

Presidents apology to nation falls short

In his State of the Union Message Tuesday, Reagan finally admitted "serious mistakes were made" in the sales of arms to Iran to secure the freedom of hostages in Lebanon and establish contacts with moderates in Iran. "We did not achieve what we wished," he said.

This announcement is not news for anyone who has watched the Iran arms-deal affair unfold. The news is that Reagan has finally admitted error in the action, and is now taking "full responsibility."

Unfortunately, his message fell far short of what the nation, its foreign policy in the Middle East destroyed, and the new hostages captured this weekend deserve.

Reagan fell far short of explaining who committed what mistakes and when the mistakes actually occurred. He did not explain how he would take responsibility, or how doing so would ease the severity of the conflict between Iran and Iraq — or the plight of hostages being held in the Middle East.

Once again, although Reagan may believe he was pursuing "worthy goals," faulty logic and administrative misdirection, or non-direction, worsened a crisis much more serious than Reagan's limited apology recognizes.

Congress should pursue catastrophic illness plan

President Reagan omitted a detailed plan for catastrophic illness insurance from his State of the Union Message Tuesday; Congress should now take the reins on the issue and run with it.

The plan would ease the disastrous economic burden that accompanies catastrophic illnesses in this time of skyrocketing health care and hospital costs, which often prove to be too much for ordinary insurance coverage.

Although Reagan advanced the program with his support of the idea in last year's State of the Union Message, he has now failed to meet his own deadline, leaving congressional leaders more eager to face the issue than his administration, which is split on proposals for the plan.

Congressional committees have been hearing testimony on the financial devastation wrought on people by short, severe medical needs, or long-term chronic care, and congressional leaders of both parties say they are now ready to tackle the issue themselves.

The current proposals center around a report calling for coverage of an unlimited number of days of hospital care, with the beneficiary's out-of-pocket payments limited to \$2,000 a year.

The question is whether these benefits should be organized federally, which would cost an additional \$4.92 a month in Medicare premiums, or privately by giving incentives to insurance companies.

Whatever solution Congress finds, Sen. John Heinz, R.-Penn., is correct in saying it must be truly comprehensive, providing a blanket of protection for those finding themselves in a desperate situation medically and financially.



Letters

Theoretical

I for one am tired of having theories (a plausible or scientifically acceptable general principle offered to explain phenomena) twisted to fit some ideological theo-political dogma.

Though not a specialist in evolutionary theory, it may be helpful to the debate if the protagonists read Manfred Eigens thoughts on evolutionary processes.

One point of Mr. Frary's and Mr. Richards' that I would like to discuss is their sophomoric interpretation of the second law of thermodynamics. Their caveat assumption states that since the entropy of the system can only increase and that biological entities represent an astronomical decrease in entropy, then life could not have originated from inorganic material.

If we look at a scientifically stated second law (1): The entropy change of an "adiabatically isolated system" is always positive for a natural process. The essential point is in quotes.

Adiabatic systems are those in which energy cannot enter or leave the system's boundaries. Obviously, the earth's surface

(the system) receives energy from the sun as well as the earth's interior. Therefore, the second law, by itself, is unable to deny evolution as a theory.

One last philosophical point: Science and faith are not exclusive of one another. My scientific knowledge serves to make my world more exciting and wondrous. Witnessing the birth of my daughter, the beginning of an intelligent life, was a wondrous transcendental experience that helps me to ascertain if there is a benevolent supreme being. Who is to say who is right and who is wrong? Certainly not I.

Dennis Kallimanis
Graduate, chemistry

Jogging

After some thought, I've concluded that the reason I jog about 30 miles a week is that my brain is holding the rest of me hostage, and there's within me a cover trade of fatigue for endomorphines, the latter ensuring the thrill of the treadmill. Oh well.

Tim Jaques
Undeclared

The beginning

Literal biblical scholars set the age of the earth and universe at around 6,000-years-old using genealogy. Astrophysists set the age of the universe at more than 10-billion years using

measurements of electromagnetic radiation left over from the creation event.

Geologists set the age of the earth at about 4.5 billion years using properties of the atoms that make up the earth. Paleontologists have found very simple fossils that are 3.5 billion years old.

Upon hearing the discrepancy between science and literal biblical interpretation, some biblical scholars insist fossils and physical artifacts were created by God to fool scientists.

Considering such a sense of humor, could God be above pulling the legs of a few zealous interpreters of the Bible? All people are imperfect, if you believe in original sin. Is it likely that the imperfect people who have received revelations, and the imperfect people who have copied, translated, and interpreted those revelations for many generations have brought to this day a perfect Bible?

In the fossil record, simple forms always appear in older (deeper) strata before more complex forms. The debate over rate of evolution (gradualism vs. punctuated) is not a debate over the fact of evolution. If literal interpretation of the Bible suggests that the earth is not very old, and that evolution did not occur then it is likely that either the Bible or the interpreter is incorrect. In either case, Mr. Frary and Mr. Richards, \$400 sounds good to me.

Walter Dodds
Visiting assistant professor
Biology

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 the 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.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff
Advertising Director Susan Thelen
Production Manager Wayne Michael Lottinville
Classified Advertising Alyson Simmons
Assistant to the Publisher Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager
Teresa Acosta, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Peter Miller, Joan Wildermuth.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Spectrum Editor
Spectrum Assistant Editor
Editorial Page Editors

Sports Editor
Photo Editor
Assistant Photo Editor
Graphic Editor
Night Editor

Associate Editors
Community
Politics
Higher Education / Administration
University Affairs
Student Government
Student Activities
General Assignment

Reporters: Sean Axmaker, Mary Courts, Karen Creighton, Gary Henley, Carolyn Lamberson, Scott Maben, Janet Paulson, B.J. Thomsen.

Photographers: Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, Dan Wheeler.

Production: Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Sandra Bevans, Sara Briscoe, Shu-Shing Chen, Janet Emery, Lisa Haggerty, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angelina Muniz, Julie Paul, Ingrid White, X. Kang Xie.

Michelle Brence
Lucinda Dillon
Michael Rivers
Curtis Condon
Stephen Maher
James Young
Michael Drummond
Capi Lynn
Michael Wilhelm
John Giustina
Lorraine Rath
Stan Nelson

Jolayne Houtz
Shawn Wirtz
Chris Norred
Stan Nelson
Sarah Kitchen
Tonnie Dakin
Dennis Fernandes