

Trade status would help change China

More than two years after the Chinese military attack on student-led protesters in Tiananmen Square, the debate still rages in Washington over whether China's most favored nation trading status should be continued.

Many Democratic and Republican members of Congress want China's most favored nation status to come complete with a list of human rights reforms as conditions for retaining the MFN status.

However, the Bush Administration favors leaving the Chinese on the favored nation list, no strings attached. The administration maintains that "renewing China's MFN waiver, without conditions, provides our best instrument for promoting positive change and U.S. interests in China." (Emphasis added.)

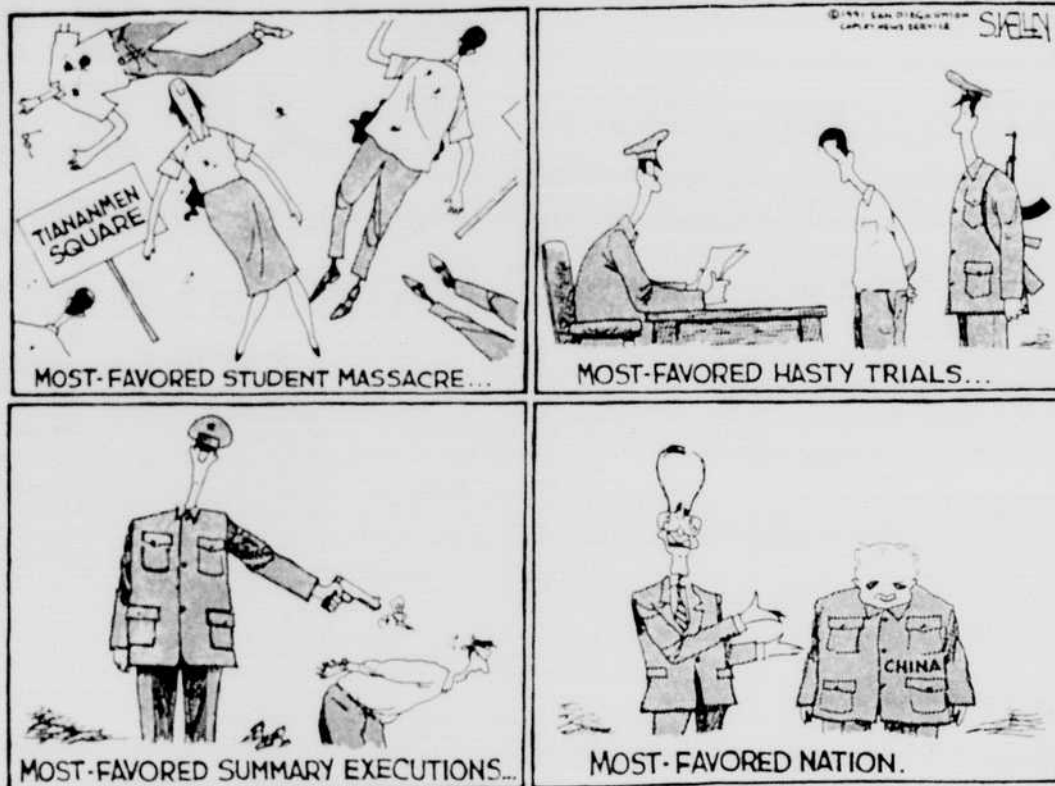
The Bush gang believes if the United States puts human rights-related conditions on the MFN deal, such as higher tariffs and trade regulations, the Chinese will isolate themselves even further, giving outside powers such as the United States less influence inside the great wall. The Bush Administration favors using harsh words, rather than concrete actions, to try and influence the Chinese government.

However, the administration's logic in this case has not been born out by the facts. Unlike the days of old, China now depends on outsiders to keep its economy and industry rolling along. Complete isolation is no longer an option for the Chinese. Using tools such as the MFN waiver can be positive, tangible weapons for change instead of the easily ignored rhetoric the administration now employs.

Just the threat of losing the most favored nation status and facing tariffs that could cost China billions of dollars in exports to the United States has caused the country to take unprecedented steps toward addressing human rights abuses.

Rather than the "mind your own business" attitude the Chinese government usually adopts toward human rights questions, lately it has taken steps to change its image. The Associated Press reported that an Australian human rights delegation is scheduled to arrive in China in July, the first such visit in Chinese history. The group hopes to meet with political prisoners and journey to Tibet, where Chinese security forces have crushed repeated demonstrations for independence.

Obviously, this is a major change in China's internal policies. The change wasn't brought about by the Bush Administration's harsh words. The mere threat of losing trade privileges prompted the reforms. As the self-proclaimed world's police chief, George Bush should use the MFN weapon to back up his rhetoric.



LETTERS

Name debate

Recently several letters in the *Emerald* have expressed dissatisfaction with the paper's use of the term "pro-abortion" to label pro-choice activists. As one letter writer put it, "No one favors abortion."

What I do not understand then, is why so much energy, especially feminist energy, is spent advocating a choice that no one favors? It does not speak well for our society that 1.6 million times a year women submit to a procedure that no one favors.

Since no one favors abortion, let's work instead to create a society where positive, non-violent, life-affirming choices are available to women. Let's support favorable choices for women, choices based on the dignity of the individual as well as an awareness of the inter-connectedness of all forms of life.

Kathleen Freeman
Student

Connection

Our letter is in response to Jeffrey Wooliver's ignorant opinion of pornography (*ODE*, May 28). He was mistaken in assuming that feminists think pornography causes rape. However, he is wrong in failing to recognize that pornography encourages violence against women.

Most of society still has the idea stuck in their heads that rape is a perverted man lurking in the bushes waiting to rape a woman. This violent stranger

rape accounts for only one in five rapes, but does not include date rape, acquaintance rape or

sexual harassment. One out of 10 men will rape, and one out of four women will be raped. Could it be that pornography promotes the ideas that women are merely objects; that a woman means "yes" even when she says "no"; that women enjoy being sexually dominated by men; that a woman asks for rape by her actions or what she is wearing?

It also blows us away that Wooliver would believe that the epidemic of AIDS is actually slowing down, but furthermore the absurdity that it would slow down due to pornography. Possibly he can be sexually gratified by spending the night alone with a magazine, but oh, please, does he really think that if everyone went out a bought a *Playboy* that this would diminish the spread of AIDS? Get real.

Josie Briggs
Stacie Williams
Teresa Nash
Eugene

Return to sender

On the Office of Multicultural Affairs Award Reception that was held on May 17, I have decided, along with Eric Ward and Jon Motohiro, not to accept the Minority Leadership Award. The reasons behind this action were 1) There are no Asian-American classes even when it has been listed in the class sched-

ules for the last 10 years, 2) Asians are excluded from the U-MASP (Underrepresented Minority Scholarship Program), and 3) There are no academic counselors of Asian decent in the OMA office.

This act was to make the University aware of some of the Asian-American students' concerns and not to reject OMA's and CME's crucial role on our campus to promote "institutional diversity." OMA and CME have fought along with Asian-American students to promote awareness to the administrators and faculty members about the needs of the Asian-Americans, but for the last three years that I have been here, the University as a whole showed no progress in institutionally recognizing our existence and our own unique history of struggle in America.

At other universities, minority scholarships are offered to the Asian-American students with national origins of historically disadvantaged countries. These students are from such countries as Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, etc. (And it is funny that these countries' historic disadvantages were due in part to the involvement of American troops.)

Knowing well that this university is denying my existence as an Asian-American, I asked OMA to return my Minority Leadership Award to Myles Brand. I am drawing the line here, and I am saying, "NO MORE."

Bobby Lee
ASUO Affirmative Action

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