

Don't pardon those in Iran-Contra loop

Caspar Weinberger, secretary of defense under Ronald Reagan, was indicted in the Iran-Contra scandal shortly before the presidential election. That action by special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh has led to Walsh being accused of playing politics.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., wants revenge and has called for Bush to pardon Weinberger and anyone else who may have been involved in Iran-Contra.

If Bush desires to end his presidency in a positive light, he will ignore Dole's plea and allow the drama to be played out.

Weinberger allegedly has files that suggest Bush knew more than he let on when he was questioned by Congress. Bush has claimed he was "out of the loop," but Weinberger's notes may indicate otherwise.

A pardon is simply not in Bush's best interest. Obviously, his motivation would be called into question. If he truly was out of the loop, what is he afraid of? If he's innocent, let it be proven.

Bush could be cutting his own throat by issuing a pardon. If everybody involved in Iran-Contra suddenly became exempt from prosecution, they would have no reason not to abide by Congressional orders and turn over all pertinent information to Walsh.

Such an action would leave Bush on his own. He would not be exempt from prosecution, and would be left to fry by himself. It is the threat of going down together that has kept the conspirators silent for so long, and it is Bush's only hope for not being prosecuted.

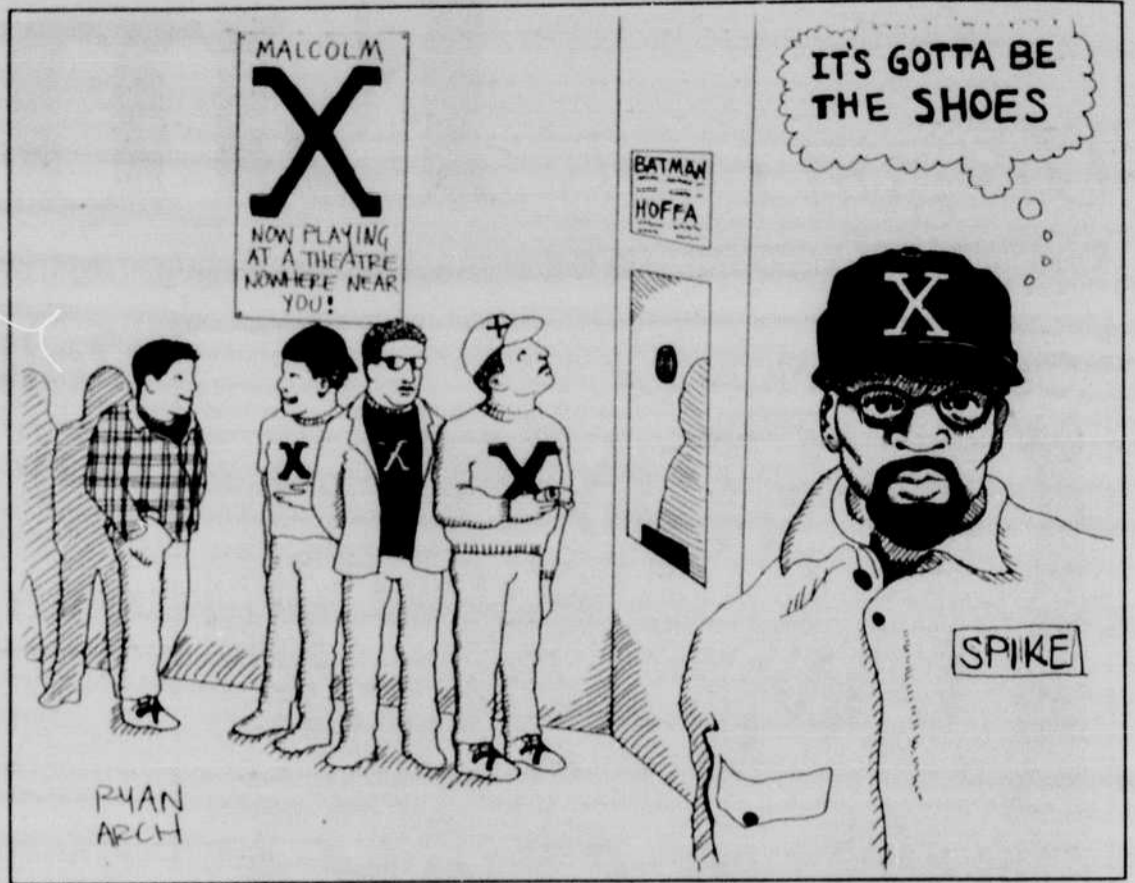
However, there is a more important reason for not granting pardons, and that is justice. If the highest levels of our government conspired to violate Congressional orders and skirt the system of checks and balances, a dangerous precedent will have been set.

The government is divided into three separate but equal branches. Not only is it illegal for one branch to assume independence from the others, but it is a violation of the basic principles our government was founded on. Surely Bush has no intention of violating those principles he claims to hold so dear. Or does he?

When Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon, Nixon's reputation was inalterably tarnished. Not only had he apparently broken the law, but he was going to get away with it simply because he was president.

Bush will suffer the same stigma should he pardon those who were in the Iran-Contra loop, and the American people will again be left with the foul taste of corrupt government in their mouths.

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LETTERS

Racism defined

Thanh Dong (Vietnamese Student Association) and Sven Orozco (MEChA) say minorities are incapable of racism (ODE, Nov. 16).

"Racism is power ('systematic discriminatory practices') plus prejudice (U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1970)," say Dong and Orozco. "We — the minorities — therefore cannot be racist. Racism is the whites' problem."

It seems multiculturalists have revised the English dictionary along with western civilization history books. Groups and committees cannot change the meanings of words simply because they do not serve their special interests.

Actually, racism is a belief that race determines behavior, is an important factor in shaping one's culture and that some races are superior or lesser than others.

Dong and Orozco said I have been "brainwashed by the 'white man's ideology'" for exposing some multiculturalists as racists in my commentary ("Multiculturalism's mixed message", ODE, Nov. 10).

However, Martin Luther King, Jr. would have criticized Jeffries, Souljah, Jackson and Coleman just as he criticized racist blacks of his day. In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," King warned of the dangers of radical Afro-centrists: "(The black nationalist movement) is one of bitterness and hatred, and it comes perilously close to advocating violence."

In spite of King's wisdom, many blacks accused him of being indoctrinated by the white power structure. Do Dong and Orozco think King was just another Uncle Tom?

Ryan Blacketter
English

Paradigms

We all have our set of paradigms with which to view the world and justify our actions. We do whatever is necessary to hold fast to these paradigms because to challenge them would be to question our identity and existence.

Often the paradigms we have are instilled by society through the channels of family, mass media, and yes, through education. Other times they are self-induced to protect our insecurities. With time the paradigms calcify, hindering light to penetrate and we become oblivious to the decay occurring inside.

We have evolved into a society readily critical of others, yet never enough of ourselves. Or have we always been this way, deriving our identities from the other? Hegel says there is no "self," for we essentially are a mirrored creation of the other. This dialectic may propagate and justify any form of discrimination, for we can always blame the other for our actions.

The "self," essentially, is the paradigms we uphold, the lenses with which we view the outside and the same ones we should use reflecting back inside. These lenses must be continually cleansed, always allowing light to filter in from various angles and forcing us to judiciously question the prescriptions we are dispensed.

Without our persistent efforts in cleaning our lenses we can never see, let alone mend our cavities that may have putrefied all along. And unless we can first be critical of ourselves, we can never eradicate bigotry and the forces of oppression that were deemed "inevitable."

Go Yoshida
Graduate student
Educational Policy and Management

Tasteless

I congratulate the *Emerald* on the sheer tastelessness of its Tuesday, Nov. 17 edition. I really think you've outdone yourselves this time. Placing the article of the woman who committed suicide next to an article describing corpses in gory detail was superb! Your utter crassness and lack of sensitivity should be applauded.

Not only that, the picture was exquisitely repulsive as well. I found it even more disgusting than the one printed in *The Register-Guard* on the same day.

Having the two men looking

down at the bloodstain left by the woman and by inference the article directly below it, "Curious students spend Friday the 13th with cadavers," borders on tabloid brilliance. Why the physiology story wasn't printed on Monday remains a mystery, but in the meantime, a retraction and apology from the *Emerald* is appropriate.

It really is a shame that the *Emerald* isn't sold at newsstands. Tuesday's edition would have put even the *Weekly World News* to shame for its embarrassing coverage of a very tragic event.

William Taylor
Journalism

Morbid

I feel your publication used poor judgment and bad timing by running your story about cadavers in the same issue as Monday morning's suicide (ODE, Nov. 17).

The photo of an open cadaver on Page 4 — beneath the tail end of the tragic suicide article — was exceedingly morbid and in bad taste. Too often ethics play a back-burner role in the three-ring circus of the media world.

And judging from your publication, (*Emerald* editor) Pat Malach has a great future ahead of him in the Associated Press.

Ryan Johnson
Anthropology

Peep show

When I die, I plan to leave my body to science in hopes of inspiring and educating future doctors and scientists.

After reading "Curious students spend Friday the 13th with cadavers," (ODE, Nov. 17) I might be changing my mind. I have seen middle school students dissect fetal pigs with more respect.

If all the students that attended this opportunity with that kind of "Freddy Krueger" peep-show attitude, then obviously someone is missing the point.

Ellen Stenard
Music

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