

# Editorial

## Mozambican policy displays concern

President Reagan met Monday with the president of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, demonstrating a sensitivity to the strife-torn Marxist nation that will entail mutual benefits. This act of diplomacy represents a small step forward in the implementation of U.S. foreign policy, and Reagan should be commended for a move that may help end Mozambique's bloody civil war.

The well-conceded conference with Chissano may result in substantial economic and strategic gains for both nations. The United States, for example, may benefit economically by increasing trade relations with the Southern African nation. The United States also may benefit strategically by increasing its influence with the Soviet-supported country.

During the meeting, Reagan pledged that the United States would pressure South Africa to cease supplying the RENAMO rebels — who recently launched a potent offensive against Mozambique's 50,000-strong military — with military hardware.

By standing up to South Africa for Marxist Mozambique, the Reagan administration is taking a decisive stance against South Africa's attempt to destabilize its neighbors for political gain. Such active diplomacy against South Africa will increase U.S. credibility and hence its influence in Southern Africa.

Yet, despite the possible benefits, some conservatives in Congress protested the conference, claiming the Reagan administration is ignoring the RENAMO rebels fighting to topple the Marxist government.

Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., and Sens. Robert Dole, R-Kan., and Jesse Helms, R-N.C., are calling for President Reagan to give Marxist Mozambique the same treatment the United States gives to other "Marxist" countries, such as Nicaragua.

Moreover, these conservative republicans are asserting that the Reagan Doctrine, which calls for U.S. support of "those...risking their lives to defy Soviet aggression," should be used in support of the RENAMO rebels.

But Reagan has countered that Mozambique is one place where the Reagan Doctrine does not apply. This has led many critics to accuse Reagan of inconsistency in the application of his doctrine, especially toward this nation.

Reagan, however, is correct in denying support to the rebels, who have committed atrocities against civilians.

For example, the Mozambican resistance movement, led by Alfonso Dhlakama, recently slaughtered 380 civilians in a violent rage after receiving a parachute drop of arms and ammunition from the South African air force.

But Reagan's inconsistency in the application of his doctrine also demonstrates his myopic view toward Nicaragua.

Rather than showing Reagan's leniency toward Mozambique, Reagan's decision not to back the RENAMO rebels elucidates his blind obsession with actively supporting the Contras' quest to overthrow the Sandinista government.

Furthermore, President Reagan's meeting with Mozambican President Chissano demonstrates the urgent need for a high-level diplomatic meeting between the United States and Nicaragua, preferably between Reagan and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

If Reagan is as serious about peace in Central America as he claims, then a meeting with Ortega is paramount to ending the civil war in Nicaragua.



## Letters

### Disinformed

Your Bork editorial (ODE, Oct. 5) should have been signed "The Bork Disinformers," the title of the Wall Street Journal editorial of October 5th.

You imply that Judge Bork was nominated solely on ideological grounds. He is the nation's most qualified nominee, according to former Chief Justice Warren Burger.

You say there was "a disinformation campaign to reflag Bork as a mainstream moderate." Former Chief Justice Burger has said that Bork is as mainstream as he is. How do you refute a former Chief Justice?

There indeed has been a disinformation campaign — by the opponents of Judge Bork. The attacks on Bork have been anti-intellectual and led by mediocre minds, like Joe Biden and Teddy Kennedy (he cheated at college, too).

Bork is endorsed by the most distinguished legal minds of our nation (former Attorney Generals Brownell, Roger Richardson, Saxbe, Levi, Bell and French Smith). These great men have no political aspirations and they are on both sides

of the political spectrum.

You claim that Bork would be "an ally only toward political speech." Anyone who watched the hearings knows that this is a lie. Years ago, as a professor, he proposed "political speech" as the "bright line" between what is protected and what is not. He was trying to develop a decision criteria and this is not his current view. Protect all forms of artistic expression? What about kiddie porn? Snuff films?

Your summary of the "Chicago" school of economic theory is rather novel. The economics professors at University of Chicago (and members of the Nobel Prize committee) would be shocked to learn that they support an economic theory whose "aggregate result is the unfair distribution of wealth from the poor to the rich."

This editorial was an outrage to "anyone who holds dear the ideals of rational discourse and honest scholarship."

W. Hampton  
MBA

### Subtle racism

I was at first reluctant to write this letter for fear of being further misinterpreted. However, I would be remiss to permit the perpetuation of misimpressions contained within the Emerald to pass unchallenged ("Needs not being met, minority students say", ODE, Oct. 7).

In summary, the article was the Emerald's yearly non-substantive glossover of the University's efforts to recruit and

retain minorities.

Two other black students and I spoke with the reporter in the Black Student Union for over an hour in an attempt to offer our perspectives to his questions on why more blacks don't attend college.

Although the reporter admitted to having biased views towards blacks, he assured us that he would write a fair and unbiased article. Unfortunately, that was not the result.

Inappropriately, the article collectively treats each disparate minority group — and each individual within that group — as if all had common aspirations and problems. In fact, the only common characteristic is the disenfranchisement from the majority student population.

The very fact that we are perceived as "minorities" — rather than as individuals — initiates a chain of stereotypical categorizations. A blatant example is a misquote attributed to me which appeared in the article.

"You don't have nobody to lean on." I made no remotely similar comment. Why was it printed? A mistake? Or just as likely, the stereotypical vernacular was inserted by the reporter to add contrived "authentic" flavor.

Whatever the reason for printing the misquote, the effect is a perpetuation of the "inarticulate black" stereotype. Eighteen thousand Emerald readers receive another dose of subliminal racism.

Julie Sprague  
Senior, general science

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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 any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.