Extremism is not a vice

To the Editor:

I don't want to be a war-monger and I don't want to throw rocks at governments. I don't approve of any of the CIA's past deeds and I am far from being fully supportive of them. However, I must stress by and large they try to do what is not supposed to keep the "red cancer" from spreading over the world's body. Perhaps abuse is inevitable in any governmental agency and it is certainly hard to keep one's hands clean in a dirty world, but... About clear hands: isn't this a true reason of protests against the CIA recruitment on campus? The logic is simple: I don't care if a particular government slaughter others as long as I am not involved. It happened before in Cambodia and Nicaragua, it's probably gonna happen again in South Africa. Well, there is an...

Porn measure violates rights

To the Editor:

Cambridge wants to control our speech and actions through the pornography bill that, if passed, will be legally mandated under the Human Rights Ordinance. This bill will violate our freedom of speech. The bill defines pornography as "graphic sexually explicit subordination of women through pictures and/or words that also includes one or more of the following..." There is a long list that follows. This bill would, among other things, outlaw her writing and even the telling of many dirty pornography.

The amendment is so ridiculous that it eats invades our privacy. One of the parts of the definition of pornography is, "(vii) women are presented as being penetrated by objects or animals." Among other things, this clause describes sex. If someone happens to possess sexual relations with someone else, that would be pornography - "graphic sexual explicit subordination of a woman by words." A casual comment in a novel, to a best friend about certain body parts would be pornography if this amendment is passed. This bill is a step towards a police state. The bill does not protect you even in your own home. Unless almost all other laws last but is not a requirement (sec. 18 s.). If this bill is passed, and challenged, there is a good chance that it will be struck down as unconstitutional. We should not have to let a bill like this get that far.

The only reconciliation that I see in the bill is that a police officer photographing or taping pornographic acts as evidence is himself producing pornography so could therefore be charged well.

Adam Dershowitz '89

feedback

Survival is only determined by might and not by right

To the Editor:

Regarding the letter [*Deny CIA recruiters access to MIT,* Oct. 8] signed by Katherine Macgraw and others seeking to stop the CIA from recruiting at MIT.

Do Macgraw and her colleagues seriously expect the United States to operate without intelligence-gathering capability? In the international area, survival is determined by might, not right. This is unsustainable, but to deny this is to close one's eyes to reality. Intelligence gathering is indispensable to our ability to react to world events. We must know what our enemies are up to in order to counteract their moves. It is too late to respond effectively after the arrival of a new weapon is announced, or after a coup is executed, or after a troop buildup has been completed, or after our military and technical secrets are stolen.

The writers of the letter complained that the CIA does not represent respect for democracy and universal human rights. Who stands for human rights, then, the KGB? America stands for democracy and human rights, and the CIA is indispensable to our survival.

The letter complains that CIA operations are not a matter of public information. How can an intelligence agency operate if everyone knows what it is doing? Secrecy is an absolute requirement for such an organization.

Where are all these people when it comes to protesting the actions of the Soviet Union? I don't see any booths in Lobby 10 keeping people informed about the invasion of Afghanistan. The latest Soviet tactics there include dropping brightly colored toys filled with explosives into rebel villages, where children pick them up, leaving them without hands. Many are rightly angered that the oppression of blacks in South Africa, but what about the oppression of the Poles? The Czechs? The Hungarians?

Those who blind themselves to the reality of the world situations represent, as I believe Winston Churchill names them, a "fifth column" residing among us. Whether due to naivety, ignorance, or actual malfeasance in America, these people serve the purposes of the Soviet Union. Their actions weaken America's will and ability to survive.

Everyone agrees that war is terrible. Why don't we throw our weapons into the sea today and declare world peace? Ideologies are nice, but you can't be idealistic when you're dead. Meals not fit the spirit of totalitarian society. Let us not delude ourselves as to what keeps us free and safe.

Paul Sheer '87

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