

joan nyland suitable for comment

Mother's Day columns and cards usually say things like: Thank you Mom for all the times you chauffeured me here and there. Thank you Mom for all the great meals. Thank you Mom for all the emergency loans.

But, I don't want to thank my mother this Sunday for all those duties that she performed so well and still does.

To be honest, I am uncomfortable with that role model she gave me. Like many women in their 20s, I cannot bring myself to like the martyr image my mother portrayed. I want to ask her repeatedly, "Why did you do that?"

If I should ever be somebody's mother, I do not want my thank you's summed up one day in May. I do not want the basis of praise from my children to read: Thank you for being my slave.

However, I do want to thank my mother for some things for which she rarely gets credit.

I would like to thank my mother for never punishing me in front of anyone. I can still hear her saying, "The idea is to understand what you did wrong — not to humiliate."

I thank my mother for being extremely honest and open

about sexuality when I was a child and adolescent.

I appreciated her attending all those horrible recitals, understanding my need for solitude and encouraging me to read.

My special thank you regards a "little lecture" she gave me before I went to college. She told me not to give up my dreams for her, or my father or any relationship. She wanted me to live my own life and not to sacrifice. I don't sacrifice. Now, I can only hope she doesn't find me too selfish.

My eldest sister says, "Mom's legacy is her uncanny way of making the inevitable, enjoyable." Well, my mother does not have a secret handle on fate and I always have suspected there is a lot of unnecessary compromising going on under that cheerful exterior.

I think my mother's legacy is her infectious insistence that one stop, and smell the roses and let things grow in their own time.

The wonderful mothers are women with personalities who can discern when to nurture and when to nudge.



letters

Affirmation

David Herman's letter entitled, "Dissenting," in which he explains his reasons for voting against the University Nuclear Free Zone Initiative makes a valid point concerning the academic freedom of the physics department. Potentially, the freedom of nuclear physics research could be compromised. Beyond this point, Herman's logic deteriorates.

The statement, "As long as the Kremlin wants to take over the world and the West resists" is an overly simplistic assessment of Soviet intentions and American policy. Both states pursue aggressive foreign policies with the intention of spreading their own influence as far as possible. Both states use the panacea of "national security" to rationalize the export of arms to most of the Third World and for their failure to find a solution to the Cold War.

Competition among nations is not in itself a bad thing. But when the competition takes place in an atmosphere of fear, hostility and expanding military capabilities war becomes a very real possibility.

The Nuclear Free Zone initiative is an attempt to alleviate this climate of fear. It is an ideological statement by the majority of University students that they are willing to take the first small steps towards peace. More important, it is an affirmation of our belief in man's ability to settle his disputes peacefully, with the power of diplomacy rather than the force of bombs. How anyone can be opposed to this initiative, I cannot understand.

Eric Kellermann
senior, history

Established fear

The message delivered by Arthur Cox during Ground Zero Week about the nuclear arms race was not a new one. What was new was the fact that Arthur Cox said what he said. He has been a part of the American diplomatic establishment. He has talked first hand with Russians. He embodies a sense of the history of the negotiations to halt the proliferation of nuclear missiles.

As he spoke I was aware of his mood of suppressed fear. He talked about the Russians' love for their country. He talked about how much the Russians had suffered — both in the loss of human lives through wars and internal oppression and in their loss of national pride when forced to withdraw from Cuba in 1962.

Cox's fear arises from this understanding. Because of this suffering and loss of pride, Russians will not allow themselves to be victimized again. If pushed to the brink by Pershing missiles in Europe (which can reach Russian soil in six to eight minutes), the threat of preventing undetectable destruction may leave them with no other choice than to fire their missiles first.

Cox's message was clear. We have eight months to stop this act of American military lunacy. There is no justification — defensively or monetarily — for putting Pershing missiles in Europe. Let us join with the multitudes of peacekeepers in Europe and stop this suicidal nonsense.

Stuart Shaw
Wesley Foundation

Uranium mill

The Lakeview Mining Company began mining uranium in south central Oregon in 1956. The company stopped its operation in 1961, leaving behind 130,000 tons of uranium mill tailings on 30 acres near the town of Lakeview. At that time, most authorities did not consider the low-level radioactive wastes to be dangerous. Unfortunately for the people of Lakeview, those authorities were wrong.

The incidence of oatcell lung cancer in Lakeview (common in uranium miners) has increased 10 fold since 1961. The small town now has the highest rates of breast cancer and infant mortality in the state.

State law does not allow the storage of most low-level radioactive wastes in Oregon.

In 1979, however, the uranium mining industry successfully lobbied the State Legislature to exempt uranium mill tailings from the state ban on radioactive wastes. On May 6 the State Senate Energy and Environment Committee will hold a work session on SB 419, a bill which would once again prohibit the storage of uranium mill tailings in the state.

The dangers of these radioactive wastes are not restricted solely to the people of Lakeview. Medford, Roseburg, Coos Bay and McDermitt also contain extensive uranium desposits.

If you do not want these areas to become another Lakeview attend the work session, write your legislator or call toll-free at 1-800-452-7813 (686-7500 for Eugene/Springfield residents).

Jan Flaherty
Eugene

letters

Principles

At last Wednesday's University Assembly meeting, I watched 176 University professors vote to "postpone indefinitely" discussion of the discrimination against gay and lesbian people which is openly practiced by an academic department of this university.

Perhaps thanks are in order. In two minutes, I got a more compelling education about the difference between principles and actions than I have received all year — an education I will not soon forget, although I wish with all my heart that I could.

Sherri Schultz
political science, French

Wilderness

The Forest Service, in conjunction with the Outdoor Program has a "Wilderness Skills Trail" on campus Thursday and Friday. You can go through it like an obstacle

course to find out how skillful you are.

So I said to them: "I've got a wilderness skill for you. How about standing in front of a bulldozer?"

The Forest Service official grinned. The Outdoor Program representative grinned, too. Everybody smiles when they hear that. Because it's so right.

Because at this moment people are standing in front of bulldozers on an illegal, immoral road that the Forest Service is trying to hack into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

So if you want to do something for humanity, for trans-humanity, and for yourself, do this: Go to the demonstration at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. today in the EMU courtyard. Go to the Earth First Road Show tonight at 7 p.m. in 123 Science I. Then get into your jeans, your boots and get down to the wilderness and block that 'dozer!

Marcy Willow
Survival Center

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