

## Proposed drug tests defy Constitution

The Reagan witchhunts continue. During his early years in Hollywood, Ronald Reagan helped lead the search for "Communists" in the movie industry. As California's governor, he clamped down on "Hippies" in the anti-war movement. Now, through a presidential commission, Reagan is striving to purge drug users from the American workplace.

The President's Commission on Organized Crime released a report Monday, which said the federal government should test all of its employees for drug use, and it said the tests should be expanded to private employers that receive federal contracts. In addition, it urged that all private employers test their employees.

A violation of civil rights? Guilty until proven innocent? Which employees would be tested? The issue is not the protection of American society against drug abusers. Once again, the issue is the protection of the U.S. Constitution from Ronald Reagan's abuses.

Certainly, drug abuse is a problem in American culture. Minors drink liquor and smoke marijuana, doctors and lawyers abuse cocaine, and our professional athletes are regularly fined and admitted to alcohol treatment centers. Yes, chemical abuse poses a major problem, but anyone designing a program to combat the problem must respect the Constitution. Mandatory drug testing does not.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution protects Americans against unreasonable search and seizure unless probable cause exists that a crime has been committed. Mandatory drug testing for all employees assumes that crimes have been committed. Such a plan tramples the guarantees provided in the Fourth Amendment.

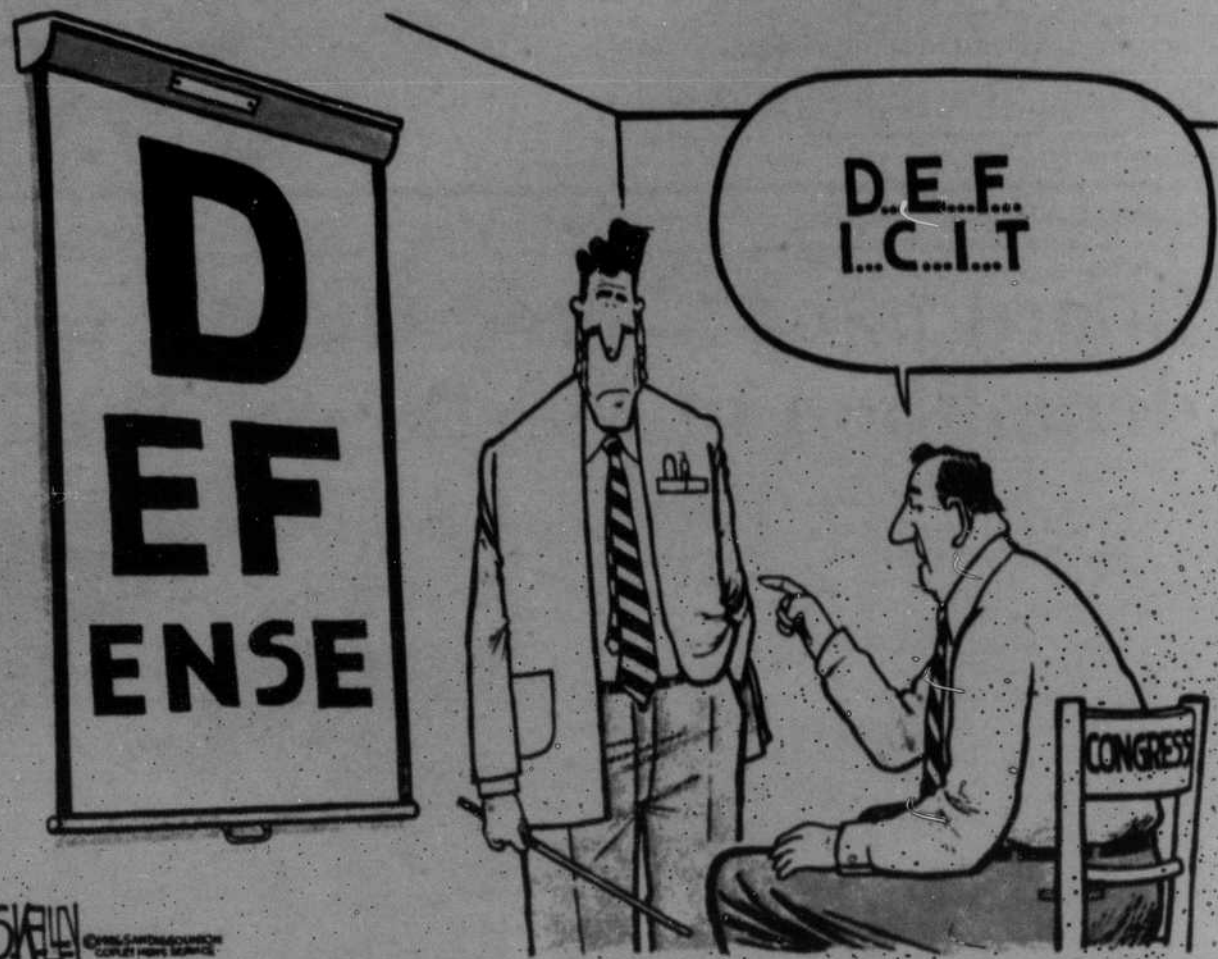
Throughout American history we have all been taught that the American legal system presumes people charged with crimes are innocent until proven guilty. But the commission's plan assumes everyone is guilty of drug use.

Professionals who regularly administer such tests say the results are not always accurate. Nevertheless, if the government and private industry adopt the testing plan, a positive test result could cost the tests' takers their jobs.

Finally, we are told that all federal employees would be open to such testing. But as was the case with Reagan's proposed lie-detector tests for federal officials, Reagan would undoubtedly exempt his chief aides from such testing. And that's ironic when you consider that cabinet officials are on duty 24 hours a day. Yet, Reagan and other cabinet members admit to drinking cocktails and wine before or after dinner, a clear violation of the commission's concept.

Rather than coordinating another Reagan attack on the Constitution, the presidential commission should have developed a plan to implement anti-drug abuse programs throughout the nation's school systems. Rather than curtailing funds for such education programs — federal spending on drug-abuse education and prevention programs has decreased by 5 percent since 1982 — the commission should have proposed a sizable budget increase for national drug abuse programs. Instead, we get a typical Reagan response — call the cops.

Throughout his political career, Reagan has shown little respect for the U.S. Constitution, California's Constitution, and any other rules or regulations that might impede his programs. He preaches the virtues of the American system, the value of the Bill of Rights, the beauty of our constitutional system, but he has always been one of the first to stamp on American political values when it's to his own advantage. There you go again, Mr. President.



## Letters

### Get it straight

Why is it the topics on rape are constantly mired in a paradox of beliefs? With the avalanche of publicly held rape panels, rape-related newsprint and rape "experts," it would seem that someone could get the stories straight.

Rape is a major topic in each day's Emerald, yet each day its meaning is fogged. One day we are told rape is not a sexual crime, but a violent, anger-filled act. Then, Karen Kane of the Rape Crisis Network opines that men are spurred to rape because "women act in a sexual manner." This is a blatant contradiction of beliefs.

The Rape Crisis Network and the Women's Task Force are on a crusade to educate the public on the levity and causes of rape. If they are to do so properly, they ought to get their definitions coordinated.

Alan F. Koelling  
English

### 'Hidden' tax

Take a closer look at your telephone bill. Ever notice "3 percent U.S. Excise Tax"? This government-imposed tax — a.k.a. U.S. War or Military Tax

— began with World War I, and has since fluctuated with military "needs." During WWII, local calls were taxed 15 percent, long-distance, 25 percent.

All telephone companies in America act as agents for the Internal Revenue Service. They collect the 3 percent tax you pay and turn the monies over to the IRS.

Don't murmur. If's such a small amount.

Accumulated telephone tax money collected (and IRS-channeled into the general fund) amounts to nearly \$2 billion each year! A figure that is now ballooning due to AT&T's divestiture with its resulting higher local phone rates.

If you object to this "hidden" tax, you can refuse to pay it. Find out how to do this by contacting your local group (one of many related coalitions nationwide) — the Military Tax Registers.

The group plans an open-to-the-public workshop early March.

Kay Wells  
Eugene

Education's Adult Literacy Program. One teacher, who escaped, reports that her colleagues have been raped and tortured. The newsletter further states there are persistent reports of non-combatant civilians being abducted and held at Contra base camps.

A second source is the many credible speakers who have lectured at this university. Most notable is former CIA employee John Stockwell, who personally visited Nicaragua. In his lecture, he recounted occurrences of Contra forces torturing, raping and killing Nicaraguan civilians in the forced presence of their families.

The picture that emerges is a grim one indeed. In an attempt to overthrow an apparently popular government, the Reagan administration is supporting a military force that is committing brutal atrocities against civilians.

I challenge anyone who believes in human freedom and dignity to justify the support of such inhuman activities. And I encourage all who share my disappointment and disgust to actively oppose all support of the Contras.

Ken Loders  
English

### Stop rebel aid

President Reagan's new campaign for \$100 million in military and other aid to the Contras raises an important question: What is really happening in Nicaragua? For answers, we can turn to at least two reliable sources.

Amnesty International is a non-partisan organization that monitors countries around the world and strives to accurately report human rights violations. Its recent newsletter reports Amnesty is appealing to the government of Honduras on behalf of several Nicaraguan teachers that are being held prisoner in Honduras by the Contras.

These teachers are a part of the Nicaraguan Ministry of

### Fund paper

The Oregon Commentator will be going up on a student ballot to "aid" the Incidental Fee Committee in its decision whether or not to continue funding. This is a dangerous precedent that erodes the foundation of liberal thought.

The Commentator is, admittedly, a reactionary, right-wing sheet and no more than one-third of the student body agrees with the opinions expressed therein at any one time. Is this a reason to attempt to silence it? If we decide that the only politically correct views are those expressed by the majority, we will be opening ourselves up for direct repression of dissenting views.

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