

Editorial

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Embassy infested Demolition will kill bugs dead

Revelations from America's Moscow embassy indicate that U.S. debuggers have been using flyswatters to stop a bug infestation problem that would have overwhelmed the Orkin man.

Surveillance is part and parcel of superpower relations. Irrespective of the status of what used to be called detente, any halfway reasonable person would expect the Soviets to take advantage of opportunities to listen in on sensitive embassy conversations. Or at least so you'd think. But the U.S. embassy currently under construction in Moscow is apparently so infested with electronic bugs that only gross negligence could have been the reason.

The naivete of the U.S. in the matter is so complete that one would think the designation "Evil Empire" occurred in a different century. For example, materials used in the construction of the

embassy were — get this — prefabricated off the construction site by Soviet workers with no American supervision and moved onto the site intact to be fitted with the other sections.

Evidently the prefabricated materials are so replete with surveillance mechanisms that debugging could occur only with the complete destruction of the materials. Additionally, electronic surveillance experts indicate that the Soviets are so far beyond the U.S. in bugging technology that the American debuggers wouldn't even know what to look for. Thus there's no guarantee of a complete debugging.

As loathsome as it sounds, only the destruction of the current building and the construction of a new one holds any possible hope for a reasonably secure embassy. In this instance, no amount of Raid is going to kill these bugs dead.



Decline of Reagan Empire

Hypocritical veneer of establishment slowly chipping away

"The cancer of time is eating us away. Our heroes have killed themselves or are killing themselves. The hero, then, is not Time, but Timelessness."

— Henry Miller

If anything, the late '80s will be remembered as a time of transition when the hypocritical veneer of the political and the religious establishment was slowly stripped away and exposed for everyone to see in all its sensational glory.

According to former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick, Ronald Reagan has been attacked by "orgies" of allies for his shady dealings in the Contragate scam. She told Nebraskans in a speech last weekend that Ronnie is indeed a good man after all. He lowered inflation and unemployment, she said.

But the truth cannot be concealed, Jeane. Beneath those baggy jowls and that smarmy smile, Reagan is a conniving soul seething with subterfuge and deception. Many of us knew that all along — and Contragate/Iranganate (you choose the moniker) proved it.

Many of us also knew that Reagan's good friends Jim and Tammy Bakker had some dirt under their rug — a sprawling, monetary Christian theme park called Heritage U.S.A. Reagan once appeared as a guest on their "PTL Club" show and praised their actions. Jim and Tammy often lambasted the decadent youth of America and branded them a sinful breed who indulged in illicit sex and drugs. Hypocrisy surfaced when we all learned about Tammy's addiction to drugs and Jim's liaison with his secretary, Jessica Hahn.

You can bet our allies laughed even more about the "Pearlygate" scandal. Now our enemies have seen an oppor-

tunity to start making accusations about America. On Tuesday, The Associated Press reported that the Soviets claim the deadly disease AIDS is all part of an experimental warfare plot designed by the U.S. government. The Soviets are, of course, making it up, and they know that they can get away with such idiocy because the fall of the Great American Empire is upon us now.



Scott Harrah

It's now official. The knee-jerk conservatism that has reigned in our red, white and blue kingdom has finally been knocked down on its knees, and its advocates are groveling before the masses, making excuses and trying to stand up again. But the rest of the world is glaring down at Reagan and his proteges — all ready to kick Ronnie's administration the minute it tries to stand up. Kirkpatrick and people like columnist William Rusher are there to defend Reagan in front of his critics, but when they open their mouths, they just sound like babbling fools.

"I think it's useful to have the Democrats in control of Congress because it reminds the American people what the Democrats would do if they were in the presidency," Kirkpatrick told Nebraskans, then added: "Thank God we have a president who will look out for our heritage."

In his syndicated column, William A. Rusher said, "I think it's time that Reagan's many millions of supporters around this country came out of their

bomb shelters and denounced the Iran/Contra investigation for the cheap liberal-Democratic grandstand it has become."

Rusher and Kirkpatrick have become the paradigms of conservative reaction to these scandals. They have lost all sense of reason and have resorted to such cheap measures as blasting Reagan critics with a litany of grotesque "pot shots."

Reagan supporters and followers of the pre '60s era right-wing/religious-right ideologies have nowhere to turn when it comes to justifying their actions, so they hit the media and the liberals below the political belt with name-calling.

The media has been chronicling the Contragate and Pearlygate scams with what Reagan and Jim Bakker fans consider a "tabloid" sensibility. But what they fail to realize is that these scandals are sensational in nature; the press is merely telling the facts. Hypocrisy is inherently humorous — it doesn't need a load of eye-popping National Enquirer headlines to induce laughter.

The years of McCarthyesque politics and Bible Belt morals are gradually coming to an end as each new piece of scandal hits the public and makes people question the national mood that has dominated the arena since the beginning of the decade.

"As the gilt edges of Reagan's reign peel away, Ivan Boesky makes yuppies yucky, the pendulum is swinging back," journalist Walter Kirm muses in the May issue of Vanity Fair.

The political clock has been struck, and now the pendulum is quivering as Reagan tries desperately to hold it back in its right position in these final hours of the '80s generation.

Harrah is a senior English and speech major and the DN Arts and Entertainment editor.

Judge calls surrogate motherhood 'alternative reproduction vehicle'

One sentence among the thousands in the 121-page decision read in the New Jersey courtroom remains incontrovertible: "There can be no solution satisfactory to all in this kind of case."

Not even Gilbert and Sullivan could have tied all the loose ends and confused identities of the Baby M drama into a single happy ending. So Judge Harvey Sorkow chose to do his best in the interest of the baby.

He focused precisely and exclusively on the child produced by this artificial union of Mary Beth and Bill. She would be Melissa, he ruled, daughter to the Sterns. And Mary Beth Whitehead would have no rights.

I do not envy Judge Sorkow's role, the awesome power he exercised in

this custody case. Judges aren't permitted the luxury of endless ambivalence. Finally they must decide and, though his judgment of Whitehead was brutal, Sorkow's choice of the Sterns was wise.



Ellen Goodman

surrogacy. If it holds, we may have more Melissas and more, not fewer, characters in search of a conclusion.

In his opinion, the judge called surrogacy an "alternative reproduction vehicle that appears to hold out so much hope to the childless. . . ." The end result, children for the childless, was the primary value.

But I wonder whether he heard how these words echo to many of the rest of us. An alternative reproduction vehicle? An ARV? Isn't this what has been so troubling about the whole matter? Those of us less focused on the child or the children hear the mechanistic language, and flinch at the idea that there are women — ARVs — who will

Letter

'Unreasonable' student protests ticket.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "The reasonable man adopts himself to the ways of the world, therefore all progress depends upon the unreasonable." In hope that this is indeed the case, I am going to be an unreasonable man with respect to a recent parking ticket I received in one of UNL's student lots.

The ticket was for not having a hang tag, and it carried a \$3 fine. My hang tag was on the dash and not hanging from the mirror. I remove the hang tag from the mirror every time I drive as is required by state law as quoted to me by the Nebraska State Patrol in a phone conversation on April 7, 1987.

When I appealed my ticket (the appeal was denied) Richard Young, chairman of the Parking Advisory Board, stated that the State Patrol said it was OK to drive with the hang tag up. When I talked to the State Patrol, they knew of no such statement made to Young. Young lied.

I feel that this ticket is merely an effort to raise more revenue and serves

no purpose for parking enforcement.

This whole incident reminds me of a case four years ago when a student parked in a stall backwards and received a \$10 ticket. She lost her appeal and then complained in a public forum (the Daily Nebraskan) and eventually had the policy changed. A lot of people park in stalls backwards now. It is this hope of a policy change that leads me to be unreasonably stubborn in this situation. It is my hope that they no longer will give tickets for hang tags or will get rid of hang tags altogether.

I am to graduate this year, and if I refuse to pay this ticket, I understand it will leave my university account in the red and jeopardize my graduation. This just might be for the better.

I feel that the responsibility for this ludicrous ticket policy ultimately resides with Ronald Roskens. Please, I ask that you take appropriate actions to resolve this matter.

Daniel D. Bousek
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Letter Policy

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.