

Media misses on Olympics

It's easy to get caught up in all the brouhaha surrounding the Los Angeles Olympics and to start chanting "USA! USA!" and waving the American flag, especially if one doesn't look beyond what's offered in the assorted media.

Since the Olympic torch began its ballyhooed fundraising jaunt across the nation — it cost each carrier \$3,000 for the privilege of toting the thing — the American public has been bombarded with news of a swelling national pride and growing patriotism.

It's difficult to find fault with that or to argue with that conclusion. Yet we do find fault with the media and believe they have fallen short of the ideal of the Olympics — an ideal that was within their grasp to promote.

The Olympic Games stand for the unification of the human race, the breaking down of barriers, and they provide a forum to display the fact that we're all not so different after all. The media certainly could be covering the Olympics from that angle, but instead they are taking the easy way out.

The media coverage is propagating a definite us vs. them attitude. It's fine to cheer for a favorite, but the true Olympic spirit lies in the beauty of the competition. That beauty is not diminished if the medal winners are athletes from foreign countries. Yet the public has been given little opportunity to fully appreciate that beauty.

It is no wonder so many people have taken such a nationalistic approach; that's all the assorted media have allowed them to read and see. Newspapers overwhelm readers with the trials and tribulations of U.S. athletes, yet the experiences of foreign athletes could rival our own.

The worst offender is ABC. In Sunday's men's 220-meter freestyle swimming event a West German, Michael Gross, broke a world's record and captured the gold medal. Another West German, Thomas Fahrner, garnered a bronze medal for third place. In its live coverage, ABC failed to mention Fahrner and glossed over Gross because Americans finished second and fourth.

The world is spilling over with nationalism, patriotism, and territorialism. But as technology continues to grow, the world continues to shrink; the future — for better or worse — calls for the people of the world to grow closer together, not to build more walls.

The Olympics stand for a breaking down of the barriers that separate the countries of the world. The U.S. media are doing a disservice to the people by missing the point.

Repeal process raises questions

In a special session Monday, the Oregon Legislature repealed a method of taxing multi-national corporations that do business in Oregon. The unitary tax, as it was called, supposedly deterred corporations from setting up shop in the state and was vehemently opposed by Gov. Vic Atiyeh. It was his prodding that brought about the special session.

Atiyeh says corporations, primarily from Japan, will hasten to take advantage of the new system. Meanwhile, the state's coffers are reduced by \$15 million annually as a result of the tax cut.

Atiyeh pushed for the special session and the vote, yet, ironically, it doesn't take affect until 1986. Not only that, the Legislature has banded the issue for nigh on a year.

Consequently, the whole process has served to spark our curiosity. Why was it so necessary for the Legislature to decide now to repeal the unitary tax? While the state waits for economy-saving corporations to settle in, what does it do about the \$15 million shortage?

If someone satisfactorily answers these questions, we might join Atiyeh in acclaiming the repeal.



letters

Real soldiers

I am shocked and saddened by the message of the statue "Corporate Soldier" that appeared in the EMU Courtyard Thursday. The statue is of a figure with weapons and a helmet and is made of rusted machine parts. The message that I draw from the statue is that the sculptor believes that all soldiers, or at least American soldiers, are machines, or toys, or something to be blown up and scored for points in a video game.

Having known a number of soldiers in my time, I can assure you that they are real honest-to-God human beings, complete with human feelings, including especially fear.

The thing that I found very interesting about this statue was that it accompanied a poster for the Students Cooperating to Oppose Registration and the Draft (or some such, I may have gotten the name wrong, but the sentiments I'm sure of). That an organization that opposes war and a military draft should support the posings of this sculptor strikes me as ridiculous. They, of all people, should know that soldiers in any modern army are people just like themselves.

In fact, if they fail to successfully oppose registration and the draft, the soldiers in America's next war might be those very same student activists.

The last thing that they should want to do is spread the dangerous notion that soldiers are anything but scared kids. These notions, along with medieval notions of the glory of

war and the elan of the troops, do the most to encourage generals, presidents, politbureau members and suchlike to throw their troops into wars.

Thank you for your attention.
Stewart R. King
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Mushrooming?

A recent report by the American Civil Liberties Union documents the continuing contempt displayed by the Reagan administration toward the rights of the American public to debate public policy, which is codified in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The report "Free Trade in Ideas: A Constitutional Imperative" notes that Reagan's adherence to a free and unfettered "marketplace" does not include ideas and information. Using a variety of laws, the current administration is engaged in a broad campaign to restrict and control the movement of ideas and information across the American border.

The methods include a revival of the infamous McCarran-Walter Act which permits the exclusion of aliens from the United States on the basis of their political beliefs; restricting the right to travel by imposing passport restrictions and by prohibiting expenditures to and from certain countries; inhibiting the importation and dissemination of information from abroad through extensive labeling and reporting requirements (such as the designation, last year, of political propaganda to three

award-winning Canadian films distributed by the prestigious National Film Board of Canada, which dealt with nuclear war and acid rain; and export controls on scientific data.

Evidently, the Reagan administration has decided to adopt the mushroom growers theory of public debate about governmental policy, i.e. keep them in the dark and feed them bull manure.

David Isenberg
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Sharing blame?

I am particularly annoyed by Michael Cross's selective reading of the Democratic record. Let me refer to several blatant propagandistic remarks which need to be corrected.

1. Diplomatic relations with a country does not imply approval of a country's internal politics. Recognition in 1933 of the Soviet Union by Roosevelt was prompted by mass starvation due to Stalin destroying Russian agriculture with his agricultural collectives. Several million people died and diplomatic relations were established to facilitate a massive famine relief effort to save lives.

2. The Korean and Vietnam wars were bipartisan in their inception. Joint Republican and Democratic congressional action started our involvement in Vietnam. If you don't believe this, Mr. Cross, check to see that the Gulf of Tonkin resolution

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