

Making a mistake in the Philippines

The administration of President Ronald Reagan has requested that Congress approve a sharp increase in military and economic aid to the Philippine government of Ferdinand Marcos. The reason given for this increase in aid (a total of \$275 million, up 20 percent from last year) comes from reports that the communist insurgency battling the Marcos government is gaining strength.

Reagan's request for military aid comes at a time when support for Marcos among the Filipino people has hit an all time low. Anti-Marcos street demonstrations are commonplace. The assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino in 1983 brought most of the moderate politicians into the strong anti-Marcos coalition. It is clear that Marcos' days in power are numbered.

Where does the United States stand in the changing political winds of the Philippines? Just as with the Shah of Iran and Somoza in Nicaragua, the U.S. government is making a last ditch effort to keep Marcos in power. The people of the Philippines, however, have warned the Reagan administration that as long as Marcos remains in power, the chances of democracy are slim. Opposition members have repeatedly called for an end to U.S. support of the Marcos regime. But Reagan has declared that support of Marcos is essential to prevent a communist takeover of that country. Filipino opposition leaders, however, say that it is U.S. support of the Marcos dictatorship that is strengthening the communist insurgency. According to Charita Planas, a Filipino exile living in Washington D.C., "As long as the United States continues to support Marcos then the Filipino people will turn to the Left."

The United States must not make the same mistake in the Philippines that it made in Iran and Nicaragua. Continued support of the Marcos government ignores the real issues behind the growing anti-Marcos movement. It is not communism that has led to the strong opposition to Marcos, it is economic injustice and political repression carried out during more than a decade of brutal martial law. A revolution is inevitable in the Philippines as long as the United States continues to stand behind the Marcos dictatorship. As Planas pointed out when she visited the University last year, "The best way for America to protect its national interests is to make friends. You lose friends when you support dictators like Marcos."

New kind of drug raises some interesting questions

Neuropharmacologicals are coming. That's right, the age of "thought drugs" is upon us. These new drugs will be able to target specific sites of the brain and generate specific behaviors — such as improved memory — in people. According to Dr. Herman Weingartner, chief of cognitive studies at the National Institute of Mental Health, "We are sitting on a revolution that rivals quantum physics in the 1920's."

Marketed in pill form, these new drugs will be designed to enhance learning and memory. Pharmaceutical companies have shown excitement about the potential for such drugs. The Washington Post reports that, "Drugs like these will sell all over the world." Of course there are some interesting questions. For example, will University students be barred from taking such drugs before exams? If so, will students be forced to submit to urinalysis tests? Should professionals in competitive mental situations be allowed to turn to drugs to boost cognitive productivity? Of even greater concern is what the development of "thought drugs" might lead to. Ever heard of mind control?



letters

Stepping-up

In response to Shasta Hatter's letter (ODE, March 6) concerning ROTC: Shasta has decided to only scratch the surface of the ROTC program, rather than honestly research.

Cadets are ideally assigned according to a synthesis of the Army's prerequisites and of your personal goals. If a student receives a branch other than those which he/she preferred, then there is a re-submittal process to pursue. It is very seldom, however, that you do not receive any of the top four branches you have applied to. If you wish to receive a reserve forces commission (which trains one weekend per month and for a two week period annually), you can select any unit that corresponds with your preferred branch.

ROTC does not emphasize technical skills as a priority, just as literature does not require a mere vocabulary of words or phrases. ROTC, like all educational organizations, emphasizes the gradual stepping-up from a basic knowledge (tool-gathering) to an advanced analytical stage comprising leadership, management, and the use of available mental and physical tools toward a goal (conceptual blockbusting).

The objective of the ROTC

program is, in all, the development of a student into an accomplished individual in or outside of the duties of an officer. ROTC provides you with the tools to progressively pursue these goals in life. You help your country, and you help yourself.

P.S. The financial support isn't bad either.

Stephen Hansen
Architecture/ROTC

Totally false

I wish to address a point that was made in the new issue of the ASUO publication "Off the Record," a point that grossly misrepresented the philosophical standpoint that is held by the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group. Randy Choy, the author of the article on student activism, misquoted our state board chairperson as saying that OSPIRG is "anti-Reagan" in the area of environmental issues. This "quote" implies that OSPIRG takes part in partisan politics, a conclusion that is totally false. As a member of OSPIRG's state board, I resent the implication that we are a partisan group. When the issues we work on are chosen, each one is examined closely to make certain that they will have widespread support and that the changes that an issue may bring about will help a broad cross-section of consumers, regardless of individual political viewpoints.

Furthermore, contrasting OSPIRG with a self-admitted partisan student organization strengthens the false implication that OSPIRG is partisan. We approach issues with the thought that all citizens who rent homes, pay utility bills, or want to live in a clean state will be helped. Because we have members from all parts of the political spectrum, we are able to maintain a good balance and can address issues that are widely accepted and beneficial.

I would ask that when reporting about a group, that group's policies should be clearly understood and printed correctly. Misrepresentation can only

lead to misunderstanding, both of which are unnecessary and uncalled for.

Jeffrey Bissonnette
OSPIRG

Pinko-infested

Congratulations Kim Mackey! It is pleasing to see that there are still a few exceptionally logical thinkers on this pinko-infested campus. While I do agree with the principles behind attempts to end the horrific system of apartheid, I also question the rationale behind divestment. Any social psychologist will tell you that one of the primary factors in strengthening a group's cohesiveness is a perceived threat from outside forces. The Afrikaaner extremists are a tenacious group, increasingly united by the divestment campaign. It is ironic that their resolve to maintain apartheid is drawing renewed energy from the very attempts to end it.

Proponents of divestment are quick to point out that their actions will only hurt a "few million" of the 22 million blacks in South Africa. This attitude corrodes the basic values of the altruistic anti-apartheid movement which they claim to be part of. Can't they take off their blinders and face the fact that the recent riots lacked the participation of one group of blacks — those employed by American companies; those who are being given equal pay and opportunity only because of American investment?

Finally, let's not clothe ourselves in the fuzzy coat of "pseudo-altruism" by boycotting movies made by South African companies. If you refuse to watch "The Gods Must Be Crazy" then you must also refuse to work on I.B.M. computers, drive G.M. cars, and store food in G.E. refrigerators. After all, using these items also symbolizes "support" for apartheid. Or does it?

Tony Morris
A non-racist
South African

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