

opinion/editorial

Reagan misinformed on Title IX

A recent decision by the Reagan administration to review federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination in public education strikes a note of apprehension, especially in light of the administration's known anti-feminist bias.

Vice President George Bush said the review is part of an attack on federal regulations seen by Reagan as necessary or counterproductive. The president has said Title IX's guidelines are too vague and burdensome for the 16,000 public school districts and 3,000 colleges and universities it governs.

The Associated Press reported that Reagan was concerned over provisions requiring schools to pay male and female coaches equal salaries and to spend equal amounts for equipment, supplies and publicity.

The White House — obviously — is misinformed.

Title IX and its compliance rules were never intended to ensure absolute equality in the amount of money spent by schools on men's and women's programs.

But it does say there must be an equal

opportunity for men and women to participate in all activities.

The rule does not require equal pay for male and female coaches unless they do comparable work and have the same qualifications and experience.

It does require schools to provide equipment for the same quality and to provide equality in scheduling and practice times, in travel allowances and opportunities for coaching, academic tutoring and medical attention.

Title IX also requires that women athletes receive an amount of scholarship money equal to the proportion of women to men in the school's athletic program.

June Davis, UNL women's athletic director, said Title IX has made people aware of the disparity in men's and women's programs and has provided guidelines to close the gap.

Title IX was passed in 1972 and its first compliance rules were written in 1975 and were revised in 1979. Davis said that since 1975 the growth in UNL's women's athletic department has been astonishing.

In 1975, the entire budget for women's sports was \$80,000. There were only two full-time employees in the department and no full-time coaches. No scholarship money for women athletes was available.

The budget for the 1981-82 year is about \$1.1 million. Almost 150 women participate in nine sports which support several full-time coaches. Most of the athletes receive scholarships.

Davis said Title IX was an impetus to equity. Without it, she said, many programs will die on the vine. The only problem with Title IX, Davis said, is that there has been very little done to investigate whether schools are complying.

If the administration must review Title IX, one can only hope it is to add a little muscle to the law. With the Reagan track record, that is doubtful.

Reagan's decision to "review" the law is yet another example of Reagan "doubletalk." He may say he is for women's rights but his actions don't show it.

If Reagan thinks women and women athletes will lie down and die on this issue, he is mistaken.

The mandate doesn't stretch that far.
Kim Hachiya

Mandate myth accelerates conservatives' speed

Ever since assuming office, the president has been lying to the American public. However, what is worse is that there has been a concerted effort, especially among the various segments of the press, to ignore the White House's lies, half-truths and platitudes.

The result is a political movement that will dramatically alter the future of our nation, and more importantly, the well-being of each of us.

The welfare of the individual is of no concern in the Reaganite philosophy, and will subsequently worsen because of the neglect. But still the conservative bandwagon stampedes on, fueled by the big lies and the emotional attraction of simple solutions which ignore the facts.

It is easy for the president to say that it is time once more for Americans to lead the good life that was meant for us. But it is difficult to accomplish this goal merely through the abolishing of self-doubt.

roger nimps

Among the most pernicious of the White House lies which are being given, and accepted as truths, are the statements which attempt to forestall opposition through reference to last November's mandate. According to the Reagan mindset, this mandate is a free license for the conservatives, to do with as they desire.

This attitude is not only antithetical to our democratic tradition of free argument, which is the foundation of legislative houses, but it also negates the respect for minority viewpoints necessary to avoid oppression.

Even if the dictatorial concept of a popular mandate was acceptable, Reagan and his cohorts would have no truthful rationale for presenting his election as one. There was no landslide outside of the electoral college.

The fact that there was such an overwhelming imbalance of numbers within that system should provide interest primarily to human geographers. It lends credence to the belief that American society has become increasingly homogenized.

Regionality no longer affects opinions as sharply as it has in previous elections. The popular vote was thus split by about the same percentages in every state, except when there were the outside influences of being the home of a candidate or a colony.

Reagan's steamrolling ignores the millions who voted for other candidates, and elected a Democratic House of Representatives. It also forgets the masses that stayed away from the voting booth.

Our president, and his self-acknowledged license to do as he pleases, was chosen by less than one-fourth of the eligible voters. The mandate of the non-voters may prove to be the most important of all.

It should also be noted that while Reagan's popularity in the polls is similar to Jimmy Carter's after comparable lengths in office, Reagan's direct disapproval percentage is one of the highest after eight months in office. The mandate is a myth, constructed for manipulative purposes.

Obviously, Reagan could not have done all his damage by himself. In times of insecurity, short-term appeasement can be found in the idea of a popular leader. But a catchphrase president cannot deal with ever-faster paced events

which have ever-widening impacts merely with a wink and a smile.

Caught in the Reagan euphoria to which it helped give birth, the news media has been timid in its criticism of Reagan's policies. Thus the Reagan aura of invincibility is enhanced and the conservative movement gathers still more momentum, with no real foundation in truth.

While the popular press has been stroking its own reputation, the Democrats in Congress have become more loyal than opposition. They allowed the president to usurp their constitutional right of creating the budget legislation, sacrificing ideals in the face of an adept advertising campaign.

Congress has become a rubber stamp for any Reagan proposal that does not overly fluster the public.

As an example of how to mislead by telling part of the true story, we can look to the recent aggression against Libya.

Of course, it appears reasonable that if attacked, American planes should fire back. That part of the heroic tale made headlines.

But on the back pages we are also told that such an occurrence was foreseen, even prepared for, if the military

Jogging or drinking, take your choice

Several people have accused me lately of being anti-jogging. This is not true. If grown-up individuals prefer running around in circles to sex (see "Jogging — The Key to Celibacy" in the Journal of Sports Endocrinology), that is their prerogative.

I do not jog because my avocation is social drinking and jogging thus offers little challenge and no allure. Besides, no serious social drinker has time for both.

By social drinking I am not, of course, referring to the mere consumption of alcohol. Any idiot can lock himself up in a room and drink himself blotto. This requires neither skill, intelligence nor competitiveness. When I hear of a friend locking himself up in a room and drinking himself blotto, I always say he might as well be jogging. Which certainly proves I'm not anti-jogging.

No, the exhilaration of social drinking comes when one publicly demonstrates one's ability to hold one's liquor —

arthur hoppe

particularly if it is a Bloody Mary in a crowded room with a white rug and the only place to set the wet glass down is the pristine surface of the grand piano.

But reaching this pinnacle of social drinking is by no means easy. Most great social drinkers, like tennis players or violinists, start very young.

Usually, their earliest practice fields are the interiors of old parked cars where they may remain comfortably seated. Secure in the company of fellow neophytes and shoddy upholstery, their errors of dexterity and intake are viewed with tolerance and they are encouraged to press on.

And they definitely need all the encouragement they can get. For the initial challenge in social drinking is to get the stuff down. It tastes vile. But after months or years of

took its fleet into the disputed sea territory. During the sea trials there were 44 instances of Libyan planes making contact with the American fleet.

During his plans for the symbolic return of American power, Reagan forgot the individual concerns of his own troops and the Libyan pilots, as well as the possible international ramifications of his decision.

Because of his continual assault upon good sense, Reagan's words and actions must be judged more acutely. The machinery of the conservative political movement is becoming more powerful everyday.

Reagan must not be allowed to shrug off the report of his 17 State of Union speech lies, simply because it was released by Congress Watch, a noted "liberal organization." He must not be allowed to get away with the platitudes which support his very real actions, and are often the sole means of support (i.e. defense spending).

There are people who disagree with our government's recent movements, though they may be hard to see in the covering smoke. Pick up one of those "left-wing" magazines, or perhaps simply listen more closely. Then tell Reagan to stop lying.

practice, even the most callow youth can swallow such a noxious, bitter substance as beer without a grimace.

He is then ready for the next rite of passage. The initiate is led into a dimly lit room and downs at least three youthful drinks, such as Beefeater gin and Coca-Cola. At this point he is confronted with an array of ingenious devices which test his hand-eye coordination.

These tests include pool, Pong, pinball and Space Invaders and it is no coincidence that their greatest concentration is to be found in neighborhood bars.

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