

Bush's veto leaves sour taste in mouth

With his usual mixture of ineptness, fumbling and gracelessness, George Bush once again has shown he favors political posturing over human compassion.

Just before the Congressional session ended last week, a bill was passed which would have allowed Chinese students to remain in the United States after their visas expired. It unanimously passed both the House and Senate, and awaited only the president's signature to become law.

It was rumored that Bush would let the bill die with a pocket veto, but late yesterday, George killed the legislation outright, leaving opponents to his action with no time to muster a defense.

More than 40,000 Chinese students currently study in the United States. The bill would not have granted them political asylum, but rather would have given them an option if the government in China continued on its bloody course.

Since the early 1970s the U.S. government has been leery of criticizing Chinese leaders. The tenuous relationship between the two countries, which Nixon cultivated and succeeding presidents have maintained, has been strained since China's rampage through Tiananmen Square last June.

Bush apparently felt the student-visa bill would cause China to sever ties with the United States.

Maybe. It's hard to tell what the Chinese government would have done if Bush had signed the bill. But there is a time for politics, and a time for humanity.

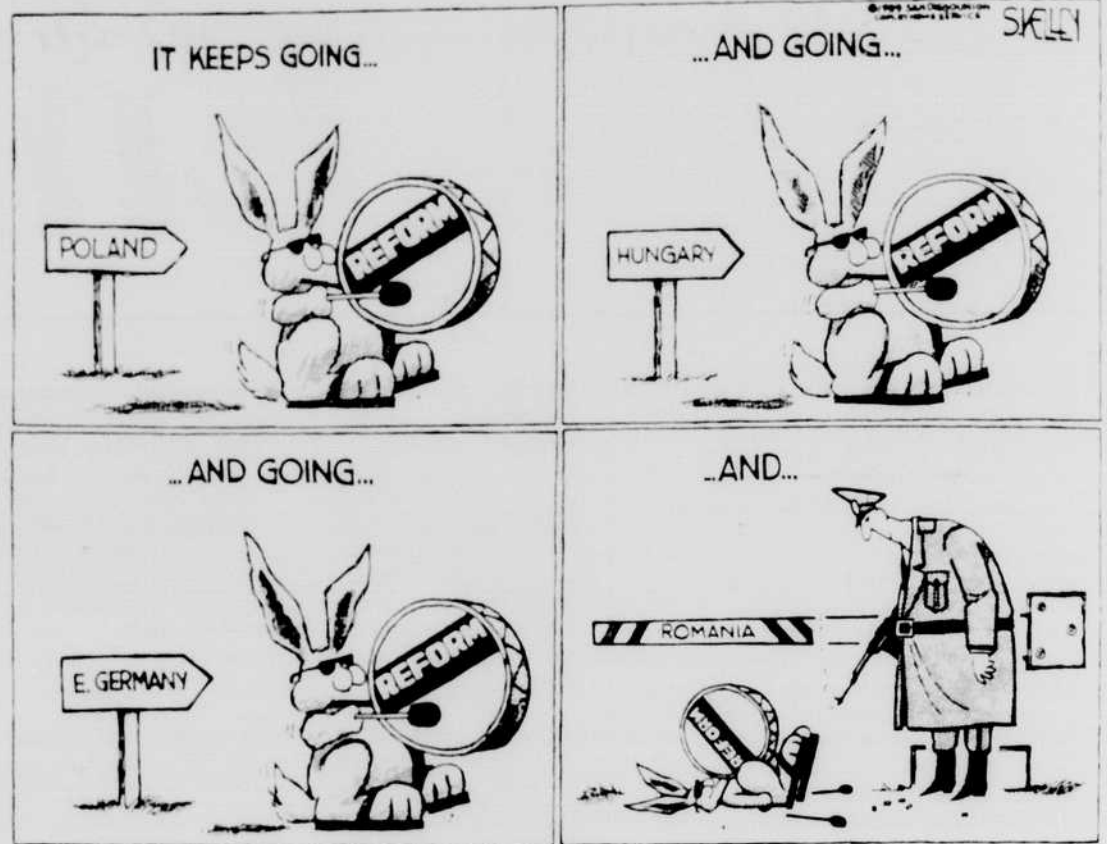
In this case, the needs of 43,000 students are much greater than any U.S.-China political relationship. If the students are forced to return to China, there is a good chance some of them will be interrogated, arrested or executed.

Bush always has been tolerant of the Chinese government, dating back to his days as ambassador to the country about a decade ago. He's friends with former leader Deng Xiaoping, who was responsible for the massacre of the student protesters. So his actions of late should come as no surprise, though they do leave us confused, upset and irate.

The United States Student Association and ASUO had planned on sponsoring a phone-in to the White House so students could speak their minds on the subject, and inform Bush of their opinions. Now that the bill is officially vetoed and the phone-in has been canceled. But the reasons for the phone-in — and the anger Bush has provoked — still remain.

But Congress will reconvene in January. Even though the bill is dead, the issue is far from decided. When Congress is back in session, let Packwood, Hatfield and DeFazio know what you think. Tell them to bring the bill back up again.

Bush is outnumbered on this 535-1. It is highly likely that if he decides to veto the bill again, Congress can override him.



Charity and humanity should last all year

This is the time of year when charity runs amok. People of all sorts feel the need to help those less fortunate than themselves. Well, there are groups and organizations that feel the need to help out all year long, too.

FOOD for Lane County is one of those groups. Year round FOOD for Lane County gathers food donations to be distributed at local shelters, soup kitchens, food boxes and residential programs.

The donations (food or money) come from many places — some are private but many are from local stores. Unfortunately, these businesses cannot contribute as much as they have in the past. No one could expect a small group of contributors to feed all the hungry people in the area.

So recently FOOD for Lane County began a program called Small Change. This program asks people to donate an amount equal to one percent of their restaurant or store purchases. So far more than 70 restaurants and businesses in Eugene are collecting for the program.

This is not just a holiday program. FOOD for Lane County plans to run Small Change all year, enabling them to maintain a decent food supply so when times are bad and people are not so charitable, the hungry can still eat.

Programs like this often do not get the recognition they deserve. Hunger is one of the saddest social problems of our time. In a nation where there is so much wealth and potential, it is disgusting that we let our people go hungry.

Government funding for these programs is minimal, and it looks as if the situation will not improve for quite some time, so it's important for each community to support its needy people.

Amid the usual holiday barrage of canned food drives, clothing drives, 'giving trees' and free Christmas dinners, it is important to remember that all the good spirit suddenly overwhelming you during the holiday season should be saved up and spread throughout the year.

Although many people do not have enough money to give some away, many of us tend to spend money on things that satisfy momentary desires and are meaningless in the long run.

So next-time you are about to buy junk food or magazines, or play some video games, maybe you should put the money to better use by donating it to one of the many programs serving those people who really need it. There are Small Change donations jars at several businesses in the campus area.

Letters

Illusions

I credit the ODE for factually reporting the pro-abortionists burning a large stack of "Unmasking Planned Parenthood" newsletters (Aren't those the same liberals who so loudly condemn "book burning" censorship?) and ripping down pro-life handmade signs (the same mentality that promotes ripping the fetus out of the womb) at the Nov. 12 Planned Parenthood pro-abortion rally at the Federal building.

However, here are some observations of the pro-choice-to-kill folks not reported by the ODE:

Thrusting their signs in front of pro-life signs, in an attempt to hide (or out of embarrassment for) the truth:

My pregnant wife, holding a sign as they shriek chants in her ear and blow cigarette smoke in her face:

And the vulgarity of some of

their signs: "Men against Abortion Should --- Themselves," "Get your ---ing Hands Out Of My Uterus."

Planned Parenthood's main goal is to give the illusion of everyone being pro-choice-to-kill. The vast majority of those pro-abortion demonstrators were dissident University students.

Don't make the mistake of confusing the zeal of the media and some University agitators with a groundswell. These radical feminists do not represent the mainstream of our community. In fact, neutrally worded surveys consistently show a large majority of voters rejecting the reasons for which 90 percent of abortions are now done.

Local politicians would be well advised to differentiate between mainstream residents, and a minority of militant college agents aided by biased pro-abortion Planned Parent-

hood fabrications.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Un-American

On Thursday, Nov. 9, I walked into Willamette Hall, and a security officer stopped me and said I couldn't enter "that room."

"Which room," I asked. "This one?" pointing to my workplace.

"No, that room is O.K. You can't go into the lecture room."

I was informed that there was a "controversial lecture" going on and "they weren't letting anyone else in." There was no threat, and I was informed that they were "just taking precautionary measures."

Is it the policy of this administration to deny access to anyone they think may not agree with their policies? Is it their duty to protect public officials from the public? (I learned days

later that the lecture was attended by Gov. Goldschmidt.)

I have since talked to another faculty member who entered the room five minutes before I was stopped. Apparently he did not appear as threatening to security as I did. I have a beard. Does a beard indicate an inclination toward violence or bad manners?

What deeply concerns me is what this incident represents. The public has the right to scrutinize any research or lecture on this campus. Visiting public officials may have to deal with the public when attending a public event. We don't need to be intimidated by security people, limiting access to particular rooms or buildings.

I request that President Brand and the rest of the administration stop this abhorrent and senseless behavior. There will be events attended by protesters stating their opinion. To

deny this right, well ... its darn right Un-American!

Stanley Micklavzina
Physics Faculty Member

Innocent people

"Two witnesses said about 30 uniformed police or Army soldiers entered the campus before dawn and killed the eight, with lavish barbarity. For example, they (the troops) cut out their brains." (Register-Guard, Nov. 17).

The next time you fill out your tax forms, form a mental picture of "those brains," and now you know how your tax dollars are spent. Four billion over the last decade.

What did the six priests and two others do? Simply spoke the truth. Their blood and the blood of all innocent people is on our hands.

Danny Suire
Student