

## Meese and money; Reagan's black mark

Add Attorney General Ed Meese's name to the growing list of current and former Reagan aides who have been or are under investigation. Meese has garnished legal scrutiny for his involvement in the shady netherworld of crooked arms contract deals — once again calling into question the integrity of the highest ranking law enforcement official in the country.

Meese admitted last month that in 1982, when he served as Reagan's presidential aide, he used his influence and staff to help Wedtech, formerly a tool and die manufacturer turned defense bidder, win a \$32 million Army contract.

Meese is the only attorney general to be investigated three times. The first was in 1984 during Senate confirmation hearings. He was recently put under investigation for his involvement in the current Iran-Contra fiasco, and the latest investigation came last week when a special prosecutor took over the Justice Department's inquiry into the Wedtech scandal.

The central question surrounding Meese's latest governmental faux pas centers on whether he misused public office for personal gain. In 1985, Meese invested \$60,000 in a limited blind partnership with Wedtech, so his interest in that company was substantial.

Moreover, Wedtech, now defunct, had a sordid history of financial improprieties, and many of the company's former employees recently have admitted bribing government officials to gain non-competitive contracts. This fact, along with Meese's backroom dealings, casts a pall on the attorney general's integrity.

Regardless of what the special prosecutor finds, Meese's conduct as a public official rests on shaky ground. Until the special prosecutor releases his findings, Meese temporarily should step down from office. With the barrage of scandals that have riddled the current administration, the retention of Ed Meese merely adds insult to injury.

## Missile attack on U.S. ship both regrettable and tragic

The Iraqi missile attack of an American naval frigate last Sunday has highlighted the pitfalls of gunboat diplomacy and comes as a regrettable and tragic incident.

Twenty-eight crew members were reported dead with 21 injured. Pentagon officials report the frigate, christened The Stark, radioed the Iraqi plane and had one minute's warning there were incoming missiles, but for unexplained reasons it did not defend itself.

President Reagan has called for a heightened state of alert, permitting American forces to fire on threatening warplanes. Unfortunately, this comes after the fact. Due to the number of ships attacked in the Persian Gulf during the 6-year Iran-Iraq war, our warships should have had this clearance from the time we entered those turbulent waters.

Although Iraq claims the attack was inadvertent, this hardly absolves them from responsibility, and the Iraqi government must be held liable for an apology and reparations.

This kind of an attack is the stuff from which major wars are made, and the Reagan administration must act cautiously yet firmly to insure the safety of our ships and citizens as well as preserving international peace.



## Letters

### Battling bands

On Thursday, May 7, I saw a banner that read "WANTED: BANDS (ANY KIND) FOR A BATTLE OF THE BANDS." I called for more information and was told where to submit a demo tape.

I was also told that the bands would not be judged on the type of music they played, but on their musical ability. But I soon found that not to be the case.

My band is called Out of Control, and we play punk rock/speed metal. My band has a combined total music playing experience of about 19 years, but I guess that talent is not what you need.

You need to be a friend of one of the organizers or maybe play some mainstream popular music. It is obvious that a band that is against the "norm" will be rejected as we were.

I suppose I was asking too much of the organizers for us to be judged fairly. Maybe next time I'll have them to my house for punch and cookies and we can listen to the new Whitney Houston album. That way, if we become pals, my band will get a chance to play in this so-called "Battle of the Bands."

My band just wanted a chance to participate; we don't really care about winning it. All we ask is that the organizers not mislead potential contestants by saying "ANY KIND" of bands will play. It is obvious that they cannot assume responsibility to do what they say.

Ron Bush  
Theater arts

### Victim's right

What's more important, the rights of a child or the right to privacy of some creep who molests that child? That question is being debated in California at this time.

According to a segment of KTVU news (Oakland, Calif.), which aired in April of 1987, a police department in California is considering testing rape suspects for AIDS — as they now do for other sexually transmitted diseases. Sounds reasonable, doesn't it?

Well, the ACLU is screaming that this violates the suspect's rights. According to the news report, the ACLU is against testing for AIDS against a person's will.

That's insane! How would you like to be a mother of a raped child and have to worry that every time that little boy or girl got sick, it might be AIDS? Anyone who gives a child AIDS deserves no rights — except to a speedy execution for murder!

Yes, AIDS is a political disease. It's been made into a

political disease by liberals so caught up in the "rights" of the carrier that they would rather sacrifice innocent people than support sane, fair policies.

Lori Parkman  
Elmira, Ore.

### Power abused

This is in response to a letter by Dan Goulet in the ODE, May 14 entitled "Crack down."

Far from behaving like "a drunken mob on a witch hunt," the striking 4-J school teachers have behaved with commendable self-restraint in the face of a school board which refused to negotiate a contract for the year beginning September of '86 (the teachers had worked seven months without a contract before the strike) and police officers who flagrantly abused their powers.

At Churchill for instance, the police charged a crowd of strikers who were blocking the entrance of a busload of scabs, without giving strikers time to clear the area.

One police officer clubbed a teacher in the lower abdomen, knocking her to the ground, then kicked her. Another struck or shoved a radio reporter, but refused to give his badge number as required by law, leaving his victim unable to file a complaint (KZEL, tape of the incident, Monday, April 27).

Again, during a demonstration by strikers at the Lane County Fairgrounds, a police officer arrested a network cameraman, and tried to expose the videotape he'd been making of the incident (The Oregonian, May 5, 1987). While that borders on the pathetic, it is still a clear and flagrant violation of freedom of the press.

If there are villains in the strike, they are not the teachers, but those police officers who abused their authority and those who set the policies that allowed such abuses to happen.

Cat Faber  
Biochemistry graduate student  
Tuesday, May 19, 1987

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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