

editorial

Red scare returns in U.S. politics

A new kind of red scare is taking place in the United States and the implications are serious. The declared enemy is Nicaragua and the propaganda target is the American people. The purpose of this red scare is to raise the level of paranoia and fear in the American public sufficiently enough to win support for President Ronald Reagan's as-yet-undeclared war against the Sandinista government.

How is this red scare manifesting itself? Both Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz have dramatically escalated their anti-Sandinista rhetoric in recent months. In foreign policy speeches, the Sandinistas are referred to as "drug pushers," "godless," "cruel," "evil," and as "exporters of revolution" whose ultimate aim is to destabilize the United States. Reagan has warned the American people that unless the Sandinistas are stopped now, we might be fighting communism on our own borders.

In conjunction with this fear-mongering, the Reagan administration has also increased FBI surveillance of Central American support groups and harassment of individuals that question the official government position on Nicaragua. FBI infiltration of church sanctuary groups in Arizona, Texas and Washington has led to fear of trust among church sanctuary members throughout the country. Journalists have also been harassed, such as Edward Hasse, a freelancer from Kansas City. Hasse was interrogated at length by the FBI on January 16, after returning from a trip to Nicaragua. His personal diary, written works and address book were confiscated and are still in the hands of the FBI.

A dangerous trend is now being set in this country, fueled by Reagan's desperate attempt to win support for his Central American policy. Inflammatory rhetoric and FBI-sponsored harassment appear to be gaining headway over responsible discussion and debate on an important issue: Should the United States be supporting the overthrow of the Sandinista government? Americans must resist this latest attempt at drumming up a red scare by both Reagan and Shultz, and instead opt for a responsible presentation of the issues on Central America from the different points of view. If the current trend of fear-mongering continues, we may find that the cherished freedoms of this nation may be threatened more by Reagan's red-baiting policies at home than by a perceived communist threat from abroad.

Supreme Court ruling a victory for industry

At a time when concern over chemical wastes in the environment has gained renewed attention (due in part to the recent tragedy in Bhopal, India) the Supreme Court's ruling on Wednesday signals an unfortunate setback. In a 5-4 decision, the court stated that the Environmental Protection Agency may grant exemptions to certain industries from full compliance with nationwide limits on toxic discharges into sewage treatment facilities.

The decision amounts to a victory for the chemical industry and a defeat for environmentalists. The latter had argued that EPA law, as laid down by Congress, forbids any industry from obtaining exemption status on toxic discharge regulations. The case, titled "Chemical Manufacturers vs. the Natural Resources Defense Council," was the second recent Supreme Court ruling to decide in favor of chemical manufacturers contesting the wording of EPA pollution-control laws. It shows us that the struggle for a toxic-free environment is still long from over, as chemical industries continue to chip away at the hard-won gains made by environmentalists during the 1970s.



letters

Still shocked

Yes, I am still shocked by what I saw in the display case of the EMU, but not for the reasons Romano and her colleagues were after. By attempting to shock us by the vulgar and tasteless display in an institution of higher education, the people behind it appear ignorant, childish and foolish. What needs to be acknowledged is that without willing "models" for such garbage, no one would be able to profit from pornography. The anger should be directed at the females who have no respect for themselves or other women, but as usual the feminist have made men out to be the evil culprits and lead us to believe that these women are victims. These "models" accept money to pose in this fashion, it is a choice made by them. If all women respected themselves, pornography would not exist.

I support women's rights and respect anyone who speaks out when the rights of anyone have been infringed upon, but these women who pose and thus support the porn industry have voluntarily given up their right to be respected and defended.

I would have appreciated a display of art and beauty in the case, something positive from which everyone could have derived a good feeling about themselves and their achievements. Like the old song says, "Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative." I wonder if all who viewed the display gave as much attention to the protests as they did to the photos. Again, WRRS wanted to

shock us, not educate us. The only "power imbalance" between men and women is the one created by men and women. Abolish pornography from your mind and it will soon have no place on the newsstands. It certainly does not deserve the exposure and advertising it received here at the University. The display case is for everyone, we all have to look at it.

Rebekah Stephenson
Eugene

Hypocritical

Sometimes government policy is so hypocritical. For instance:

While cigarettes have been shown to cause cancer, birth defects, and heart disease, and while our government spends millions to urge us not to smoke, they use our tax money to subsidize the tobacco industry.

Want to hear another example of weird policies? Well, while the law currently allows the unborn child no legal protection from those who choose to kill it through abortion, a woman can use an aborted child as a tax deduction if it lives just momentarily after being removed from the womb to die. One law says the child isn't deserving of legal rights, but another law treats the child as a premature human baby whose mother can take off the \$1000 deduction on her income taxes just like any other parent. Sound strange? I agree.

Lori Parkman
Eugene

Very clever

For the second year in a row, the Payroll Department will have to collect canned food for a food drive on payday. Clever administrating.

Tom Walsh
Physics

Accusations

Following Professor Trever's talk (ODE, Feb. 15), two shrill attempts appeared to discredit him, one by Ms. Siegle (ODE, Feb. 21) and the other by Reverend MacGregor (ODE, Feb. 22).

Ms. Siegle's accusations of Professor Trever and his sponsors as 'biased' are hasty. Too many persons are ready to brand people like Professor Trever as 'anti-Semitic.' I sympathize with the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, but the Europeans were responsible for this atrocity, not the Arabs. Muslims and Jews have lived together peacefully for 1,000 years, but the Christians and the Jews have not. Jewish-Arab antagonism began with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 in which the British promised to give Jews the Muslim province of Palestine. In 1975, the 30th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations declared Zionism a form of racism, as practised by Israel since its creation in 1947. The subsequent invasion of Lebanon and the behavior of the Israeli occupiers confirm the accuracy of this declaration.

Reverend MacGregor is unfair to label Professor Trever a 'lousy theologian,' with whom he disagrees over the dating of the Book of Daniel. Many modern scholars, including Professor Trever, date it to 165 B.C. The issue here is not one of chronology but that of tact and tolerance. It was very unchristian of Reverend MacGregor to put down Professor Trever's scholarly ability, because one should have the freedom to voice one's opinions on any subject. Failure to recognize this is unscholarly, and again, unchristian.

Sharifah Alatas
Sociology/History

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 or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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, Oregon, 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.

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