

Bush's veto of bill spoils apple pie

Remember Tianan Square? How could we forget? Thousands of Chinese students led a pro-democracy movement that shook the world and ended abruptly via communist rule.

Not that American democracy is perfect either. Given, the ideal of democracy is a peachy idea, as is the ideal of communism or most any governing system designed for the good of the people. But we humans have a way of messing things up. Even the best of ideals can rarely survive our mutating interpretations.

Regardless, it's these shining principles we continue to strive for — goals such as human rights and dignity, which we like to link to Democracy. And going along with the typical American thought pattern, we want everyone and their grandmother to be just like us. After all, we are the world's "police," its savior, its beacon of light. Everyone knows that — don't they?

Most of us do want the best for each of the world's citizens. The ideal of perfect human dignity protected by deserved human rights means a lot, or at least it should. Agreed?

So why then is President Bush threatening to veto a bill recently passed by Congress that would require China to better its record concerning human rights, missile sales and trade barriers in order to keep its most-favored-nation trading status.

There are all kinds of possible reasons out there, none of which we can expect to hear from the president, especially since his veto would completely contradict all the apple-pie stuff we're supposed to stand for.

The fact that Congress passed this long-overdue bill builds faith — now it's just the president that's left to question. But then again, risking China's huge potential buying population would be a bit crazy — all for something as silly as human rights, missile control and trade barriers. Good to see our fearless leader has his priorities straight.

Why is President Bush threatening to veto a bill recently passed by Congress that would require China to better its record concerning human rights?



LETTERS

Pot tax

Dear Myles Brand:
If you are really serious about maintaining higher education in the face of Measure 5, I have an answer. Due to Measure 5, we had our tuition raised by \$200. A tax on legal pot of 10 cents per gram would raise enough to reverse this tuition increase.

An additional 10-cent tax would replace those programs which were trimmed. Another 20-cent tax would make up the difference over the next few years. Such a tax would be fair. After all, college students would probably pay most of it.

John Flanery
Political Science

by saying "we deserve cheap higher education." No, you don't, not at the expense of my family.

Once again the lines have been drawn, the rich against the poor, and as always, the poor are responsible for all the problems. The evil Oregon taxpayer who feared losing his/her home because of property taxes. The students of this University need to grow up, then maybe they could pull the silver spoons of privilege out of their mouths.

Don't write me a nasty letter. I don't take your greedy, self-interested values very seriously.

Anthony Stumbo
Sociology

Not a crime

I voted yes on Measure 5. Unlike the majority of students here at the University, I don't think Measure 5 was a crime. The real crime in my opinion is the near total disregard students hold for the poor and working class of this state.

For the middle class and the rich, property taxes aren't a problem, but for the poor and working classes, property taxes represent a very real burden. A burden which causes enormous amounts of human misery.

Members of my family have worked all of their lives; they haven't taken welfare, food stamps, financial aid, or any other form of government handout. My family doesn't own much, but what they have they worked damn hard to get. The student body of this University would happily take away from my family the property they worked for to own. The students would justify this

Muck

Excuse me if I'm not eloquent, but to put it bluntly, I'm really sick of these petty and stupid political games which are wasting the time of our student leaders.

Why is it that in a year in which we could see higher education in this state all but disappear, we are bickering among ourselves over fictitious, trumped-up charges. I am talking about accusations which have recently been made against USSA, and about stipended "over" payments.

Great, so someone wants to attack the only students in a position to advocate for the student body, and the only national organization which can advocate for us. Obviously, these people don't have anyone's best interest in mind but their own.

So, why are they doing it? Childish political games. Watch the upcoming student elections

and see if these same people try to run. Let's call it what it is — mudslinging. Do we want to see our leaders of tomorrow act this way?

I want to see some people stand up above the muck and help our student government help us. They are very dedicated and hard-working people, but I guess that doesn't matter to people who disagree with them politically.

Steve Masat
Student

Meaningful?

It's time for clarification. In a recent *Emerald* article, the word "wary" was written as "weary." While an error of only one letter, it played havoc with the context, so I wrote a letter ridiculing it.

When I turned it in and requested that none of the spelling be changed, the nice lady at the desk assured me that it would not be corrected. Naturally I was upset to see the quotation had been corrected (*ODE*, Feb. 21).

This caused two problems. My later use of the word tired made no sense, and it sounded like I was being serious. I can't take this character assassination lying down. Maybe I deserve it for trying to be a jerk, but I really don't think it's fair to proofread the letters if you're not going to proof the articles. And I would never write a serious letter to the *Emerald* because the majority of its serious letter-writers scare me.

So Ducks, please stop congratulating me on my meaningful letter! I don't deserve it.

Gina Harris
Student

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