

# opinion

## The arms business

Sen. Bob Packwood, surprisingly, does not support the nuclear freeze initiative. It would curb arms production.

Last week at a Eugene Rotary Club speech, Packwood said he supported a freeze and a reduction in the nuclear arms race, but he doesn't support legislation that would curb our ability to sell arms to Europe. We imagine he includes other politically feasible buyers.

Packwood's logic: "We won't force the weapons on Europe. If Europe doesn't want them, we can't sell them. But what if Europe does want them?"

In other words, what if we have a market for arms, nuclear or otherwise? Whether he intended to or not, Packwood reflected a truth about the American military build-up that has nothing to do with our defense as a nation.

Defense machinery is a major, perhaps the major, international business of the United States. And in times of recession, low GNP and an unfavorable balance of trade, morality and peace play a poor second to the economics of arms sales.

Packwood joins many of his colleagues in Congress when he continues to support defense packages regardless of the country's mood or Oregon's mood for curbing defense and negotiating a nuclear freeze with the Soviet Union.

Moral considerations of these senators give way to political support from big defense corporations and defense workers. What is surprising is when senators without much military influence in their state, such as Packwood, think along these lines.

Military spending, particularly the production of large ticket items, such as the B-1 bomber currently under construction, creates jobs and profits.

Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger has been using his knowledge of the jobs the defense department creates during his eight Congressional hearings this month. Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Michigan, criticized the defense department's recommended cuts last week, only to be reminded by Weinberger that the military will create 154,000 jobs in Michigan this year.

It is no accident that anti-nuclearites in the Senate such as Alan Cranston, D-California and Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, support the B-1. It is being built in California and engineered in Ohio.

Weinberger has statistics on all the senator's states to come to defense's defense and save the production items.

The defense budget is going to be cut in 1983. The question is where and why.

Packwood and his cronies in the Senate should look beyond the immediate short-term fiscal considerations. It is long past the time to halt nuclear and other arms productions.

Packwood and his cronies would do well to start considering the moral obligations of being the arsenal for the world. Is that really the "good" the United States wants to lead the world in? And is that really the cause Packwood and friends want to stand up for in front of their constituents?



## letters

### Subversive

As a University student, I find it extremely frustrating to know that the ASUO is supporting subversive political movements with our tuition funds. I came here to get an education, but now the ASUO has decided that I must support Students for a Nuclear-Free Future, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Asian Student Society, and numerous other interest groups.

Is it part of the educational process to support socialistic movements? Will I be forced in the future to support the Save the Drugged-Out Hippies Association, the Communist Youth Brigade, and the Ted Kennedy for President Fund?

How can the ASUO justify such misuse of tuition revenue without being accountable to the students? I do not hate minorities or dissenters, but I resent being coerced into supporting gays and subversive radical organizations.

Students — it is your tuition money being wasted (\$52 per term). If you think tuition is too high, part of the reason is your wonderful ASUO, which has decided that it is best for you to

pay for other "important" things besides your actual educational costs.

I suggest that the ASUO get back to the basics and keep out of political issues, or else their jobs will be replaced by people who realize the words "socialism" and "college education" are not synonymous.

**Randy Shepard**  
sophomore, business

### Sanctuary

Regarding the wanton destruction of the tree house in Washburn Park the other day the Register Guard correctly points out that there were more compassionate options available to those charged with law enforcement, then goes on to say "But the tree house ultimately had to come down. If not where would the city draw the line? One illicit tree house tacitly permitted... Where does compassion for the homeless end and creation of other public problems begin?"

We may not be able to give a satisfactory answer to this question, but we can all plainly see where they city does in fact draw the line. Consider the big cement cross erected illegally in Skinner's Butte Park. In that case, the offender was wealthy. The construction is highly visible, serves no useful purpose and has served only as a perennial bone of contention. But in that case the city issued a retroactive building permit and went to considerable expense to defend it in court, thereby illegally using our tax money for a religious purpose and forcing those who were offended by the cross to pay, through their taxes, for the court expenses of those opposing them.

If the young man in the tree house had fastened his Bible to the lower part of the trunk of the tree together with a big sign proclaiming his tree house to be a place of worship perhaps the city would have come to his defense, too.

**Bayard McConaughy**  
professor, biology

### Practices

Doug Nash deserves congratulations for his courage in bringing to light ROTC's discriminatory practices against homosexuals and lesbians.

Last year Pres. Paul Olum, before kicking the partially National Wildlife Federation-fund-

ed Pacific Northwest Resource Center off campus, declared that "ROTC... is an academic program within the University," and was thus not comparable to the PNRC.

It could also be argued that ROTC is a virtual vocational school run by the Defense Department, which in return for the money it pumps into the University demands the right to determine who shall enter the program, who shall receive scholarships, and who shall teach the courses.

But the administration finds ROTC an academic program.

Academic programs at this University must allow students "equal opportunity in education and employment without regard to... any other extraneous consideration not directly related to effective performance."

ROTC is currently practicing discrimination in both areas.

Homosexuals and lesbians are denied scholarship opportunities which are available to "straights." They cannot be officers and thus cannot be hired to teach ROTC courses. Sexual preference clearly has no bearing on an individual's ability to serve as an officer: blackmail, if the individual is admittedly gay, is impossible.

Pres. Olum cannot eat his cake and have it too. Either ROTC is an arm of the Department of Defense and must be kicked off campus under the PNRC precedent, or it is an academic program which is violating University rules.

It is time for Affirmative Action to take some action. Students should be demanding it as surely as they would if Women's Studies refused to hire male professors or if Ethnic Studies began refusing scholarships to WASPs.

**Sherri Schultz**  
sophomore, political science, french

### Alaska loans

Alaskan students, are you attending the University with a state loan? If so, beware!

Dear, rich, Gov. Sheffield has proposed cutting your loan in half, raising your interest to nine percent, and eliminating the four-year one-half forgiven clause. Protect the future of your college education. Write to your representative today!

**Amy Baker**  
Alaskan student

## letters

### O positive

I was delighted to see the Emerald coverage of the two-day blood donation drive held in the EMU. However, the tone set by the picture and narrative was unfortunate. As a regular blood donor, I do not consider donating painful and am dismayed that you would present it as such. The positive impact on the

community of the nearly 200 donations far outweighs the minor discomfort felt by donors.

The University of Oregon Donor Club replaces blood units used by University faculty, staff, students, and their immediate families at about half the cost. This substantial benefit can be offered only because people donate blood to the

Donor Club.

Treating the common fear of needles in a joking manner obscured the real value of the blood drive on campus. I am very sorry the Emerald chose to emphasize the discomfort rather than the very positive aspects of the blood donating.

**Linda King**  
UO Blood Donor Club

## oregon daily emerald

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