

Editorial

Reagan's vow to veto rights bill foolish

President Reagan has promised to veto what even House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill., admits is "the single most important piece of civil rights legislation since those landmark bills of 20 years ago." Such a vow is not surprising given Reagan's track record on civil rights, but it is still offensive and, in this case, foolish.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act swept through both houses of Congress with more than enough votes to override any presidential veto. The legislation addresses a truly strange 1984 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that narrowly defined the government's ability to punish discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age or physical disability at institutions that receive federal aid.

The case, *Grove City College vs. Bell*, ruled that laws barring discrimination at schools only applied to the educational programs that received federal aid, and not to other non-funded programs. The new act remedies this loophole by specifying that whole institutions are accountable to civil rights prosecution if any part of the institution receives federal monies.

This would give the government some leverage in ending rights violations. If the government is giving money to a school's chemistry department, for example, it would no longer be able to turn a blind eye to discrimination in the athletic department. Such money-withholding tactics have been used by the Reagan administration in wider scenarios, such as the recent freezing of Panamanian assets or the decision to withhold highway funds from states with drinking ages less than 21.

The tactics succeed because money talks, and if Reagan were committed to civil rights in this country, he would be willing to "put the Scrooge down" as he has done before. Such is not the case. The president excuses his dislike for the bill by claiming that its changes will lead to increased governmental meddling in people's private lives.

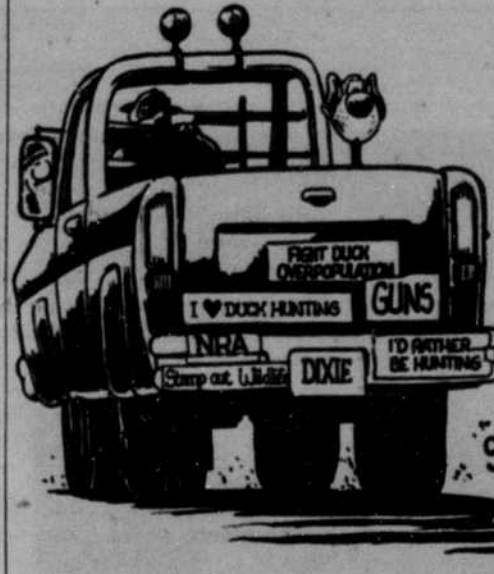
In a statement released with the State of the Union address, Reagan said the bill's "vague and sweeping language threatens to subject every facet of American life... to intrusive regulation by federal agencies and courts."

This is not true, however. Before the surprising 1984 court ruling, it was commonly assumed that agencies would be expected to abide by federal demands if they wanted to receive federal money. The new act would revive that assumption. This legislation would not make the "sweeping changes" Reagan fears, but would simply restore civil rights in this country to the level they were at four years ago.

To this end, Reagan should adopt this bill as a chance to repair some of the harm he has done to the civil rights movement during his administration. Some hard-line Republicans have contended that the Democrats are pushing for an act the president will not accept only to create a campaign issue in this election year.

But if anyone makes an issue out of this bill, it will be the president through his repeated negligence of civil rights. Because a veto will be easily overridden with both Democratic and Republican support, Reagan's stand will look pathetic and ugly.

Heading South



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Letters

Holocaust

A few days ago, the Israeli government prevented TV reporters from entering the occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza. This policy is a very important turning point with respect to the recent situation in those territories.

In 1982, Israel adopted the same policy and did not allow reporters to enter the Palestinian camps in Sabra and Shatila. The reason for that policy was understood a few days later, when 2,000 Palestinians were massacred in one of the most hated crimes in the 20th century.

What the Israeli government is practicing against the Palestinians now is the exact replication of what was done to the Jews in Nazi Germany. Palestinians are indiscriminately killed, beaten and buried alive. The Palestinians furthermore are put under continuous curfews in their own land, in camps that are not different from the Nazi concentration camps.

The world did not tolerate the Nazi crimes against the Jews in the 1930s. Is the world willing to take similar actions to stop the Israeli Nazi crimes against the Palestinians?

Khaled Al-Azzouni
PPPM

Invitation

We are writing in response to the publicity we've received concerning the reopening of the old Barney Cable's Tavern as The Jubilee.

As lifetime residents of this community, we would like to express our respect for those who may not care to patronize our establishment, and extend an invitation to all those who may.

We will feature a fine lunch menu without entertainment, and in the afternoon open with entertainment for men as well as women. We have renovated the building inside and out and will provide a tasteful decor with oak, brass, marble and wallpapering to fit our 1940s motif.

As a final comment, we would ask that we not be judged until we have something to be judged upon.

Jim Jensen
Skip Osterhout
Owners, The Jubilee

Condom quality

It's unfortunate that a person who has written a letter to the Emerald had a bad experience with the machine-purchased condoms on campus. It has prompted us to do a bit of research on condom quality. Our sources of information were Bob McAllister of the Oregon State Health Division in Portland, and Steve Schulte of the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy condom testing division.

The State of Oregon is one of the few states that require the testing of all brands and styles of condoms sold in the state — wholesale, retail and in machines. The standards for strength are the same whether the condom is "ultra-thin" or of regular thickness. Also, both sources of information said the "ribbing" on acceptable condoms would not in itself be capable of causing tears in the vaginal tissue.

The brand of condoms carried in the machine is a brand that has been tested and approved by the State Board of Pharmacy. Other types and brands of condoms are available at various

campus locations, including the Student Health Center Pharmacy.

One note of caution regarding "natural skin" condoms: they are more likely to break, as well as being more permeable to the AIDS virus. The health center recommends lubricated latex condoms.

The health center has plain lubricated condoms and spermicidally lubricated condoms, as well as water-based lubricating jelly. Please come by the Student Health Center for educational materials, free samples and advice.

Ila James, Pharmacist
University AIDS Task Force

Rich get richer

What a colossal exercise in hypocrisy is this Greek Days of Giving. The children of the rich banding together to give back a little of the money their parents have stolen.

After all, the Greek system is fundamentally an institution for economically privileged children. (Does this surprise anyone?) As such, these children, along with their parents, have enjoyed the benefits of class polarization that the Reagan Revolution has produced. Increased dividends and reduced taxes for daddy have meant more clothes, cars and coke for the kids.

Unfortunately, the flip side of class polarization is that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Thus, the "feel good" bullshit of the '80s has served as a smoke screen to hide the transfer of wealth from poor to rich. To a sizable majority (85 percent), the '80s have meant a reduction in their real incomes. More children in poverty, more homelessness, more minimum-wage jobs. More suffering.

If the Greek system members really want to give some help to the less fortunate, they can begin by contemplating the political, social and economic environment that allows them to live their life of privilege while others suffer miserably.

Timothy D. Semlick
Political science
Tuesday, March 8, 1988

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