

EDITORIAL

Drug war won't be won by drug czar

President Bush last week named Florida's lame-duck governor, Bob Martinez, to direct the office of National Drug Control Policy. Martinez replaces current drug czar William Bennett, who will now head the National Republican Party.

With Republican Party Chairman Lee Atwater stepping down due to illness, and Martinez losing the race for governor in Florida, the time was right for Bush to do some shuffling and find a job for his old friend.

Martinez is a bad choice on Bush's part. He favors tougher penalties, law enforcement and building prisons rather than treatment and prevention.

When Bush appointed Martinez he said of him, "He stiffened the Florida code and then added the prison space to enforce it ... as a governor who signed more than 130 death warrants he understands tough choices."

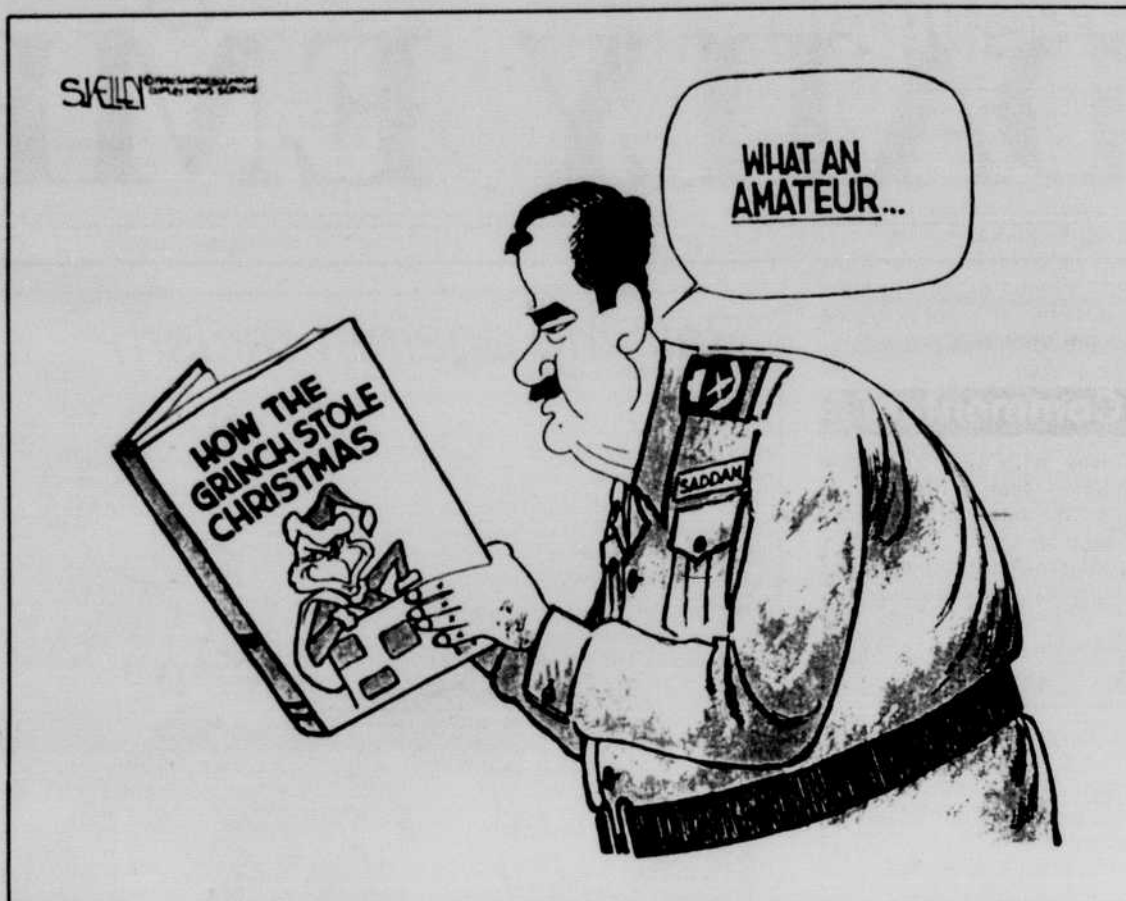
But while Martinez was making those "tough choices" and spending millions of dollars adding prison space, the amount of drugs coming into the state escalated, and drug-related crimes grew significantly.

The lesson Martinez should have learned from his Florida experience is that attacking the supply is not the answer to eliminating drug abuse. The battle against drug abuse should be focused on eliminating the demand. Treatment of current drug abusers and drug-prevention programs should be getting the majority of attention and money.

It is a matter of simple economics. As long as there is a demand for the product someone will be willing to take the risks involved to satisfy, and exploit, that demand. Making drugs harder to get makes them more valuable. Because they are more valuable, the incentive to smuggle them also increases. Focusing on stopping the supply, while only paying lip service to controlling the demand, perpetuates the cycle rather than ends it.

The war on drugs is draining resources from places where they could do some good. A government that wanted to end drug abuse would help addicts rather than imprisoning them. Signing smugglers' death warrants or imprisoning them only means someone will take their place and risk the penalty for the huge profits. Eliminating the smuggler's market ends the activity altogether.

Martinez is expected to bring a more business-like attitude to the job. Maybe that sense of business will allow him to see the futility of fighting the supply rather than demand.



Enough apologies, start the healing

University law school Associate Dean Chapin Clark publicly apologized Friday for a "lack of sensitivity" in his handling of the Greg Johnson incident.

Johnson disclosed his homosexuality during a class discussion on "National Coming Out Day." Some students later complained that Johnson's discussion did not contain dialogue relevant to the class's purpose.

Clark is the latest person to apologize for this blunder. It's refreshing to hear an apology instead of the usual avoidance-bantering that sometimes accompanies mistakes.

While there are obvious homophobic rumblings in the law school, no one needs to resign or be fired over the affair. After all, this is a learning institution — and even law school deans can't know everything.

However, the controversy is serious

enough that President Myles Brand requested an investigation by the University's Office of Affirmative Action. Combined with a University task force report showing widespread discrimination against gays and lesbians, it is quite clear that sensitizing the University about gay and lesbian concerns must begin immediately.

It does appear that the law school was more concerned with the students who objected to Johnson's comments than with Johnson himself. All students have listened to instructors discuss subjects not germane to specific classes, but not often to an instructor coming out.

Johnson has accepted Clark's apology. Even though saying "I'm sorry" doesn't take away hurt feelings, the law school should use this experience and take steps to resolve the uneasy feelings between itself and gays and lesbians.

LETTERS

Safe risk

Greg Zobel's letter about being harassed by "self-righteous security" at the Bob Mould show is entirely all to true.

Most often a show of Mould's caliber creates a natural response of aggression within the audience, which is then released by forms of dancing known in our subculture as slamming, moshing, pogoing, skanking and so on.

The security should realize this, and understand that not everyone who is in the pit is a risk to a safe show. I seriously doubt that people will start doing the hustle at shows like these; so get used to it folks, and enjoy the show.

Robert Callison
Eugene

Honor King

In response to Richard Baldwin's letter (ODE, Nov. 20): When I first glanced at the title, I thought it would be a letter in support of this well-deserved day honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. However, reading

through the letter, I saw that there were most definitely a few things that needed to be cleared up concerning the reasons King should be honored.

First of all, Baldwin stated that King was an "inappropriate role model" because it has been rumored, may I put an emphasis on rumored, that he had extramarital affairs. Well if that is the case, there should not be a day to honor John F. Kennedy because there are rumors in regard to his having an affair with Marilyn Monroe!

If that is the case, there shouldn't be any day honoring America's historical presidents because many of these married men had children by slaves on their plantations.

Secondly, if King is to be persecuted now for supposedly plagiarizing some of his works, there has to be hundreds of other leaders who should line up right behind him to get their punishment dished out to them also.

So now as the evidence stands, Baldwin should look again at his reasons, or excuses, for not supporting a day

for King. If indeed King's birthday is celebrated on this campus, perhaps Baldwin should stop and wonder why even entertained such a silly notion of not being part of this great celebration.

Tonya Menefee
Eugene

Parlez quack

Today two former University marching band members, members of the only University Marching Band to march in the Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl, were sitting around here in a Paris apartment drinking wine and watching CNN news when what should we see but a report from Eugene, Oregon about the Stanford Marching Band.

You were city-slickered; they got exactly the reaction they wanted. Oregon State University is for farmers but the University seems to still be for rubes. Where the hell is your collective sense of humor and hospitality? From what we saw, the performance was innovative, relevant and satirically pro-

vocative, you should have seen our top hat formation ... yawn.

In conclusion, to quote an anonymous source, "marching bands have as much to do with music as bull-fighting has with agriculture."

Dennis Atkinson
M.M. 1963
David Maves
B.M. 1961

Out of line

I am writing to demand the immediate firing of Dean Maurice Holland of the Law School for his blatantly homophobic actions. It is outrageous that Myles Brand would be willing to allow this bigot to remain in his job. Given his recent "Jessie Helms" behavior (demanding that a gay law professor apologize for coming out to his class), Holland clearly must go.

Even if you are in agreement with the homophobic mentality of Holland, it is not difficult to see the ugly implications of his attempt to control classroom discussion. If coming out to your class is forbidden, does it then follow that a professor

will be censured for discussing his perspective as an African-American?

I, for one, do not want to spend my money or attend classes at a university that has administrators or professors who have a shopping list of what is "acceptable" classroom discussion.

But beyond that, I am sick and tired of lesbians and gay men being second-class citizens on this campus. When we stand up for our rights we are told that we're "forcing our agenda" on the poor, down-trodden breeders. When we run for political office on campus openly as gay or lesbian, we're accused of representing only "special interests."

When "fag" jokes are told, and when lesbian and gay students, professors and staff are humiliated and attacked, no one gives a damn.

Well kids, I for one am finished worrying about offending heterosexuals.

Tim Hughes
Queer Nation

Monday, December 3, 1990