

Letters

Praise ABC

An editorial in the Emerald Jan. 15 states that the ABC network, in heeding Moscow's warning to either stop production of the miniseries "Amerika" or be forced to stop their news operations in Moscow, "undermines a basic foundation of democracy" and "betrayed the United States' firm belief in freedom of expression." The repeated misuse of these terms helps to cloud the issue considerably.

As the editorial duly notes, "Amerika" depicts American life after a Soviet takeover of the United States. Given the current world situation, this seems like the most ideologically dangerous scenario imaginable. Chief among the Emerald's assertions are these three:

1. That "the Kremlin is being permitted to restrict the flow of information to the United States." There was no restriction of information; the other networks received no threats. The true flow of information in "Amerika" is from the American state to the American people.
2. That "the charge (against) 'Amerika' is part of a larger Soviet campaign aimed at similarly perceived American films." One wonders which "similarly perceived films" are meant here. Perhaps the ones which are anti-Soviet fantasies: "Red Dawn," "Invasion USA," and "Rocky IV" to name a few.
3. That the Soviets' refusal to allow the network that propagandizes against them to operate in their capital undermines democracy. "Amerika's" paranoid fantasy was not thought up by the American people, but designed to be fed to them.

ABC should be praised for furthering American-Soviet relations by stopping a miniseries that should never have been thought up in the first place.

Michael James French

Don't be misled

I must say Glenn Sacks' commentary (ODE, Dec. 4) was quite a mouthful indeed. I would now like to see our dear Mr. Sacks take a crack at defending Nazi Germany's systematic extermination of 4 to 6 million persons of Jewish descent as a liberation movement to free them of their religious bonds.

Mr. Sacks somehow seems to believe that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is going to liberate the country's women, educate the people and democratize the populous. I don't see how Mr. Sacks' Soviet associates can achieve these goals while at the same time they are carpet bombing Afghan villages and systematically killing thousands of people throughout the country.

The Oregon Commentator was on target with Afghan figures of lives lost and displaced. Even such liberal periodicals as Mother Jones have written that combined Mujahideen/civilian death totals are between 500,000 and 1 million dead. Refugee estimates are 1.5 million in Iran, 3 million in Pakistan and 1 million internal refugees living in the slums of Kabul. Other respected and Oregon Daily Emerald

non-rightist magazines such as The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times Magazine, Macleans and Time have similar reports.

A suggestion to the reader: Don't be mindlessly led about by such heartless and cynical people as Glenn Sacks. There is credible data on the situation in Afghanistan written by both left and right persuasions. If you really want to know what is happening in the world, then find out. But always keep your hearts open and minds awake.

Patrick Glenn
Computer and
Information Science

Distorted facts

Mr. Glenn Sacks, you are a political pygmy.

I am greatly distressed by your letter to the editor (ODE, Jan. 15). Your gross misinterpretation and/or misrepresentation of facts is appalling. You seem to deny that a substantial Soviet military presence exists in Afghanistan, and you evidently condone the Soviet actions because you feel they are providing stability to the country.

First, Mr. Sacks, even the CBS Evening News (that fascist forum) has acknowledged the existence of a massive Soviet military presence more than double the size of the invading force.

Consequently, the Soviets and their puppet Afghan government have forced an exodus so sweeping, that it is the world's largest refugee population. Perhaps this is the kind of stability Mr. Sacks advocates. God willing, Mr. Sacks, neither El Salvador nor Nicaragua will ever become so "stable."

Duané Dungannon
Assistant Editor
Oregon Commentator

Boycott plan

Congratulations, ASUO. Your unilateral decision to reduce the mental-health provision of the University Student Health Insurance Plan from \$500 to \$250 per year, while at the same time limiting service to Ph.D. therapists, has virtually eliminated the option of off-campus counseling for the average student.

In an article last fall (ODE, Nov. 18), Bill Kittredge of the ASUO Office of Student Advocacy said that the underwriters of the four insurance companies which negotiated for the U of O contract suggested a cap on psychological funding at \$250 in order to keep the premiums low. Why then, did the premiums actually increase nearly \$40 per year?

Another rationale for the decision was that the Student Counseling Center could adequately serve the needs of the students. To describe the basics of mental health treatment and delivery to the ASUO might force upon them a confusing foreign language. Instead, I'll say it very slowly: While it goes without question our Counseling Center provides superior services, obtaining those services is often hampered by a long waiting list.

The change in mental health reimbursement is a misinformed decision at best and a blatant display of callous disregard for

student welfare at the worst. The students now pay a higher insurance premium. They also get less for their money. Now really, who is serving whom here?

I suggest all University students impacted financially and emotionally by this intolerable change boycott the insurance plan until adequate and fairly priced premiums offer a more realistic mental-health provision.

Carl F. Schlossman
Psychology

Fair weather

We would like to talk about a very serious problem in the country today, no, not the deficit, no, not the abortion issue, and not even the OBD epidemic.

This is much more important — the return of the fair weather football fan.

What ever happened to sticking with your team through thick and thin? Remember when a team loss sent you into cardiac arrest and victory brought orgasm? That trendy football fan — you've seen 'em. They're the ones wearing the Bear T-shirts, who last year fell in love with "Barry" Montanalo and his Niners.

Look for these "fans" this Sunday. They'll be waving their Chicago banners, while sporting a Patriots undershirt — just in case. Don't get us wrong. We're not knocking football or even Chicago. We'd just like to see some of the garbage sifted out of the ranks of the followers.

John Dickson
Dave Albelo
Students

Great honor

It is a great honor to have received the Legislative Faculty Excellence Award; the mathematics department has done very well in this respect. Dick Koch got an award for excellence in teaching this year, and two years ago Bill Kantor got the same award I received.

The University of Oregon has a distinguished faculty with many excellent departments; mathematics is one of these. There are several world-class mathematicians in our department equally deserving of this award. The same could be said of many other scholars in other departments here.

Unfortunately, the present system is not the optimal way to distribute such honors. It is too political, and there are negative side effects which need to be considered. I wish the humanities were better represented among the recipients.

Salaries are low at the University of Oregon and this award will be very helpful. I have had offers elsewhere at substantially greater salaries and a major consideration in turning them down was the possibility of this award. I am grateful and appreciative. I reiterate my commitment to the University of Oregon and to its continuing tradition of excellence in teaching and scholarship.

Peter B. Gilkey
Professor of Mathematics

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