

## editorial

# Castro's idea could save 1988 Olympics

When the International Olympic Committee announced that the 1988 Olympic Games would be held in South Korea, many Olympic athletes and international sports fans feared that the stage had been set for another Olympic boycott.

Why the International Olympic Committee chose a divided country as the site for the 1988 games is not clear, but by putting them in South Korea, the chances are that North Korea will call upon Communist-bloc nations to boycott. If this happens, especially in light of the recent boycotts led by the United States and the Soviet Union, then the spirit of international cooperation at the games could be seriously damaged.

To prevent another major boycott, Cuban President Fidel Castro has come up with an idea that deserves important consideration. Castro's suggestion to Juan Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, is to share the 1988 games equally between North and South Korea. Considering the ongoing tensions between the two countries and the likelihood of a North Korean-led boycott of the games, Castro's suggestion should be given careful consideration. It might prove to be the only way to prevent a major boycott.

During the last two decades the Olympic Games have been increasingly turned into a battle ground for political ideologies. This must stop if the spirit of the games is going to survive. What is that spirit? It is the ability of all countries to momentarily rise above their political differences, to join together in pursuit of athletic excellence and in the process to share experiences across cultural boundaries.

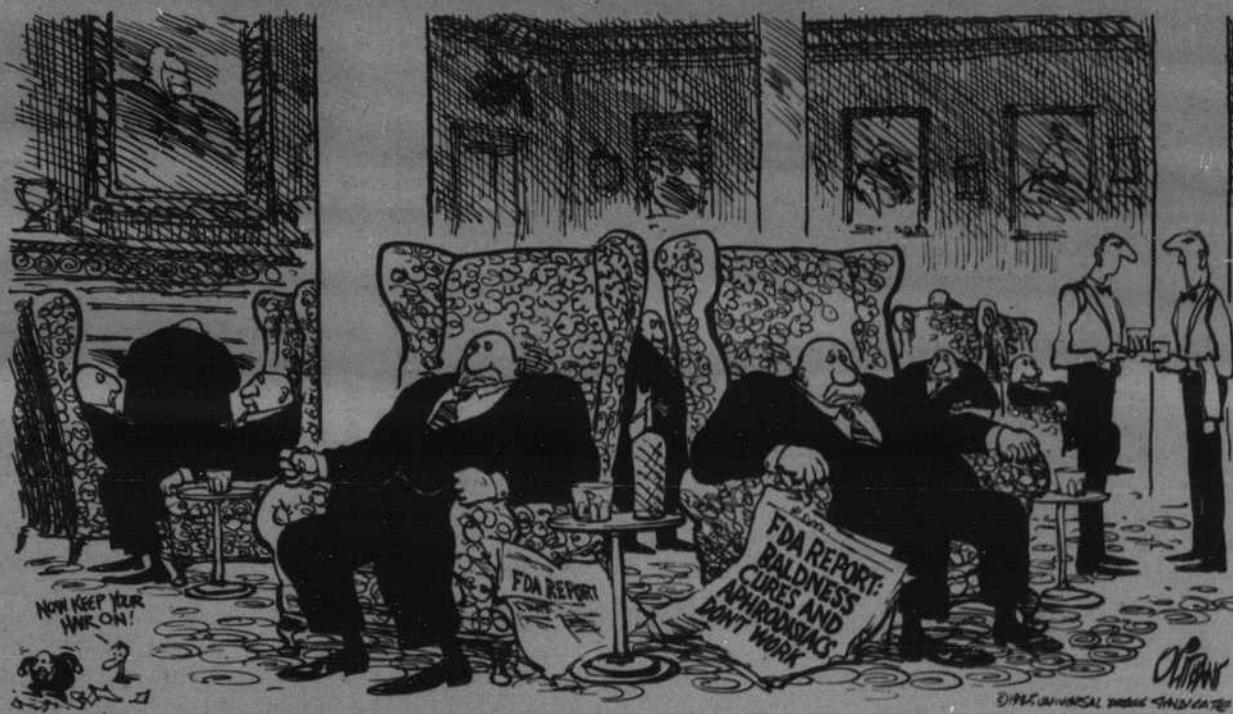
Perhaps the best example of this can be found in the history of Greece, where the games started over 2000 years ago. During the bloody 25 year war between Athens and Sparta, a war based upon strong ideological differences, both nations managed to put those differences aside when it came to the Olympic Games. It was one of the only times Athenians and Spartans met and shared common experiences outside of the battlefield. Although the games didn't stop the Greeks from fighting one another, given the nuclear realities of today, we have to make every effort to put battlefields behind us and international cooperation ahead.

## The answer to abortion lies between the extremes

In many ways it is a battle of extremists. On the one side are those who call the pro-choice people "murderers." On the other side are those who argue that abortion is justified under any conditions.

In the middle of the debate on abortion are people who see the issue as a multi-faceted problem with a multi-faceted answer. These are people who realize that abortion is killing but also realize that back-alley abortions, as was the case prior to 1973, mean death too — the death of women.

Abortion occurs because of unwanted pregnancies. Therefore, to decrease the number of abortions in society we must try to decrease the number of unwanted pregnancies. This is common ground upon which both pro-choice groups and anti-abortionists can and should stand together. Education about sexual reproduction, wider availability of contraceptives for both sexes, better care for unwanted children, financial assistance for low-income families and more adoption programs are among the different ways to help lower the abortion rate. No doubt people will still continue to shout slogans of "murder" or claim that abortion is always justified. But if the problem of unwanted pregnancies is to be lessened, then people must identify its causes. A legal abortion law is not the cause of unwanted pregnancies.



## letters

### Not threatened

To whom it may concern:  
We at the Women's Referral and Resource Service have a few words for those self-righteous people who subsist on pouring out hatred and violence against women and other women's groups.

These people know who they are: they are the ones who believe women should be barefoot, pregnant, and in the kitchen; they practice hatred towards lesbians — do we feel a bit threatened? And they actually believe in the Freudian concept of penis envy. Please don't make us laugh!

The Women's Referral And Resource Service has been the brunt of many malicious acts recently. Our purpose is to offer a place for women to get together and share ideas. The referrals and resources we offer are for women wanting information pertaining to jobs, social welfare, legal services, academia, and other areas pertinent to women's lives. Is it so harmful for women to want access to those institutions geared to help them specifically? No, we don't practice female superiority — we practice and work for women's equality in our oppressive society. How can you feel threatened by equality?

Contrary to the belief that we are a band of renegade, bra-burning, castrating bitches, our purpose has been clarified for those who fail to understand the term "Referral and Resource."

So, think about your actions. You have failed (again) to silence us. However, your attacks have augmented our purpose to further educate neanderthal types like yourselves.

Laura Romano  
Leah Juniper  
Chris Gonzales  
and others at WRRS

### God and gays

I am responding to Douglas Pyle's letter (ODE, Jan. 15) in which he denounces the use of violence against homosexuals in the name of Christianity. I share that view with Mr. Pyle to a degree, only because violence toward homosexuals is not an accurate reflection of the Christian theology. However, I disagree that homosexual practices are an element of "the nicely diverse body of humanity" that he talks about.

The Bible tells us that homosexuality is a sin, but it never advocates hatred toward a homosexual any more than it does toward violators of God's other commandments. Regardless of what our human views on the subject may be, the Bible's message is clear: hate the sin, not the "sinner." Rather, compassion and understanding are the watch words of any true follower of Christ, based on a thorough study and conviction of what God says about this and other subjects.

It might do both Doug Pyle and Brad Hall well to read I Corinthians 6:1-11 in the Bible in order to better understand God's position on homosexuality, before either one of them attributes this violent action to the Christian viewpoint.

Lyn Gaston  
Eugene

### Nothing to lose

Mr. Brian Moore's letter (ODE, Jan. 21) is a shining example of ambivalent liberal thought. The parallel you drew, Mr. Moore, between the blockade of the Marine Officer Recruitment Presentation and the crimes committed by the Marines is infinitely more ludicrous than James Phillips' assertion that this demonstration was an act of non-violent civil disobedience, which you condemn as fallacious. Yes, the

Marines' right to abuse free speech was denied; but equating the standing in front of a movie screen with genocidal rampages in Southeast Asia is an idiotic exaggeration.

Your point is that a violation of free speech is wrong no matter whose rights are being transgressed. This point is, to be sure, valid and truthful, but it is also irrelevant to and a diversion from the real issues. The blockade was, moreover, a condemnation of the Military Machine, whose existence is utterly contrary to basic human needs and morality. In a world of violence and flux, there is no room for two-faced liberal politics. Come now, Mr. Moore, as middle-class students of English we can afford to be radical. Other than our middle-class socialization, we've got nothing to lose.

Brian Maffly  
English

### Moth issue

Readers: As the Gypsy Moth spray controversy builds into yet another "battle of the opinions," let me relay my own encounter with the subject.

Problem: A growing Gypsy Moth infestation threatening to destroy plant life in my home town. The local paper was abundant with articles slashing at the proposed Gypsy Moth spraying, predicting unforeseen horrors if this "appalling" action should take place. And indeed the spraying did take place. For a few days in the early morning hours before dawn, helicopters flew over the entire community, careful not to miss any potential Gypsy Moth "hot spots." Yeah, those helicopters did wake me up when they flew by my home; maybe I should have grabbed the phone and given them a piece of my mind. Naw. Anyway, our menace is gone; not one Gypsy Moth has been found in years — our plants saved, our community happy. As for the predictions: no dead birds and fish, no aborted offspring, no caffeine. It's your turn for rebuttal now — get your pencil and paper. I'm ready.

John Dickson  
General Science

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## oregon daily emerald

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