

## Reduction of CFCs only sane solution

The Senate urged President Reagan on Friday to cease and desist his administration's infighting regarding chlorofluorocarbons and endorse a worldwide ban on their use. The Senate stands correct on both fronts.

Chlorofluorocarbons — CFCs — are responsible for depleting the earth's ozone layer, the atmospheric shield protecting the globe from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, and are used as refrigerants and, industrial solvents and, outside the United States, as aerosol propellants.

Scientists assert that unless the rising fumes of CFCs are not abated, the ozone will suffer irreparable damage, causing increased incidences of skin cancer and a gradual heating of the planet.

This type of portent should not be taken likely. But Interior Secretary Donald Hodel recently proposed his own solution of dealing with ozone depletion by suggesting the population should dawn sunglasses, hats and lotions to block the sun's rays.

Hodel's suggestion would be humorous if this issue were not so important. Meanwhile, Secretary of State, George Shultz has seen the wisdom in calling for a global CFC ban and has urged the president to sponsor banning their use.

The urgency of chlorofluorocarbon pollution and the dim-witted remarks by the interior secretary prompted the Senate to force the administration's hand.

Friday's Senate resolution called for the president to stick with his original game plan — that is, to reduce CFC production by 90 percent over the next 15 years. Faced with cataclysmic consequences if we do not cut production, an administration refusal to limit CFC use would be nothing less than insane.

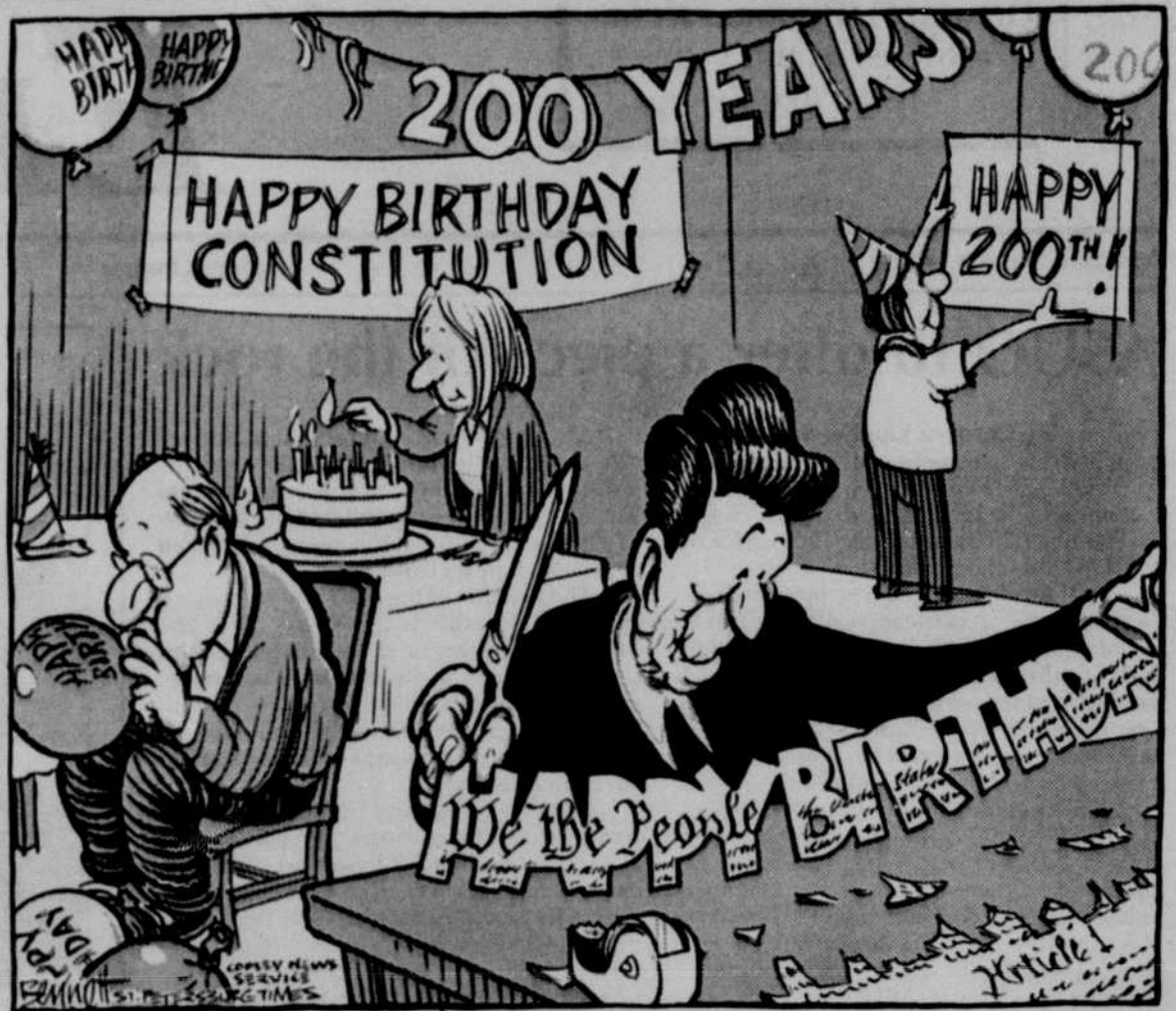
## Court cases and disease; legal parameters needed

A recent Time Magazine story reported that sufferers of Herpes are increasingly taking former lovers to court for transmitting the disease to them. The escalating number of law suits being filed illustrates a potential abuse of the courts.

This issue has far-reaching ramifications that could bog an already crowded court system. Few will argue against the injustice dealt to those who may become infected by a reticent lover infected with a sexually transmitted disease. Obviously, those with communicable disease should inform intimate partners of any ailments they may have, especially if infected with an incurable disease such as Herpes 2 or AIDS.

Although the possibility of being taken to court for not telling a partner about having a particular disease may encourage some to admit to their problem before engaging in sex, responsibility for doing so rests entirely between the individuals involved.

It would be a small step for courts to hear cases originating in the bedroom to hearing those, say, accusing another of sneezing on them in a crowded elevator, which may result in one catching the flu. Clearly, legislation will be needed to control the legal parameters involving sexually transmitted diseases and limits must be set on what cases the courts may or may not hear.



## Commentary

### Heritage one aspect of identity

Among the University's reasons for being is to serve as a resource with regard to issues of personal identity. However, it is not ordinarily emphasized to the degree that its other functions are. I would suggest that today identity dilemmas generate considerable emotional unease for a sizable segment of the students found on our campuses.

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Consider the identity dilemmas that invariably affect American non-white students — particularly those blacks, Native Americans, and Hispanics whose previous life experiences contrast sharply with the values ethos which

usually is celebrated within an academic community.

The heart of the identity dilemma involves being aware of one's racial-ethnic heritage, while preparing to compete for opportunities in the societal mainstream. This emotional conflict tends to generate what can be described as a double consciousness. Unless the split allegiance can be satisfactorily worked through, it is highly probable the resulting internal discomfort will interfere with creditable academic achievement.

Achieving a stable sense of self is difficult when one is aware of being "stretched" between two social worlds. For example, in a mid-1970s essay, Mexican-American writer Richard Rodriguez described the "trade-offs" that must be accommodated by serious students of color who choose to follow the path leading to personal empowerment: "...the youth who moves to an academic culture from a culture that dramatically lacks academic traditions must give nearly unquestioning allegiance to academic culture if he is to succeed at all, so different is the milieu of the classroom from the culture he leaves behind. For a time, the scholarship boy may try to balance his loyalty between his concretely experienced family life and the more abstract mental life of the classroom. In the end, though he must choose between the two worlds: if he intends to succeed as a student, he must, literally and figuratively separate himself from his family, with its gregarious life, and find a quiet place to be alone with his

thoughts." (From "Going Home Again: The New American Scholarship Boy").

I believe he is correct in contending that as soon as the value of personal empowerment in contemporary American society is affirmed, the individual must be prepared to follow the established ground rules leading to that desired state of being. In other words, the CHALLENGE which the conscientious student of color must accept is this: Beyond my sense of who I am racially and ethnically, if I choose to envision myself in the American occupational mainstream, then I must commit myself to the mastery of those skills and competencies which are aligned with security in that sector.

In the July 1986 issue of "Psychology Today," Mario Cuomo, Gov., NY, also discussed "The American Dream and the Politics of Inclusion." A first-generation American of Italian descent, Cuomo asserted, "the dream of America endures only so long as we keep faith with the struggle to include."

He expressed confidence in the ability of most of us diverse Americans to make it on our merits — given a fair chance.

As I continue to think about the University as resource and as forum, my hope is that those students of color who choose to become empowered and reasonably secure in the "post-industrial society" that is now emerging will learn to view race and ethnicity as only one component of a much larger mosaic of personal identity.

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