

Editorial

Meese's drug plan violates Constitution

In yet another attempt to save the nation from the forces of evil, Attorney General Edwin Meese earlier this week proposed mandatory drug testing of virtually all workers in the country.

Fortunately, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, with whom Meese addressed the issue, approved a resolution condemning federal anti-drug efforts.

Meese explained to the audience of mayors and police chiefs that current drug testing by major corporations and utilities has had a demonstrated effect on the decrease of job-related accidents, the increase of job productivity and the prevention of people breaking the law.

But while Meese may be correct in the demonstrated outcome of current drug testing, he has completely ignored what would result from such extensive testing.

Meese's plan for federal drug testing is not only ill-conceived and impossible to administer, but it is a blatant violation of the U.S. Constitution.

One would assume Ed Meese, as a government official, would be well-versed and familiar with the Constitution and its ban on unreasonable search and seizure.

In the past, federal judges have refused to initiate widespread mandatory drug testing for reasons of Constitutional violation.

Meese's proposal is just another poor attempt by the Reagan administration to force outside entities — employers — to do what the government cannot even do itself.

PTL: Praise The Lord, but pass over some of the loot

It seems as if some people's troubles never end. Jim and Tammy Bakker are such people.

The Internal Revenue Service announced April 22 that the Bakkers' Praise The Lord Ministries would no longer be granted the tax-exempt status granted to religious organizations. It's a good thing the government will be able to grab some of that moolah before it and PTL disappear entirely in bankruptcy.

Besides substantially easing the tax burden on the nation's citizens, the bloated PTL really was a more profitable business enterprise than a proper spiritual endeavor. We might expect big condos and air-conditioned dog houses from Donald Trump, but not from the Dali Lama.

An IRS spokesman said the IRS found "excessively unrelated business income which was not really in keeping with the tax-exempt purpose" of religious organizations. The way the country was spellbound by the traumas of Jim and Tammy Faye, one wonders how hard they really had to look.

One day, perhaps the Bakkers will be able to overcome the obstacles they face and reinstate their ministry without it becoming the subject matter for an episode of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Shameless." While they may never be as monetarily wealthy as they were before, they certainly would be spiritually richer.

IF ONLY WE HAD DOPE TESTING 8 YEARS AGO...



Letters

Hatred

Jon Wollander's letter of April 21 was quite a monument to hatred and prejudice. I was very impressed with the completeness of his tunnel-visioned bigotry.

Wollander asks what homosexuals have to be proud of. How about the courage to stand up to generations of discrimination in order to protect basic human rights? What do Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi have to be proud of?

Mr. Wollander seems to think that a societal norm is morally right merely due to the fact of its being a societal norm. He seems to forget that slavery, torture, rape and segregation have been societal norms throughout history. Does this make them morally correct actions? I think not!

Once again, hatred is rearing its ugly head on the University campus. Discrimination against gay people is no different than hatred against blacks, Jews, Catholics, women, the elderly, Chicanos, etc., etc., etc. Hatred is hatred, and it breeds more hatred. Beliefs similar to Wollander's have been used to

justify murder, war and atrocities since the dawn of humanity.

Mr. Wollander, your hatred is not new, your prejudice is unoriginal and your narrow-minded, bigoted, judgmental attitude belongs in the Middle Ages, when they tortured people to death for disagreeing with the church.

Mr. Wollander, if ever there were a time to quit filling the world with hate, this is it. You should consider participating in "Hate Shame Week." You owe it to yourself, your society and humanity.

Jeff Heiman

Rhetoric and communication

Disturbed

It disturbs me greatly that the Emerald chose recently to publish the letter of Jon Wollander (April 21) on Gay Pride Week. Armed with a trite, familiar blaming of gays for the AIDS epidemic, this letter launches an attack on the basic human right of group identity that would be terrifying, if it were not also so trite. Fortunately, Wollander's approval is not required for the celebration of Gay Pride Week.

Has the editorial board perhaps confused its obligation to present opposing views with some compulsion to give a platform to hatred?

In its selection of letters to be published, the board has apparently failed to consider the irresponsibility of adding to the burden that GALA and other Gay Pride Week participants already shoulder of regularly having to defend their right to exist.

I am saddened that the Emerald has, by editorial choice, lowered the level of discourse, and the esteem for tolerance of diversity, on this campus.

Lucille R. Kaplan
Director,
Office of Student Advocacy

University-ese

The organizers of the recent symposium on "life-origin theories" were represented as "having the goal of presenting an educational event... rather than staging a debate over creation-science." But what did "educational event" evidently turn out to mean, in University-ese language?

It turned out to mean a one-sided symposium consisting solely of lecturers with a definitely anti-creation evolutionary philosophical bias. Instead of having a debate, we had presented one side of a debate.

The lecturers, without exception, indulged in glib denigration of the defenseless creation camp (since none of the qualified creationist scientists were invited to give their views) and predictably portrayed their largely unsupported (with concrete scientific data — I heard practically none) transient theories as fact. That's easy for them to do in the absence of opposition, however that tactic is plainly of the indoctrinational genre.

At the first lecture it was said that the Gaston funds were to be used at the University for "education about the Christian religion." Is that going to mean (in University-ese) presenting only secular, evolutionist criticisms of the Christian faith? Would Mr. Gaston approve? Would that be in the interest of truth and open inquiry, or would the University continue to cement itself as an institution with a definite philosophical bias?

If creationist theory and data is so laughable, why not let the students hear it from a qualified proponent and laugh for themselves, or perhaps gain a new and valuable perspective? I'm sure the University would survive.

David W. Andrews
Eugene
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