

# Editorial

## Violent films were poor forum choices

Graphic violence will be presented this weekend and next, thanks to the Cultural Forum. The forum is presenting "First Blood," the first John Rambo blood-and-guts thriller, "The Terminator," and for those who need a double-shot of Rambomania, "Rambo: First Blood Part II." The violence extravaganza starts tonight and continues Saturday and next Friday.

John Rambo, the star character played by Sylvester Stallone in both "First Blood" and "Rambo," stabs, shoots and slaughters his way through each film. Rambo is respected for being a remorseless killer and makes killing and war look glorious. In addition, the film "Rambo" perpetuates the belief that American prisoners of war still are trapped in Vietnam.

The Arnold Schwarzenegger feature, "The Terminator," is somewhat milder ideologically, but makes up for it in graphic tastelessness. Viewers witness various bullet-pierced people crumple to the ground.

Merciless killers are not new to the silver screen, but rather than being sought by the film's hero, Rambo and the terminator are the heroes. And as heroes, the characters advocate achieving one's means through violence and force rather than through negotiation. Some psychologists believe that these types of portrayals may soften American attitudes towards violence and military conflict.

"First Blood" is already credited with influencing Michael Feher, the University student who injured a wrestler, killed a jogger and then killed himself almost a year ago, and two Beaverton juveniles who constructed lethal booby traps in a neighborhood park.

The Cultural Forum presents films on campus at economical prices and provides an appreciated service. And although the forum shows its share of mediocre movies, it usually presents a surprising number of classics, unusual films, and recent releases.

Sean Axemaker, the forum's film programmer, said that the three films were chosen primarily to generate revenue. He said that due to limited funding, the forum needs to make money on some films in order to subsidize others, particularly during fall term because of decreased attendance during winter and spring terms.

Axemaker said "The Terminator" was chosen because it is popular with students, but also because he thinks it is a good movie. But he admitted that "First Blood" and "Rambo" were chosen after the financial success of "Rambo" this summer.

We understand the forum's need to generate money, but think that popular, less objectionable films exist. These three films were poor choices and denigrate the "Cultural" Forum.

To the forum's credit, however, they have arranged to have ex-Green Beret Denis Chericone speak on campus Oct. 28 about "Rambo" and the film's social and political ramifications. The forum agreed to have Chericone speak after Vietnam veteran Ron Phillips of the Draft and Pre-Enlistment Counseling Project requested that the negative effects of the film be presented.

Information tables organized by DPECP, Students Opposing Registration and the Draft, the Vietnam Veteran's Outreach Center and the the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America will be present at the entrance to "Rambo" next Friday. We encourage other students and community members to boycott the films. If violent films fail to attract an audience and are thus unprofitable, the Cultural Forum will consider their choices more carefully in the future.

ONE OF MANY MORE THINGS



## Letters

### Be Tao, man

I would like to respond to views expressed by Darrel Rothauge (ODE, Oct. 16) concerning the state of our university upon his recent return.

At first, the letter was amusing: the unusual dress of college students shocks many people, and we note his concern for the state, giving Oregonians the choice to become "potheads" (as opposed to tobacco heads).

As far as protesting apartheid in South Africa, Darrel admonishes us to "... concentrate on local issues where (we) could possibly have an effect on policies that affect (us)." It's true that by averting our eyes to remain fixed at our feet, we would not have to witness what occurs at the horizon. And of course, the U of O alone will not change South Africa's racial policies. The U of O is one participant in a movement whose unity and breadth will have effect. For a forest to stand, each comparatively small tree must make an effort.

The letter grew derogatory when he questioned the presence of a lesbian student body president. First, quotes around "flaming, leftist, liberals" are inappropriate when it is meant to be taken seriously. Second, the lesbians did not suddenly appear on campus and "take over" the student body during Darrell's absence.

And lastly, why the hell not a lesbian student body president? Her being lesbian has as much

to do with her performance as student body president as Darrell's being straight has to do with his study of History.

As we "flaming, leftist liberals" like to say: be Tao, man.

Rick Rinehart  
U of O student

### In hibernation?

In regards to the letter by Darrel Rothauge (ODE, Oct. 16) entitled "I'm confused!"

Yes, you are confused and you certainly do need help! There are no Emeralds distributed in or around Gilbert Hall because business students read the Wall Street Journal. Strange dress behavior? Your pants probably have a built-in athletic supporter!

As for scooters, don't tell me you can find a parking space every day, and God forbid that you should still be walking to class. Yes, there is an elevator in PLC, are you blind? Mr. Conde is actually very benevolent in his efforts to save glaucoma victims. Concerning the apartheid issue, boycotting classes does bring people together to concentrate on real problems, where as, the Dow Jones industrial average is mostly tabloid literature anyway.

We have a lesbian student body president because men are not popular these days. Does AIDS help curb your sexual behavior? Do you believe everything the courtyard evangelist says? Where the hell have you been, honey? In hibernation for 18 months?

Deidre Coppage  
Greta Vanderzanden  
Eugene

### Requests

As a student at the U of O, I travel to and from campus in a number of ways — bike, car, and foot. And I am beginning to fear that no matter how I travel, my fellow traffic elements are out to kill me in ugly ways. So I would like to make some requests of the groups of travelers.

CARS: Please signal your lane changes and turns at stop signs, stop lights and when parking. We can't read your minds.

Don't cut bikes off when turning across their lanes. Don't turn into the far lane when turning onto a one-way street.

BIKES: Please signal your turns just like cars. Watch carefully at stop signs. Don't ride the wrong way on bike lanes or streets. Don't run through stoplights. Try not to make people mad at you when you take advantage of your size and maneuverability.

PEDS: Please don't sit/stand/sleep in the bike lanes (especially in front of the bookstore). When crossing bike lanes, watch out for us — we go faster than you think we do. Be reasonable about crossing against traffic — don't challenge cars and bikes unnecessarily.

MOPEDS/MOTORCYCLES: Please don't use the bike lanes to pass traffic. Temporarily, be careful of where you park your cycle near Gilbert Hall, as there is a bottleneck there which could make bicycles get reckless.

See you on the roads.

Megan Snyder  
Computer Science

### Moral concerns

In response to Darrel Rothauge's concerns about the ultimate destiny of those attending the University of Oregon (ODE, Oct. 16), I'd like to offer the following consolation.

I certainly don't think that all of us who are a part of this university community may be doomed to eternal hell, as Mr. Rothauge suggests, as a result of those of us who call for moral concern in a time when morality often takes a backseat to power and profit.

However, if there is a hell awaitin', I suspect that homophobic, self-righteous, uninformed, knee-jerk, reactionary attitudes like those of Mr. Rothauge may contribute to carving out a shortcut for those who share them.

Jeff Joslin  
Graduate Student  
Architecture

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