

Short-sighted court shows its true colors

Although Ronald Reagan has packed his conservatism and his cowboy boots and moved back to California, the Reagan-enhanced conservative Supreme Court has stabbed affirmative action in the heart.

Some of the more vocal members of the white majority will no doubt swell with pride and fill the woods with hoots of support for the Reagan Supreme Court appointees: Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy.

Of course, three other Supreme Court justices voted to bulldoze the Richmond, Va. law that provided a percentage of public works contracts for minority-owned businesses.

Only three justices stood up to the conservative ruling, and they did so vehemently, with outspoken support of the Richmond law. In a 34-page dissent, Justice Thurgood Marshall, the court's only black, said, "Today's decision marks a deliberate and giant step backward in this court's affirmative action jurisprudence."

That's putting it mildly.

Not only does the court's action eliminate standards of equality in the awarding of contracts, it also denies the constitutionality of any state and local government program that gives preference to any race over another in hiring and in promotions.

But such artificial forms of equality are necessary if no other kind exists.

If overwhelming statistics fail to convince, what constitutes evidence of discrimination? No one seems to know. Cities and states with far-sighted programs similar to Richmond's are taken aback. After all, Richmond's appeal was supported by the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and many state and city governments nationwide.

Here we have a fairly strong example of the Supreme Court having its head in the sand: Richmond's population is more than 200,000, approximately half of which is black. Minority-owned companies in Richmond historically have been awarded less than one percent of the city's \$124 million in contracts. Apparently, the Supreme Court's interpretation of justice ignores the relevance of such obvious statistics.

Bad news for minorities is the order of the day. Given the recent wave of ethnic insensitivity and cruelty, an astute and well-informed mind can only predict sad times for our minority sisters and brothers.

Check your feelings on this issue. As a member of what you've always considered the moderate white majority, do you feel vindicated for years of complaining about reverse discrimination? Or do you feel ashamed?

Perhaps the time has come for the proponents of sensitivity to take a stand.

Bundy accepted his fate, but blamed pornography

In the end, confessed serial killer Ted Bundy supposedly changed. He wept. He dropped his icy facade and showed remorse. He confessed to a string of crimes to which he had previously sworn innocent. But Bundy died trying to pass along the blame for his heinous acts to a co-conspirator.

Bundy claimed a lifelong relationship with hardcore pornography. He blamed it for fertilizing his murderous imagination.

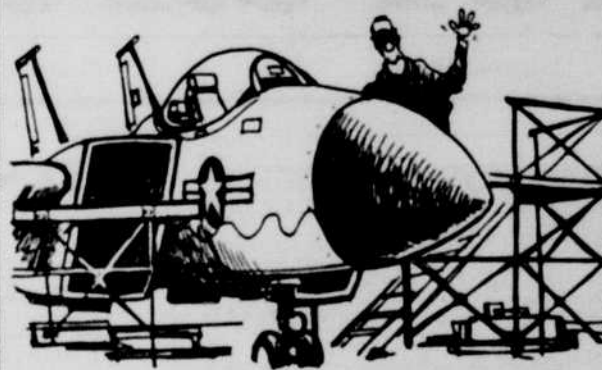
Bundy has been blamed for dozens of murders, most of which he undoubtedly committed. Before his execution, very few people were surprised by the sheer number of murders to which Bundy willingly confessed. By blaming his actions on a taste for pornography, he wanted to shift the responsibility from himself and from his family.

Although Bundy insisted that his family was "normal," Dr. Dorothy Otnow Lewis, the psychiatrist who spent hours examining him and interviewing his relatives, says differently. According to Lewis, Bundy's maternal grandfather was an "extremely violent and frightening individual who would kick dogs, swing cats by their tails and beat people who angered him." His maternal grandmother had been hospitalized more than once for psychotic depression and had undergone electroshock therapy.

Of course, Bundy's family is not to blame either. Bundy is to blame. We do not condone hardcore pornography, but it is doubtful that Bundy had the same concept of pornography as do those who wish to ban it. Opponents of pornography should not use Bundy as a justification for its banning.

It should be remembered that Bundy himself claimed that a taste for pornography promoted his violent behavior; the host of experts who examined the dark workings of the killer's mind came to no such conclusion.

LOOKING BACK ON THE REAGAN YEARS, WHO DID MORE DEFENSE WORK?



MILITARY CONTRACTORS



D.C. LAWYERS REPRESENTING REAGAN APPOINTEES

Jewish exhibit shows hope, constant fight for survival

By David Shayne

More than 40 years ago, the Jewish community of the British-administered Palestine Mandate declared its independence because it was the only

Commentary

way to guarantee that the Jews of Palestine need never again live as oppressed second-class citizens, in constant fear for their safety and well-being.

Although the new state, Israel, extended its hand in friendship to its Arab neighbors and assured its non-Jewish minority that they would enjoy equal rights as full citizens, the Arab world responded that it would never tolerate Jewish independence in any part of Palestine and embarked on a campaign to destroy Israel using any means at its disposal, whether military, economic or political.

The result has been tens of thousands of dead, millions of refugees (both Arab and Jewish) and untold suffering for all nations involved.

The anti-Israel propaganda campaign is part of this overall effort and has been given impetus by the recent unrest in the occupied territories. American campuses, including the University, are major targets of this campaign. Very often, Israel's opponents use inaccurate facts or facts taken out of context to present a false picture of Israel.

Our purpose in presenting this exhibit is to show that in spite of its problems and in the face of adversity unparalleled in modern history, Israel has rescued and rehabilitated hundreds of thousands of persecuted refugees (not all of them Jewish), and has attempted to develop an advanced society based in principles of human equality and dignity. While these goals have yet to be fully achieved, tremendous strides have been made.

This exhibit is not intended by its organizers to represent a blanket approval of all Israeli policies and actions. As is true of any modern nation-state, there is plenty to criticize in Israel; indeed, Israel is one of the most self-critical societies in the world. But criticizing Israel's role in conflict that it tried to avoid while ignoring the hostility, intolerance and acts of aggression emanating from

the Arab side is fundamentally unjust.

Both sides must acknowledge each other's rights. Israel has long recognized that the Palestinian Arabs are entitled to their legitimate rights. It is our sincere hope that recent developments signal a change in the traditional Palestinian attitudes of no recognition of or peace with Israel.

A just and permanent resolution to this complex dispute must be preceded by mutual respect and dialogue. Slandering distortions of the truth and ethnic slurs harm the chances for peace and cooperation between Arabs and Jews. We hope that by sharing some of what we know about Israel's constant fight for survival will further understanding, which in turn will further cooperation. It is in this spirit of cooperation that members of the Jewish Student Union (JSU) invite the public to visit this exhibit.

David Shayne is the director of the Jewish Student Union. The exhibit about which he writes, "Between the Cross Hairs: Israel's Struggle to Survive," is located in the EMU Fir Room.

Letters

RU-486

A new administration is now installed at the White House and it appears that some things change and some things stay the same.

President Bush and company are bowing to the pressure of the fallen-evangelist right-wing looney types just as the previous bunch had. The pressure is on to curtail abortions. Twenty-five years after Roe vs. Wade, the good sense and jurisprudence of the Supreme Court may have decayed to the point where they would severely restrict legal abortions — and the new administration is cheering them on.

What would be the result if they were successful?

RU-486, a drug recently developed in France, induces an abortion in the early stages of pregnancy. If abortion were re-criminalized, this drug would

probably find its way to the streets of America and be added to the list of hated and banned substances. The sellers would become the newest "dealers of death" and the new administration would not only have to deal with clandestine abortion clinics but with this new drug, and its dealers, as well.

The conservative movement in America has long complained about the ills of over-regulation of business by the government. When are they going to apply this same laissez-faire philosophy to the private lives of others and save this country from a lot of grief?

Peter Backes
Student

Clouston?

I am trying to trace relatives whose forebears migrated from their ancestral home in the Orkney Isles, probably in the first half of the last century. They are believed to have settled eventually in the Eugene area of Oregon. Their surname was "Clouston." Those who bear that surname are all related, as they had a common ancestor.

I would be interested in any information at all concerning descendants

Kenry Robin Clouston
38 Abbey Ring
Holywood
Co Doan
Northern Ireland
BT18 9NU

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.