

# Editorial

## The 'paper curtain' is American folly

Since 1952, the McCarran-Walter Act has formed the basis for current U.S. immigration laws. Enacted during the height of the Cold War and passed by Congress over President Truman's veto, this law sets down 33 reasons why certain individuals may be denied entry to American shores.

While these reasons were originally designed to protect the public, many of them are discriminatory, and many individuals are often barred from entering the United States for political reasons as a means to limit public debate.

Some of the more questionable reasons exclude aliens who: are deemed by the State Department to be "feeble-minded," have a physical defect... or disability, those coming to the United States to engage in immoral sex acts (homosexuality falls under this category), anarchists and communists.

Moreover, many political "undesirables" fall under the ubiquitous heading of those who "might engage in activities prejudicial to the public interest, or endanger the welfare, safety, or security of the United States."

In 1983 Hispanic writer Hortensia Allende was excluded from coming to the United States under this provision. She had been invited by several universities to speak out against oppression of the Chilean dictatorship — but her application for a visa coincidentally came at a time when the United States was considering resuming arms sales to that nation.

Every administration since Eisenhower's has used the provisions set forth in the McCarran-Walter Act to exclude certain individuals because of their political beliefs. But the Reagan administration, which considers its own foreign policy interests a criterion for entry to the United States, tops the list in exclusions designed to limit public debate, especially that concerning its Central American policies.

This conflicts with the original congressional intent, which was to bar entry of espionage agents, saboteurs, and active revolutionaries. Last year alone, 27 people were denied entry to the United States on the basis of ideological considerations.

Dozens of spokespersons opposing the administration's policies have been denied entry to the United States since 1981, preventing them from keeping speaking engagements, testifying at congressional hearings or lecturing at universities.

Under the current administration Efran Mondragon, a contra defector, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge, and even the right-wing El Salvadoran Roberto d'Aubuisson have been denied entry because of their conflicting views.

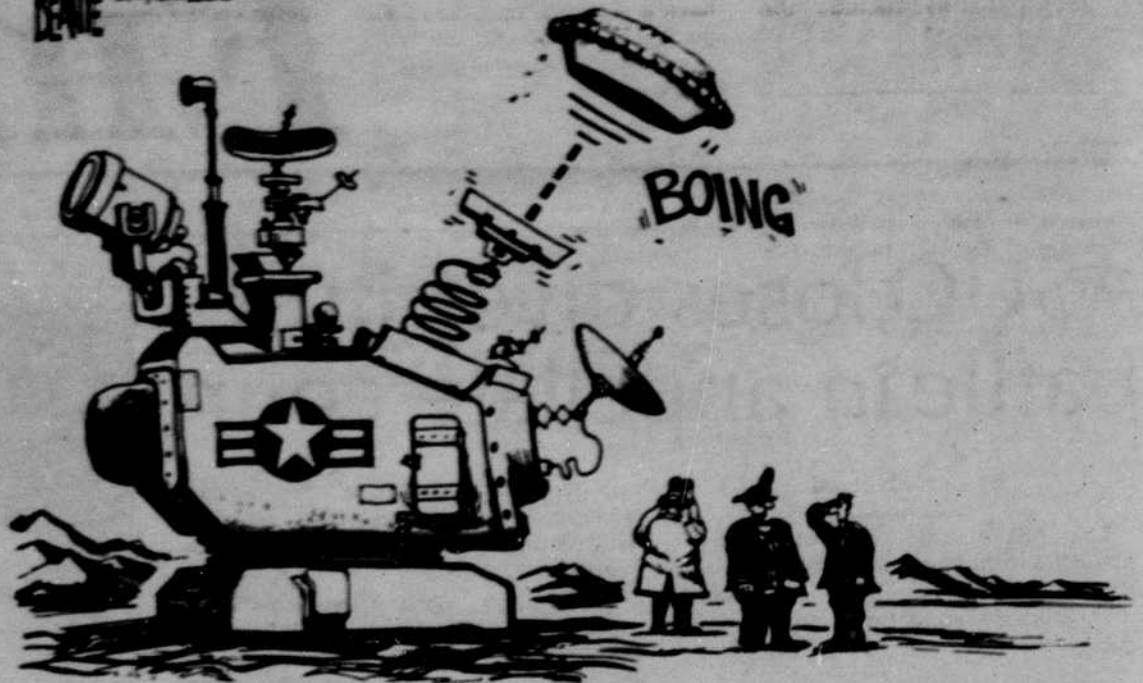
Other excludables include such famed Nobel laureates as Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes, English novelist Graham Greene, South African dissident-poet Dennis Brutus, and Spanish filmmaker Luis Bunuel.

The State Department maintains perhaps the largest blacklist in the world, containing some 40,000 names — in effect supporting a "paper curtain" around the United States.

Hodding Carter III, former assistant secretary of state under Jimmy Carter, summed up this practice well, "... the Russians have made it hard for Nobel laureates to get out of the Soviet Union. We have made it hard for Nobel laureates to get into the United States."

Much to its discredit, the United States is the only Western democracy that excludes foreign citizens on ideological grounds. This is a disturbing paradox — once inside our borders, freedom of expression is not only tolerated but encouraged.

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"Go tell the president we've had another successful Star Wars test..."

## Letters

### A thank you

I would like to thank the voters of Lane County for their generous support on Nov. 4.

I would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who helped out on my campaign. I am convinced their grass-roots efforts of canvassing, putting up lawnsigns and phoning voters were the deciding factors in this race.

I look forward to serving you in Congress beginning the first of the year. My congressional office will open in mid-January. It will be staffed by people dedicated to solving your problems with the federal bureaucracy.

You can count on me to make regular visits back to Oregon and hold frequent town meetings throughout the District. In addition, I will have an active staff who will travel to all the areas of the District to help constituents.

Again, thank you for the honor of electing me as your next U.S. Representative. I will work hard to fulfill your trust.

**Peter DeFazio**  
 Representative-elect  
 4th Congressional District

### Angry letter

I am glad that my angry letter on Oct. 31 has inspired such passionate responses from supporters of the "ALF." My pur-

pose was to flush out their views for public display by insulting them. Here, I present the same points with fewer emotional trappings.

The implied threat ("You will end up in a cage.") amplified by the editor's heading "Beware," is simply a dramatic way to state the fact that society will put vandals in jail. A jail term can accomplish something if it makes the jailed look silly.

A jail term for vandalism does nothing to stop cruelty to animals; it merely degrades the cause. We see these actions: a microscope is smashed, a mess is made, and blind white rabbits are dumped by the road in winter. This violence and stupidity, justified by carefully guarded ignorance, has the same effect on the community as the tantrum of a destructive child. It accomplishes nothing toward the goal of halting experiments with animals. "ALF"-ers, with violence as their banner, now have the moral stature of muggers.

My argument is the opposite of "leave it to the experts": become an expert in order to halt what you see as "cruel and unnecessary" research. If you want to have any effect, use coherent argument as your tool.

A 250-word letter is not the proper place for a discussion of biology. Science is not "mystique." It is accessible to anyone who wishes to take the time to study it. Scientists are human beings, with pets and concerns just like everyone else.

Actually, there are more important causes.

**Mark Grimes**  
 Molecular biology

### New religion

If anyone doubted that science is our new religion, the Emerald has verified it. The editorial of Oct. 30 admonishes that "sometimes the point of research is not clear to laymen," (i.e., non-clergy) and assures us that "there is no unnecessary animal research going on at the University."

Haven't we heard almost identical phrases before in a religious context? Every disturbing part of life has at some time been rationalized as "part of God's plan," which we cannot understand (but "we will understand it better by and by," according to the hymn). Now vivisection is justified in a like manner.

Notice: The purposes of the deities (animal researchers) are so arcane that laymen (even university students) cannot fathom them; the work is so "critical" that no one dare question it (to wonder about the suffering imposed on helpless creatures); the temple (laboratory) is so sacred that outsiders are not permitted to observe or tell what goes on inside.

Truly, Jehovah has been supplanted by the Holy Animal Researchers, and the Emerald editors are their priests.

**Jillian Stanley**  
 Eugene

### Stryper

The Nov. 11 article "Subliminal messages sway thoughts" made a good point, but it also made a common mistake. The Christian band mentioned is not "Stripper," but rather "Stryper." The name refers to Isaiah 53:5, which says "By His stripes (39 lashes on the back) we are healed."

By the way, why did the editors include quotations around the word Christian? It's not a slang word.

**Madrene Roeser**  
 Freshman, English

### Correction

Our editorial of Nov. 11 concerning the science buildings' groundbreaking erroneously reported that \$100 million had been contributed from private sources to the project.

Federal and private sources have contributed over \$100 million to the state education system in general since June of 1985, including funds for the science buildings.

We apologize for any misunderstanding we may have caused.

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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