifies a policy of military support to governments notorious for human rights violations including Pakistan, Guatemala, South Korea, El Salvador, and South Africa.

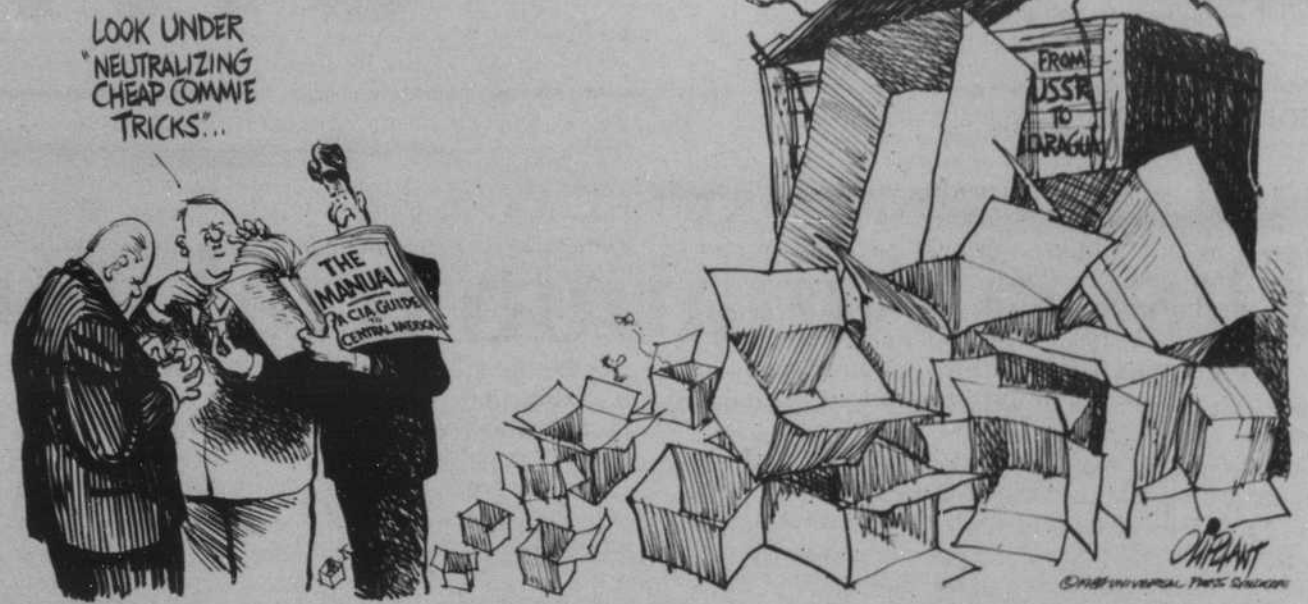
Conservatives around the country, including many pro-Reagan college students have used this argument to criticize individuals and organizations which oppose U.S. military interventionism and U.S. support for right-wing dictatorships. The argument, however, is both naive and dangerous.

Hitler was a vehement anti-communist. Should (and would) the United States have supported the Nazis had they aimed solely at defeating the Soviet Union? Is fascism the lesser of two evils? What about South Africa today? In the name of defeating communism, the United States gives military and economic support to a nation whose political philosophy is based upon the concept of racial superiority. Is it just coincidence that South African prisons are filled with black political activists who want their people to have the right to vote in the land of their birth? Should Americans tell blacks in South Africa that we justifiably support the white government because it is the "lesser of two evils?"

In Guatemala, thousands of native Indians have been murdered by government troops because they have struggled for political freedoms. Do Americans have the right to justify these mass killings because the Guatemalan government, which the United States supports, is the "lesser of two evils?"

Should Chileans, South Koreans, Filipinos, Pakistanis, and Salvadorans who have given their lives in the struggle for the very freedoms Americans cherish believe that their government is the lesser of two evils? Should the families of the thousands murdered by government death squads in El Salvador feel good because the United States says that the government who murdered their loved ones is the lesser of two evils?

Those who struggle against repression wherever it is found realize that the military police that killed Archbishop Romero in El Salvador and the military police that killed Father Popieluszko in Poland have the same origins: They both were born out of the politics of injustice. In its goal to defeat the "greater evil" of the world, the United States is promoting the very thing it says it stands against: injustice and oppression.



## letters

### Please help

I need help from the College Republicans again. I've discovered some wasteful government spending that I'm sure our budget-cutting crusaders will want to deal with.

Yes, I've discovered that the Marine Corps recruiters who use the EMU lobby for their tour of duty are getting paid \$11.70 per hour to sign up people just in case we need more "freedom fighters" in Central America.

So maybe the College Republicans could pass on a suggestion to President Reagan's budget cutting department. How about hiring disabled Vietnam War vets to staff the recruiting table? They could do a fine job telling people about the glories of war. And maybe the Reagan administration could hire them for sub-minimum wage?

Roscoe Caron  
Eugene

### Mutual love

I am a born-again Christian, and I have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. My relationship with God is based on mutual love. God loves me, and I love God. I demonstrate to God that I love Him by obeying His commandments. I do not do this out of duty or because I "have to." Obeying rules, performing ceremonies, and observing rituals are religion — just religion. Christianity is not a religion; Christianity is a personal relationship with God.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, obey My commandments (John

14:15)." Relating to sex, this means, "If you love Me, do not engage in sexual activity outside of marriage — heterosexual or homosexual."

I realize how incredible and joyous my relationship with God is, and I know that disobedience to Him would only hurt my union with Him. I am not married, and I abstain from sex because of my love relationship with the Lord. I cannot earn God's love by being "good," for He already loves me infinitely, but I can please Him by living a holy, righteous life.

A personal relationship with God is the brightest, most fulfilling, most satisfying relationship anyone can ever hope to experience. It is more gratifying than the most intimate sexual relationship, whether heterosexual or homosexual. God offers you a relationship of unconditional love that is eternal and infinitely fulfilling. This relationship is free and offered to everyone. Like every relationship, however, it involves great commitment and sacrifice. But in a union with God, to sacrifice is to gain.

Eric Lake  
Rhetoric Communication

### Scream louder

Why did you choose to devote most of the front page of your newspaper to an article about a man who was beaten (Nov. 11), whereas you wrote only a couple of paragraphs on the front page about the assaults upon two women (Oct. 31)? Are rapes less important because women are less significant than men? Your headlines should scream our outrage at rape, and scream louder with each occurrence.

Jack Straton  
Graduate, Physics

### Ridiculous

Ever since women gained the right to vote, important goals have been achieved towards equality. We are finally realizing that discrimination is wrong and needs to be stopped.

But the EMU board has ventured into the realm of the ridiculous. As the story in the Nov. 16 issue of the Emerald indicates, eleven months were spent debating whether a sign with the word "man" on it should be removed from the

EMU. In the end, they refused to accept that the word man was used to indicate humankind. Such trivial pursuits not only waste time, but also do nothing but satisfy the hyperactive needs of fanatical feminists. The next step seems to be to change the word "woman" to "wo-person".

Stuart Andrews  
Human

### Save whales

As the wildlife coordinator for the ASUO Survival Center, I would like to raise a vital issue concerning the fate of the whales, the planet's largest living creatures.

It is not unknown that the whales face extinction, and in accordance, the International Whaling Commission has finally voted to enact a ban on whaling. Japan, however, has chosen to defy the mandates imposed by the IWC, and is currently preparing for their next hunt. It is therefore extremely important that the U.S. not back down in the face of such a threat. The Reagan administration has pledged to invoke the Packwood-Magnuson and Pelly Amendments, which would limit Japanese fishing allotments in U.S. waters and ban the sale of Japanese fish products, if Japan decides to continue to hunt.

The problem lies in the fact that such sanctions will do no good whatsoever unless they are imposed. If anyone counts themselves as an individual who truly cares about the tragedy facing the whales, I hope you will take the time to write a brief letter to President Reagan, Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige, and Secretary of State George Shultz urging them to follow through with these sanctions against Japan should Japan persist in killing the whales.

For more information about whales and the current situation concerning the IWC moratorium, individuals are welcome to come to the Survival Center to talk with me. To learn about the whales more directly, individuals may also sign up to go whale watching.

Lori Bergquist  
ASUO Survival Center

## oregon daily emerald

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