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■ In my opinion

A Christmas wish for weed

The one thing I'd like to see under my Christmas tree is a Chippendale's dancer, partially unwrapped, of course. The second thing is world peace. A slightly more realistic option might be wishing for no hypocrisy from our nine funeral-clad dark angels whose job it is to protect the Constitution. Sandra Day O'Connor is no sugarplum fairy, but if she has a little ideological consistency in her body, I might be getting something sweet in my stocking after all.

Angel McClary Raich, one of the plaintiffs in *Ashcroft v. Raich* (which hit the Supreme Court's gladiatorial arena Monday), is hardly the stereotypical scary, tattooed drug dealer. She suffers from a gauntlet of wasting diseases, including fibromyalgia, endometriosis, scoliosis, uterine fibroid tumors, paralysis, asthma, rotator cuff syndrome, seizures and an inoperable brain tumor.

Thirty-five alternative medicines failed to dull the pain, so she turned to an act of Californian compassion that legalized marijuana for medical purposes. Unfortunately, the federal government robbed her of her home-grown plants under the auspices of the Federal Controlled Substances Act, because when our ports are unprotected, our firefighters are underfunded and our education system is an international travesty, the best possible use of the federal budget is to shove handcuffed grannies to the concrete floors of their own basements for the crime of seeking a little relief. Republicans yet again show



JENNIFER MCBRIDE
QUASHING DISSENT

that they believe in states' rights, as long as the states don't do anything they object to.

The Supreme Court can stop this heresy right here and now, and it must, if it's to show respect for legal precedent. Liberal policies with similarly sympathetic victims have been hacked down with the sword of federalism (the concept that the federal government is limited in the scope of what it can do, short of specific constitutional mandates) and now Chief Justice Rehnquist needs to enjoy some of his own bitter medicine and sign on to a broadly worded majority decision that admits drug policy, in this case, does not belong under federal controls.

After all, Rehnquist and the four other right-wing election-stealers threw out a congressional ban on guns on school grounds because such encroachments by the U.S. government would lead to "police power" ending in tyranny. They also ravaged a federal remedy for gender-based violence because, while admitting rape is heinous, it certainly doesn't fall under the commerce clause. The feds

can regulate the flow of money but not the flow of illicit semen!

If Rehnquist and the rest truly believe the federal government has no power in either of these cases, one can only hope Acting Solicitor General Paul Clement's contentions that medical marijuana is a national issue because patient use may tangentially affect interstate commerce will also be set aflame — violence and rape have much more impact on our economy than a little legal dope. For this reason, the Supreme Court should do what it has rarely done: affirm the Ninth Circuit's ruling that marijuana grown for limited local use cannot be regulated by the federal government, only by the states.

Of course, intellectual hypocrisy is seldom limited to conservatives. Suddenly, liberals of the high court have praised stricter interpretation of congressional powers. Clinton appointee Ruth Bader Ginsburg pointed out, "Nobody's buying anything. Nobody's selling anything." Who knows, maybe Rehnquist's jolt of chemo will give him insight into people's pain and create a new, softer chief justice who lurches leftwards and begins a new fantastic five of leftist hippie justice.

Please, Santa, please! Maybe then we can all sit back and enjoy our "special" fruitcakes without fear of the feds.

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INBOX

Emerald pursuit of ASUO interferes with job duties

I am appalled at the uproar the ASUO has suffered over the drinking infractions at Sunriver. This minor infraction of rules would have resulted in a simple resolution in any legal court. Because the ASUO is responsible for self-regulation in these cases, the mandate for radical punishment of offenders comes from all angles. This fails to serve the student body of the University.

Every hour our student representa-

tives spend trying to mollify the blood-lust of the Emerald is taking away from the execution of their offices. The Emerald itself claims that "... members' relentlessly immature actions prove they don't deserve to be treated as serious politicians — or as adults for that matter." Yet nothing published thus far has shown that these activities, in any way, negatively affected the senators' ability to do their jobs.

When the ASUO maturely brought this issue to a press conference to avoid a repeat of last year's controversy, it made no difference in the

calls for extreme action. If the ODE is interested in benefiting the student body of this University, then bring issues of interest to light in the proportion to which they will affect the average student. If the ODE is interested only in propagating controversy and ridiculing those hired to protect those interests, then refund the incidental fees that support the ODE, move off campus and take your place amongst the tabloids where you will be in like company.

David Watson
Environmental Science

■ Editorial

Unheeded rules make Dead Week truly killer

We are smack dab in the middle of Dead Week, so no doubt you are about to drop dead from exhaustion. What happened to this week? When did our buffer before finals — perfect for catching up on studying and sleep — become the favorite week for teachers to dump loads of work and spring important tests?

Many students don't realize that some of these practices violate the rules governing Dead Week. While teachers are allowed to assign homework, they are not supposed to overload their students with big projects and examinations. Of course, this doesn't stop them, and enforcement of the rules appears to be nonexistent.

Nevertheless, as a student, it is important that you know your rights. Here are the rules governing Dead Week, as they appear in minutes from the March 10, 1982, meeting of the University Assembly:

1. "No examination worth more than 20 percent of the final grade will be given with the exception of make-up examinations."
2. "No final examinations will be given under any guise."
3. "No projects will be due unless they have been clearly specified on the syllabus within the first two weeks of the term."
4. "Take-home final examinations will be due no earlier than the day of the formally assigned final examination for the class in question."

We are hard-pressed to recall a time when these rules have been followed, even in just the spirit of the law, but an even larger problem is the flawed nature of these rules — the loopholes are so large you could drive a freight train through them.

Does it make it better that a professor gives notice of a Dead Week due date within the first two weeks? Of course, but there is still something wrong with assuming that students should work through the holiday weekend when it is almost assured that few professors will spend the same time preparing for their next week of school.

We can all agree that because of how the quarter system is structured, with Thanksgiving falling on the week before a large mass of projects hit the docket, a week for students to prepare would be a welcome addition.

Additionally, professors seem to think they are doing students a favor by getting them out of finals during the actual Finals Week, but this couldn't be further from the truth — what we'd really like is to have adequate time to prepare for our finals.

Let us return Dead Week to its original intent. Let's start by amending the rules: Rather than limiting the size and nature of the work, how about requiring no examinations and no projects whatsoever during Dead Week, period? And how about actually holding teachers accountable for breaking the rules — what recourse do students have for the professor who slips in a large project?

A final note to instructors: Give us a break already, before Dead Week becomes tragically literal.

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