

# Opinion

## Misguided intentions

The State Department announced Thursday that it will withhold \$13.5 million in aid to Zimbabwe until that country's government apologizes for a July Fourth anti-American speech by a government official. While the administration's outrage is understandable, cutting off vital aid packages will hurt only the people of the African nation and leave the government unscathed.

Zimbabwe's minister of youth, sport and culture, David Karimanzira, made a diplomatic toast at a July Fourth celebration at the U.S. Embassy in Zimbabwe. The toast quickly became a criticism of the Reagan administration's South Africa policies. Karimanzira even went so far as to say the United States should declare war on Pretoria.

Karimanzira's actions, though uncalled for, are somewhat understandable. His country recently has suffered commando raids by South Africa aimed at guerrilla camps allegedly located within Zimbabwe's borders. The United States should be used to allies disagreeing with our refusal to impose economic sanctions against South Africa's racist government.

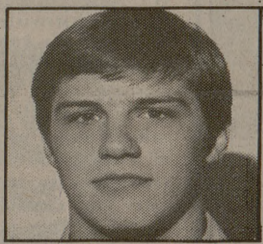
The holdout on Zimbabwe's aid package is an overreaction by the Reagan administration. Its punitive intentions are pointed in the wrong direction. The aid package consisted mostly of family planning and agricultural development projects. If these programs are withheld, it will have little effect on the government. But this type of aid is vital, especially to the rural populations of developing nations. It's these people who will suffer if the aid does not arrive.

The Reagan administration has a right to demand an apology for Karimanzira's unruly behavior. But it shouldn't use desperately needed aid to make the people of Zimbabwe pay for an indiscriminate big mouth in their government.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## Educational reforms worth studying for

We've all heard that "Johnny can't read," but trying to determine what to do about it has launched a nationwide campaign on the part of teachers, politicians and parents to upgrade the quality of education in the American school system.



Loren Steffy

Politicians have used the demand for educational reform to win votes. Teacher competency tests, student competency tests and a "return to basics" have been implemented more for their political appeal than as a real solution to the problem. Disgruntled voters will be appeased if it looks like something is being done.

Teacher groups such as the National Education Agency and the American Federation of Teachers have taken much the same route. In the past, the groups have encouraged higher teaching standards and, of course, higher salaries. Most recently they called for a national certification board to measure teacher competency. But it is not enough.

Only radical reforms, such as those proposed last week by the AFT at its national convention in Chicago, can save the floundering integrity of the teaching profession. The report shows a genuine desire to improve the educational quality, but some members already are lauding the move as anti-union. Well, teaching isn't about labor solidarity, it's about education. If teachers are going to become more competent in the public's eye, they are going to have to make it a priority.

The most interesting proposal in the AFT report is a call for the abolition of undergraduate degrees in education. If such a program were instigated, teachers would have to complete a graduate program before they could become certified to teach. The proposal may seem harsh, but it would weed out all but the

most dedicated students.

Education colleges have been plagued with bad reputations. The attitude that "those who can do, those who can't teach," scares off prospective students who don't want to be viewed as lacking motivation or desire. In addition, the education curriculum, because of its rumored simplicity, attracts more than its share of "husband hunters," who fail to uphold the academic credibility of the program.

The idea that those who "can" might want to teach is not considered in American society. Excellence in teaching is not seen as a way to get ahead. In the current state, one gets ahead in spite of teachers, not because of them.

But the idea of a graduate-degree-only certification program would put teacher training on the same educational plateau as other professions to which people trust their lives. Doctors are not licensed without going to medical school. We would not trust our health to them if they were. Lawyers cannot be certified without completing law school. If they were, we would not allow them to represent us in legal and financial matters.

Yet teachers have a more vital impact on our lives. They have a hand in shaping our overall intellectual capabilities. Without teachers there would be no doctors or lawyers — or anything else. Despite this keystone role, teachers are not subjected to the stringent educational requirements that legal and medical professionals are.

Eliminating undergraduate certification could change that. A prospective teacher could spend undergraduate years learning the basics, then hone and specialize those skills in the graduate program through internships and other clinical experience.

The AFT's proposal may scare some of its members because they know the public is tired of incompetence in the classroom. Now teacher organizations are starting to respond. No longer can teachers hide behind their unions, which overshadow their inadequate training with complaints of underpay. The public has said, "Show us you're worth it, and we'll pay you." Now the AFT is proposing a way for them to show us — and it's far better than standardized competency tests. Teachers will now prove they're "worth it" by showing us they're willing to work for it.

Standardized tests may give immediate gratification to the reform-hungry public, but it has a minimal effect on the overall quality of education. The only way to improve that quality is to increase the professionalism of educators through the improvement of teacher-training programs. Johnny can't read if his teacher can't teach.

The AFT proposal may not have the political appeal that state-mandated competency tests do, but it does deal with education in a fundamental sense. Vote-chasing isn't going to save education, only education can save education.

Loren Steffy is a senior journalism major and the Opinion Page editor for The Battalion.

Thursday, June 10, 1986

Attorney General Edwin Meese

holds his

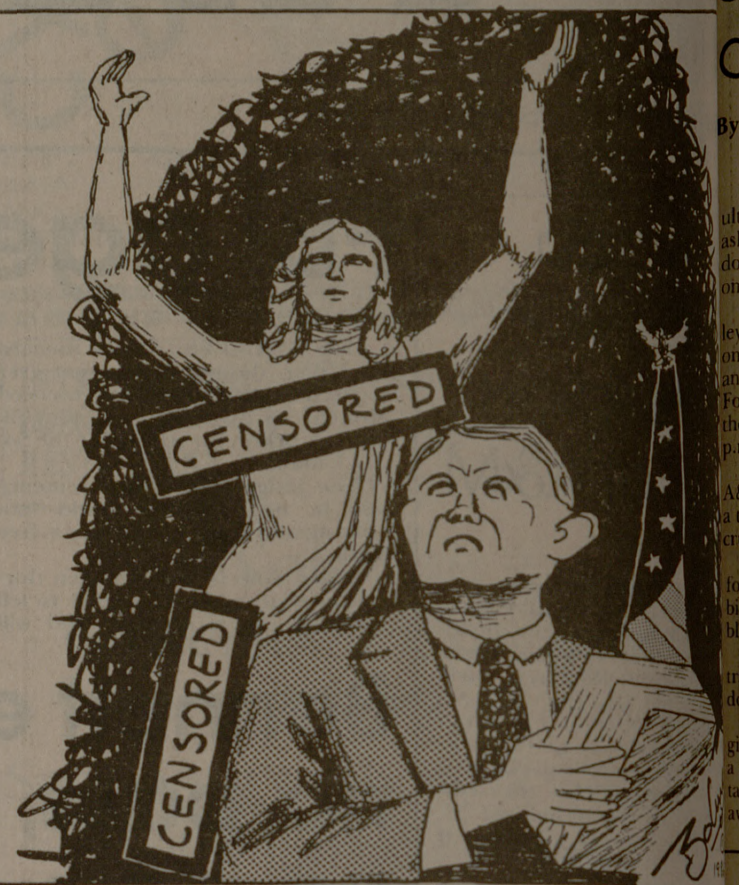
Pornography Panel's

final report

with

"The Spirit of Justice" statue

in the background.



## Meese's porn commission: how to evaluate its findings

Herewith a guide on how to respond to the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, whose findings have been derided so widely.



William F. Buckley Jr.

1. It was a mistake for the commission's executive director, Alan Sears, to write to merchandisers who handle the big three pornographic magazines (*Playboy*, *Penthouse*, *Hustler*) using language both hortatory and intimidating. (You "are involved in the sale or distribution of pornography . . . Failure to respond will necessarily be accepted as an indication of no objection"; i.e., to pornography.) He was properly rebuked by the court for exerting quasi-legal pressure without due process.

On the other hand, it is uncandid to take the position that the three mags are not pornographic. In order of appeal to lechery, they rank: *Hustler* (sick), *Penthouse* (much porn), *Playboy* (least porn), so let us speak of *Penthouse* as "la revue moyenne sensuelle." There are many definitions of pornography. The accusation has been made that the commission never defined it. Well, it did: Porn, said the commission, is material that is "predominantly sexually explicit and intended primarily for the purpose of sexual arousal." The best way to cope with the argument that *Penthouse* also publishes non-pornographic material is to laugh at it. Ask yourself the question whether *Penthouse* would survive three months without the sex. Its readership would be about the size of *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*.

2. The commission attempted to demonstrate that reading pornography inclines some readers to illegal behavior, for instance rape, or "aggressive sex." It probably is correct that it does, but almost impossible to prove. It would be much easier to prove that liquor enhances lechery than that *Penthouse* does. In the 21st century, they're going to be arguing about whether capital punishment decreases capital offenses. Well, we all know that it does, but would have a difficult time proving it beyond trivial objections. The commission, in other words, accepted a mandate it could not hope to handle.

There is hardly any question that *Penthouse* et al arouse and semi-satisfy lust. One asks these days: Well, is that bad? Lust is a human predicament, and just as food satisfies hunger, so lust needs satisfaction. The civilized answer to this is of course that lust as appetite is satisfied in marriage, and that unlike food, which is necessary to prolong life, sex can be, and everywhere is, contained and even sublimated. People enter voluntarily into celibacy.

The main argument against the pornographers is less that they depict lust than that in doing so they depict not the love of Romeo and Juliet, satisfied by love and marriage, but the sexual hunger of Joe for any Jane he can lay his hands upon. A typical ending of a sexual episode in the pornos sees Joe off after a casual encounter with Jane, in search of other prey.

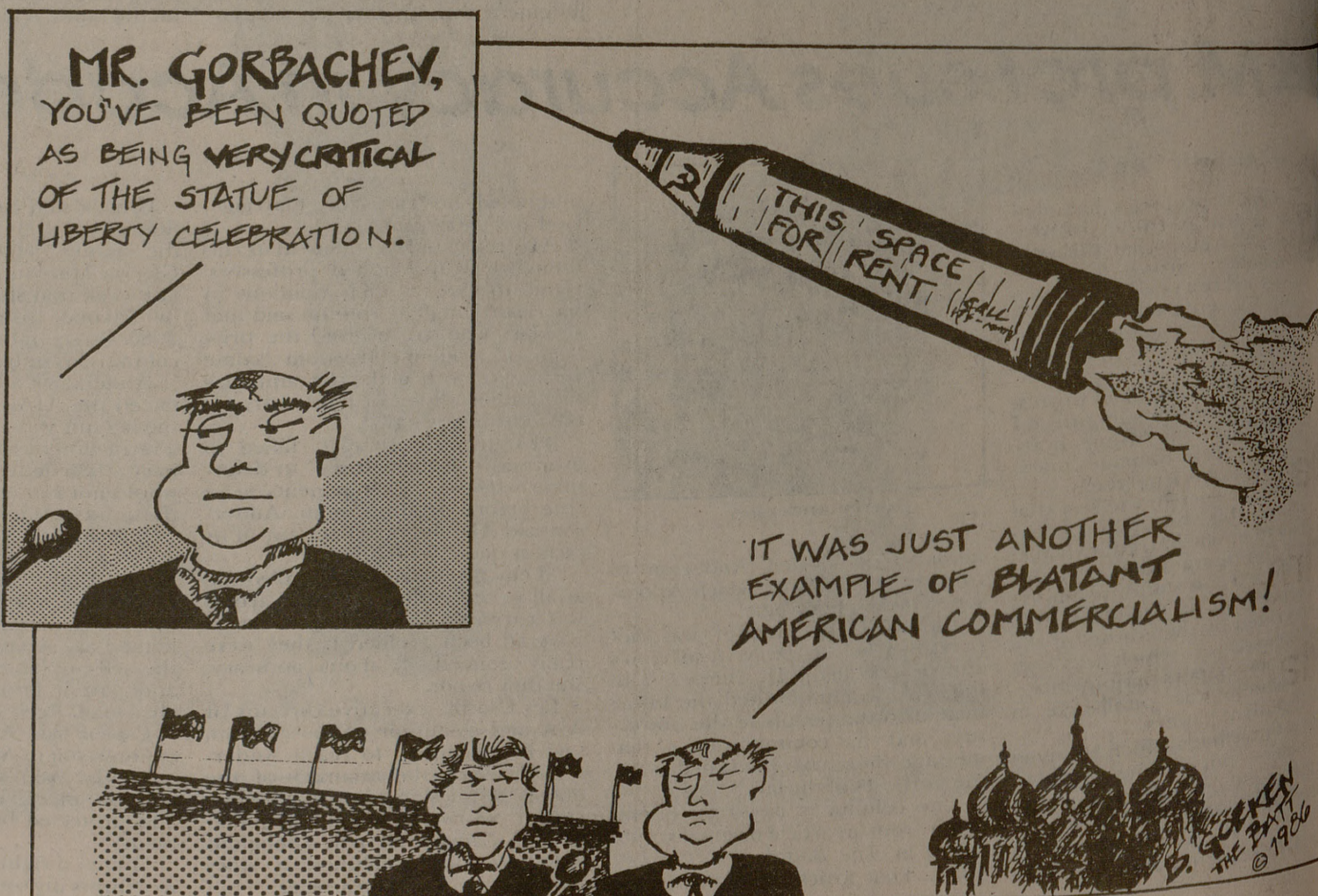
Now a free country countenances publishers who advocate callousness toward women, disregard for sexual restraint as the primal urge, utter nonchalance and irresponsibility for the fate of others; the devil himself is free to publish in America.

But so is public sentiment free to act. It violates no one's rights to organize boycotts of any store that traffics in material which encourages unwholesome behavior. If a boycott were organized against bookstores that sold books and magazines urging racial discrimination, preaching the utility of the black man primarily as menial, urging the view that the Jew is genetically avicious and untrustworthy, one doubts that the American Civil Liberties Union would object to organized boycotts of such outlets.

The commission on pornography's effect encourages such boycotts, and the wonder is that the firestorm in the cultural press is aimed not at the philopophizers who preach the kind of activity that results in illegitimacy and broken homes and is governed by the pragmatic imperative, but at those who seek to draw public attention to smut-for-profit. The critics join many libertarians in wondering how this all became a federal question. The answer to that is that the First Amendment is invoked in the least community, when efforts are made to counteract the smut peddlers. If the Supreme Court is going to become involved every time a citizen objects to "The Devil in Miss Jones" being shown at the local theater, then you are going to need federal findings on pornography.

And, finally, it is the feds who pay the cost — that cost that is payable — wanton sex. The Aid to Families With Dependent Children program costs about \$15 billion per year. And it would take any social scientist about five minutes to find a correlation between the birth of the sexual revolution in America and the multiple birth of the bastard in America.

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