

Bush doesn't want CIA activities scrutinized

Last week President Bush vetoed a \$29 billion intelligence funding bill that would have given Congress more input into covert intelligence operations in other countries. Operations by the CIA would have been included.

Members of Congress passed the measure, with its provisions giving the legislators more knowledge of intelligence activities, in reaction to the Iran/Contra scandal of the Reagan administration.

Supporters believed the CIA's involvement in the scandal proved the intelligence community has too free a rein to do its business. Legislators who supported the measure said they believe the CIA and other intelligence groups needed to be more in line with the rest of the government and be more accountable in the checks-and-balances system.

Because of this lack of accountability by intelligence groups it was impossible to trace the lines of communication from Oliver North and the CIA back to their origins. Many people in Washington, D.C. wanted to pass legislation that would make abuses of power, such as Iran/Contra, less likely to happen.

But Bush, a former CIA director himself, said the provision providing more oversight by Congress "purports to regulate diplomacy by the President" and would "seriously impair the conduct of our nation's foreign relations."

He seems to be implying that if Congress is allowed to know what the CIA is doing, covert operations might be compromised, minimizing the effectiveness of the president's "diplomacy."

What does Bush mean by diplomacy? If he is afraid Congress won't approve of the CIA's methods of "diplomacy," then maybe they shouldn't be involved in the activity in the first place. No one is saying intelligence is unnecessary; in fact, there often appears to be a shortage of it in the capitol.

However, the CIA is involved in a lot more than just gathering and passing on information. Concerned members of Congress just want to make sure the CIA does not overstep its bounds anymore. The only way more supervision of intelligence organizations by Congress could hurt the President's foreign policy is if the organizations are doing things Congress wouldn't approve of. And if that is the case, the activity shouldn't be part of the president's foreign policy.



Degree in four years a rare commodity

Recent studies show that more and more students are taking five or six years to attain bachelor's degrees.

There is no great mystery as to why most students do not receive bachelor degrees in four years. It is a simple reflection of society. Twenty years ago most students went to school on their parents' money. They had but one worry: Go to class.

Today many students are working their way through college. Many are parents and have dependents that take up much of their time, making fifteen credits too much of a load to carry every term.

The cost of attending college is rising much faster than students' ability to afford it, and the demographics of college students is changing nearly as fast.

The rise of women and minority students has led to an increase in the need for support services. Twenty years ago there were mostly white male students. It is obvi-

ously easier and cheaper to service a homogeneous population.

The students of 20 years ago also had fewer choices, especially for women and minorities. Nowadays career choices are more plentiful and it's common for students to change majors during their college years.

Students begin their college career full of ideals, but are quick to change their ways if a decent-paying job is not readily available in their chosen fields. So many students owe so much in student loans by the time they graduate that changing majors strictly for monetary purposes is worth the extra year or two in college.

A 1988 survey by the University Planning and Placement Center revealed that only 53 percent of that graduating class held a full-time, career-related position. That's much more unfortunate than graduating in five or six years.

LETTERS

Moral crusader

In a recent article (*ODE*, Nov. 29) Mary Ager, director of Student Campaign for Disarmament said, "the issue of the rights of those students who want interviews is a difficult one, but she believes their opposition to the CIA, is for a higher ethical good."

I was glad to see the recruiter leave campus. And I hope that he does not come back in the spring. The CIA is one branch of the government that is out of control.

But Ager's reasoning bothered me. The sacrificing of the rights of others for a "higher ethical good" sounds similar to the pro-life movement ideology. And Jessie Helms seems to raise the "higher ethical goods" reasoning quite a bit himself.

Groups that act for the higher ethical good while making decisions for others are placing themselves on a superior moral level — slightly arrogant and egocentric.

Sadly enough, people who really want to work for the CIA will find a way to contact them. Really stopping the CIA will take billions and billions of years of waking politicians up

to the fact that the agency is out of control.

Hopefully, along the road to changing the perception of the CIA, people who recognize the ethical dilemma of letting them recruit on campus won't start hypocritical patterns of making other people's decisions for them.

Michael W. Keller
Eugene

Commitment

The undersigned students would like to take this time to recognize a University staff member, Dianna Kale, for the professional assistance she has given us time and time again. As older, Indian students who have encountered in our quest for higher education a complicated bureaucratic system and a sometimes seemingly hostile environment, we appreciate the unfailing support given us by Dianna.

In the competitive environment of the University, Dianna has been our mentor, our friend, and source of inspiration to keep going, in a way that another Indian person could be. The personal attention she has given to our staying in school, at the expense of

her own time, has made us feel like we were a priority.

Her personal commitment to retraining Indian students has contributed to more than one Indian student staying in school. Her professionalism has never wavered and is a credit to the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The high expectations she has for her own work has set an example for us in ours.

Andrew Viles
Regina E. Hovet
Gloria Aragon
Ramon Murillo
Alida Royce Gulley
Bonnie Teeman
Olney Patt
Students

Birthright

Hear, hear for those who tag left-wing hippie pinkos for the hypocrites they are. As a white, hip-blooded American male, it is my birthright to fight for my country.

We have been at war openly or covertly since Columbus took the first slaves and infected the "New World" with European diseases. Surely the genocide against the native peoples that we have nearly accomplished is a state of war that has never ended.

Oh yeah, there is also the U.S. Civil War, even today the bloodiest war in the history of our proud country. Then there are all those foreign wars in which we protected national security.

There have been just too many to name, although it should be something every American should know.

The 20th century has been one little invasion and skirmish after another with two world wars and two major "conflicts" in Korea and Vietnam. Even the last thirty years have been fairly active thanks to the CIA.

They have never left the Far

East, moved into Africa, and have really shone in Central and South America with assassination, torture, rape, and all manner of wonderful tactics to terrify the people into submission to the governments we want.

And then there are friends like Noriega who we were able to put in power and then overthrow. What a Country.

They talk about the rights of women, minorities, lesbians, gays, and even animals, but what about the rights of us white men?

Phillip Nebergall
Student

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.