

Decision marks a victory for whales

Despite a U.S.-signed international agreement that supports a ban on all whale hunting, the administration of President Ronald Reagan agreed in November to let Japan continue hunting sperm whales for three more years. It was a decision that angered environmentalists and members of Congress. In 1979, Congress enacted laws that required the United States to cut in half the quota of fish caught in U.S. waters by any nation that defied the whaling ban. The Reagan administration made an exception for Japan.

U.S. District Court Judge Charles Richey has now changed that. On Tuesday, Richey ordered the Reagan administration to enforce the laws enacted by Congress. Unless Japan ends its hunting of sperm whales, the Reagan administration must cut in half the amount of fish Japan is currently allowed to take from U.S. waters. This will be a serious blow to the Japanese fishing industry, one that is likely to make Japan reconsider its policy of hunting sperm whales in contravention of the international whaling ban.

Richey's decision represents a landmark case for environmentalists and a victory for whales. But the struggle is not over yet. The Reagan administration responded immediately by announcing that it will appeal the ruling and ask for a stay of the judge's order. Richey, however, reminded the Reagan administration in his 28-page decision that it had "a clear and non-discretionary duty" to uphold the law as enacted by Congress. He went on to state that Congress passed the 1979 laws on whaling because it "wanted to send a clear message to the world that the United States was committed to being in the vanguard of the fight to preserve the whale."

Richey is 100 percent right in his ruling. It's time the Reagan administration learned to respect congressional law and stopped trying to go around it to achieve its goals. Since 1972, the United States has been one of the strongest supporters of the movement to save the whales. The Reagan administration must not be allowed to change that.

Newspaper ad reflects poorly on city council

Opponents of the project to widen Sixth and Seventh Avenue have some valid complaints concerning the city-sponsored ads in the Register Guard that are supposed to explain the street-widening project to the public. Make no mistake, the ads do explain the project in very clear terms, but some of those terms violate the spirit of neutrality that the ads should represent. For example, referring to the proposal as an "improvement project" can hardly be called neutral. Furthermore, explaining the project in the future tense, such as, "A fourth lane will be added..." insinuates that it will happen regardless of public opinion. These are subtle ways of trying to influence people and it reflects poorly on the Eugene City Council.

Where we do not agree with the street-widening opponents, however, is in their demand that a retraction be printed in the Register Guard, saying among other things that the City of Eugene does not support the proposed street-widening project and the removal of historic trees. This is going too far. But we do believe that the ad should be reworded and the above-mentioned phrases corrected to reflect a more neutral position. Finally, we feel that the entire idea of running the ad four times (one a week for four weeks) is a waste of taxpayers' money. One or two times would have been enough. Besides, with all the media coverage and public meetings, local residents have had ample opportunity to learn about the details of the project.



"Holy cow ... if this is the way he treats his allies, how is he going to treat us?"

letters

Issue of bias

I was greatly bemused and outraged by the letter written by Lisa Siegle (ODE, Feb. 21). My reaction stems from the fact that Ms. Siegle seems to be demanding that the Emerald become a mouthpiece for propagating only pro-Zionist views, and that if this newspaper decides to cover a lecture co-sponsored by an ethnic student organization (Arab Student Club), and introducing an eminent theologian like Prof. John Trever (Director of the famous Dead Sea Scrolls Project) to speak about a very pertinent issue like the world-threatening conflict in the Middle East, and doing so from what I consider to be a refreshingly objective point of view, then this coverage, according to Ms. Siegle, should not have "above the fold front page placement."

May I remind Ms. Siegle that the Emerald is a newspaper of the students, by the students, and for all of the students and their legal organizations. This paper is not, should not, and must never be a mouthpiece of one student organization against another. It would be interesting to find out Ms. Siegle's reaction if we turn the table on her and ask what would she think if an anti-Zionist person wrote a letter to the editor complaining about the the Emerald's (Feb. 7) front page coverage of a thoroughly biased anti-Arab lecture presented by Mr. Lotterman, a thoroughly biased Zionist, and sponsored by a thoroughly biased pro-Israeli Jewish Student Union? Most likely that person would be immediately labeled anti-

Semitic and totally biased. But this would be a hypocritical position to hold, reflecting mainly a self-righteous stand.

Finally, I support the Emerald's responsible and even-handed approach in covering local activities concerning the Middle East conflict. The main beneficiary in this case is the general public, which will have access to various points of views and can make its own judgment.

Hassan Al-Khatib
Arab Student Club Director

Anti-apartheid

I am anti-apartheid. But the way to fight apartheid is not to cut off investments in South Africa, or to boycott South African goods. When that is done, the people who suffer are the blacks. Divestment is a sop to the liberal psyche. Since nothing can be done to affect the truly horrible events in totalitarian countries like Afghanistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union, liberals choose to focus on forcing American corporations to stop investing in South Africa. But as the hereditary chief of 6 million Zulus, Chief Buthelezi, has stated, such a focus by Americans is arrogant poppycock. American corporations in South Africa have been prime movers in battering chinks in the wall of apartheid. If they are removed, then the Afrikaaner extremists will be able to rebuild and strengthen the wall. Instead of divesting, the U.S. should invest even more in South Africa, but with provisos that weaken and dissolve the chains of apartheid. By divesting, the U.S. would be promoting race hatred, class warfare, and the locking in of blacks to a life of economic squalor.

As for boycotting the movie "The Gods Must Be Crazy," playing at the Bijou theater, it's ridiculous. The majority of the movie was shot in Botswana, which, for those liberals who have a hazy sense of geography, is an independent nation. The movie focuses on the meeting of cultures and leaves one with the feeling that in many ways the culture of the Kgalahari bushmen is vastly superior to our own. But see it for yourself.

Kim Mackey
Secondary Ed.

Satisfy desires

From a sign on the Women's Resource and Referral porno display that appeared in the EMU: "If you find this exciting, seek help, for you are a victim..."

So I find men dominating naked women exciting. I also find naked women dominating men exciting.

I resent the implication that I'm a shameful "victim" of society. I abhor rape. I also enjoy my desire for sexual activities. I view happiness as a primary goal of society. I think sexual desire and frequency should be increased.

I feel the sponsors of the display have misinterpreted the increased rape rate due to pornography. "Dirty" pictures don't cause rape. It's mostly society's attitude toward pornography which is a problem.

Clothes hide people's bodies. Because, on a basic level, we desire what is under the clothes but are not allowed to even look, our desire is increased. Society tries to keep young people from seeing "that dirty trash" (pornography) and thus when kids get it, it's especially exciting because they are doing something "wrong." The fact that society hides naked bodies and tells children they can't look at "dirty" magazines increases people's hangups and inhibitions to function in society.

I would guess the sponsors of the display wish to have pornography banned and children educated against viewing it. I see this approach as worsening the rape problem. There is a bright side. Suppressing sex and nudity will make both more exciting.

I may be sick, but I'll "seek help" satisfying my desires rather than changing them.

R.K. O'Neill
Law

Nice display

I just want to say that the photography in those pornographic pictures that appeared in the EMU display was quite excellent and the models were aesthetically pleasing. If anyone feels the same way, maybe we should get together and form a pornography club.

Jay Dinneen
Psychology

oregon daily emerald

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