

letters

Narrow-minded

In his article "A Waste of A Season" (April 13), Paul Danzer asks "how stupid do they think we are?" He certainly answers his own question with his incredibly narrow-minded follow-up: very.

Danzer's article looks at the Major League sports seasons of basketball and hockey as nothing more than a warm-up for the "second season," the playoffs, and that the entire season is a futile and pointless venture. It is this kind of journalistic tunnel-vision that only inspires the demeaning of the regular season in these sports without really looking to the purpose of these games: as singular entertainment outlets for fans of the sports.

It is obvious that Danzer has attended few if any NBA or NHL games live. The fact that the outcome of the contest has little bearing on the overall results of the team within the league is generally lost within the recreational value of the match itself. The fans who attend the contest are usually there for the entertainment received, and pay their money not to expect the game to have monumental effect on the sports world but to receive enjoyment from watching two teams of outstanding athletes play. Sure, the prospect of having the local team make it into the playoffs and even having a chance at the "world championship" would be nice, but for this particular evening they want to have a good time. Is this an indication of "stupid suckers"? If so, then Danzer is not only indicting Big League winter sports, but all leisure ventures as well.

Why stop at the NBA and NHL? NCAA basketball has slipped into the same mold. Who would have expected North Carolina State to make it all the way to the final four, much less take top honors?

And yet their inspired play didn't come until the regular season had ended. Try telling Ralph Sampson or Akeem Olatunji that his season was a waste of time because he didn't go all the way and take the championship.

In all, the most important thing to remember is that the fans are looking for a little enjoyment for one night. And that the end game is really of minor importance. Too bad that fact has escaped Danzer.

Jim Stevens-Alumnus
recreation and
parks management

Lawbreakers

This letter is addressed to Michael Lysne, who acted with such great insensitivity to Manny Hernandez's refusal to register for the draft.

Who died and made you God?

The "forefathers" that you mentioned in your letter of April 4 were lawbreakers also, following the dictates of their consciences, in opposition to constituted authority of the times. Would you have turned them in, also, Lysne?

Hernandez may feel that he is defending his country's
Oregon Daily Emerald

foundation of ethical values through his moral refusal to register. Who is to say that he is wrong, if he is acting as he honestly believes is right? One of the freedoms of this country is the freedom to find one's destiny, short of harm to others; and you may have done serious harm to Hernandez by your callous act of insensitivity: that is, sending his name to the Selective Service — or "SS" (ring any bell?).

In the Register-Guard of April 9, it was reported on page one that the Dept. of Justice has advised the Dept. of Education to stop requiring male student loan applicants to certify that they have registered from the draft. It would seem that your misplaced zeal has put Hernandez in a very compromising position with the Selective Service; yet the basis for your action is not supported by even the Dept. of Justice.

To save you a stamp and some time, I feel it only fair to advise you that I am a veteran of active service with the U.S. Navy's Third and Seventh Fleets, and have my discharge to verify this. That is, if you feel a need to personally involve yourself in the lives of people who choose to exercise the freedoms guaranteed us in the Constitution.

David Walton
graduate, English Literature

Radioactive

Teledyne Wah Chang, located near Albany, uses a metallurgical reduction process to extract primary metals. Zirconium, one metal, is made into fuel tubes used in commercial nuclear reactors, nuclear submarine propulsion reactors and nuclear weapons.

As a result of this production process, toxic chemicals and radioactive waste products are generated. Such wastes were produced as sludges from 1967 to 1980 and are now stored in two unlined ponds on the flood plain merely 400 feet from the Willamette River.

The waste will only be moved if studies conducted determine it is safe to do so. These studies are to be conducted by Wah Chang itself.

On February 14, 1983, a decision by the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council to permit permanent storage of Wah Chang's radiological waste was contested. It is now before the Oregon State Supreme Court.

Until the court makes its final decision the siting council's permit is not in effect. This allows the State Legislature to examine the council's standards and conduct in the licensing process. As a result of this examination, SB416 sponsored by the Senate Energy and Environmental Committee is before the legislature at this time.

This bill would modify the standards, lower the levels of allowable radium release, prohibit the storage of waste within or adjacent to the meander zone or flood plain of a river. The bill also requires that a site can only be

selected if there are no other alternative sites currently available "that would better protect the health safety and welfare of the public and the environment."

Since the Supreme Court's decision probably won't be made until this fall, it is imperative that the Legislature establish these tougher standards this summer so that if the Supreme Court does send the case back to the siting council, the council would be bound by the standards which would better protect the health of Oregonians. A public hearing will be held Friday, April 22, 1983 in Salem. I strongly urge you to attend the hearings or contact your legislator and express your views.

Jack Kapuscinski
senior, history

