



Letters

Leninism is dead

I was most interested to read your so-called "staff column" entitled "Lenin — A Man Who Shaped History" in the January 21 edition of the ODE. Just which "staff" is being referred to in the column — the staff of the Politburo in Moscow? Doesn't the Emerald print enough blatant political propaganda from our "People's Parties" without hashing up this garbage about the shining star of Lenin lighting and leading the way to a Communist nirvana? I wonder if the Vietnamese people feel "liberated" now that the Communists have purged the land of "landlord, military and U.S. domination." Are we to believe in the tale of "executions" in this country for espousing the ideas of Lenin, especially from those whose parties intermittently hold purges to "cleanse" themselves of ideological impurities? If we are to "establish a truly democratic and egalitarian society in these United States," it will be due in part to our opposition of Communist tyranny throughout the world, and not our support of it.

Lenin died, Leninism is dead, long live Jimmy Carter!

P.S. In order to meet its responsibility as an "objective" newspaper, the Emerald is now obligated to print "staff columns" on those two glorious liberators of the American people, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, when their birthdays come around in February. God bless America!

Paul Wallulis
Grad. Student — German

We've caught some flak over last Friday's Lenin commemoration; but that's all right, we expected to.

Our mistake was in giving the impression that the commemoration represented the views of the entire staff. This could not be further from the truth.

The commemoration was prepared by several staff members who feel that an understanding of Lenin's ideas is important for people living in this century. Others on the staff are indifferent toward Marxist-Leninism. The rest, probably a majority, are to varying degrees unsympathetic to communist ideology in general. But we're not going to take any sort of roll call.

The Emerald staff can't agree on whether to have tea or coffee, much less on which, if any, political ideology should be embraced by citizens of the United States. Any impression of a monolithic ideological orientation of the Emerald staff is a mistake we'll be careful to avoid in the future. -ed.

Write legislators

The Oregon Legislature is off to a fast start, and our agenda is long. Special interests have already made their desires known to us — but what does the public want?

Energy conservation, land use planning and pollution abatement are three major topics under consideration. Should the Oregon Legislature adopt mandatory energy conservation standards? Should we amend Senate Bill 100 and, if so, how? Should we take new initiatives to control noise pollution?

I strongly encourage all interested citizens to write us soon. Your views really do count. Thank you for your help.

Senator Ed Fadeley, Chair
Senate Environment and
Energy Committee
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97310

Racist recruiters

The University as neutral marketplace of ideas? Hardly! In December the Cultural Forum paid a hefty fee to bring Senator Joe Biden to tell us how the U.S. is suddenly going to abandon four billion dollars in U.S. corporate investments in South Africa (ha! ha!) if the racist Voerster regime doesn't become nicer to its blacks. Then on Jan. 10, a white professor of race relations at Rhodesia's only university (which hasn't educated too many blacks) is brought by the University Lectures Committee to present liberal platitudes about the situation in southern Africa.

Now, on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, the University is host to recruiters from Weyerhaeuser, a corporation which invested in cheap labor and raw materials in South Africa beginning in the 1960s — precisely when most nations were condemning Voerster's racist apartheid regime. A quote from Weyerhaeuser's own magazine shows the kind of enlightened viewpoint the University is so academically neutral about:

"The Zulu in his tribal work setting is usually haphazard, unorganized, spasmodic and unsupervised..."

"By contrast, tribal Zulus accepting employment in the white man's factories have to adjust to rigid Western standards. Slowly but surely, they make this adjustment and develop work attitudes fitting the Western standard..."

"Problems still remain today, but that's understandable as a hardy and basically intelligent people who still have one foot in the stone age learn Western ways..." (Weyerhaeuser Magazine, July, 1968)

It's clear from the above that Weyerhaeuser's philosophy has no problems with South African apartheid. Not when super-profits are concerned. On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. people will get together at Susan Campbell Hall (where Weyerhaeuser is recruiting) to picket and raise sharp questions about what Weyerhaeuser and the U.S. government are doing in southern Africa.

Jonathan Draper
Graduate — Political Science
For the Revolutionary
Student Brigade

Abortions well justified

We emphatically disagree with Edward J. Marhart's letter on abortion. Since you consider it murder, Mr. Marhart, perhaps you'd better give up sex lest you become an accomplice. You asked what right a mother has to abort an unborn fetus. We want to know what right you have, period. You'll never become pregnant.

For your own much needed education, we've given you a brief description of some changes which occur in a woman's body during pregnancy. A woman carries a fetus for nine months. At the beginning she endures nausea, vomiting, weight loss and slight anemia. Her breasts become enlarged and painful, her skin sensitive. As pregnancy progresses, there is increased activity in the glandular and circulatory systems. Varicose veins are common. The pelvic joints soften. Bones and teeth are weakened from calcium deficiency. Urination and constipation are frequent. Movement is awkward and painful. In late pregnancy, the lungs are impeded. Breathing becomes deeper and more frequent. The liver is enlarged and displaced.

The actual birth of a fetus is a long, exhausting and painful process. (Remember God's cursing of Eve?) It is followed by the expulsion of the placenta, membranes and some blood from the uterus.

All of this sounds difficult enough but it isn't the end. Bearing and raising a child is expensive and a tremendous responsibility. The financial odds are against a woman even if she works because most health plans and workman's compensations don't cover pregnancy. (i.e. pre-natal, natal, and post-natal care.) A child demands a lot of attention and care which the mother almost always provides. This means much time and energy on her part. We say a woman has every right to determine the fate of her unborn fetus. That child-to-be will make great demands on her body and her life.

"Biologically, life begins at conception when the sperm and ovum are fused." Does it? Recently, there was some question about determining the moment of death. An experiment was performed in which electrodes were hooked up to a mound of lime jello. The machine connected to those electrodes registered the jello as being alive. It seems ridiculous but the point is that the nature and boundaries of life, beginning or end, are often hard to establish. All that can be said about the fusing of a sperm and an ovum is that a zygote is formed.

You speak of human life as a sacred gift, something to be cherished and respected. We also believe this. In fact it is so precious that no child should ever be brought into the world only to die from malnutrition because there are already too many people. No child should ever suffer physical and emotional abuse at the hands of parents who are incapable of handling this responsibility. No woman's life should ever be destroyed by a child she does not want or cannot support. It's unfortunate, but an unwed mother is far more likely to be ostracized than an unwed father. Most of all, no woman should ever be the victim of a self-inflicted or badly performed illegal abortion.

If there was no such thing as rape, if safe, infallible methods of birth control were available and effectively used, abortion wouldn't be necessary. Unfortunately, we aren't perfect and abstinence takes a lot of will power. How strong are you, Mr. Marhart? We don't accept abortion as a primary birth control method. It is a very serious matter, one that requires careful consideration. The decision to have an abortion is not an easy one to make, especially for a college student, but at least that option exists and safely.

Several years ago, an abortion advocate gave a presentation at a New York library. While he was speaking, a man dressed in a black robe and a skull mask walked in and sat down. This man stayed in the front row during the entire presentation, tearing baby dolls apart. Afterwards, a reporter approached him and glancing at the "Abortion is Murder" sign around the man's neck, asked him what he recommended. "Self control," the man snapped back. "How many children do you have?" the reporter continued. The man answered, "Eleven."

Elizabeth Bardossi
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