

Letters

Join the battle

Environmentalists be alerted! We have an endangered species that is currently being systematically eliminated in epidemic proportions. Each year in Oregon, for every three of these highly advanced, unique creatures that misses destruction, one is barbarically killed. That's over 200 exterminations each month in the Eugene-Springfield area alone.

Astonishingly, no government steps have been taken to prevent this hideous, savage destruction. Quite the contrary, you'll be shocked to know our U.S. Supreme Court has specifically declared it is OK to freely butcher this innocent and defenseless species.

And on top of that, many government agencies (Oregon included) have actively promoted this systematic annihilation. They are actually taking your tax money to make it extremely lucrative for a coast-to-coast network of highly trained professionals to methodically carry out this massive slaughter.

Now it's time to end this national disgrace. Join the battle against the premeditated destruction of this part of our heritage. Demand your state and federal representatives immediately end this abhorrent bloodbath by adding this species to the "Threatened and Endangered Species" list.

Oh yes — what is this species?

It's not the snail darter of the unarmored threespine stickleback, the Ozark big-eared bat, flat-spined, three-toothed snail or any of the over 600 other species presently protected by government forces at any and all costs.

The species I'm speaking about — the pre-born human being.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Free ad space

Is it University policy to offer the classroom blackboards as free advertising space for anyone at all? It seems that anyone who writes the word "save" next to an ad gets space in front of 30 to 300 people's eyes for at least 50 minutes.

If it is policy, do we want it to be? I am going to start a campaign to erase all of these ads whenever I see them. I encourage you all to join me in this. Let's destroy this practice now.

John Rosenstein
Philosophy

U.S. blindness

In his letter "American pride" (ODE, Feb. 5), Ron Sherman illustrates a type of blind nationalism and anti-Arab hatred that borders on being pathological. It is precisely the Rambo-style policies advocated by Mr. Sherman that produce such widespread hatred for this country in the Arab world.

Both the United States and its client state of Israel have been responsible for incalculable atrocities in the last two decades. As long as the United States and Israel continue their flagrant violation of Lebanese and Palestinian integrity, Americans will remain targets of Islamic vengeance. It is tragic the American people have such a poor understanding of our country's foreign policy in the Middle East.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world where public perceptions of foreigners and foreign-policy issues are formed by cinematic rubbish rather than factual analysis. If Islamic terrorist attacks continue, and I fear they will, the American public will doubtless be bombarded with an anti-Arab media blitz in the "Rambo"/"Red Dawn" tradition. The only difference is that it will be Arabs rather than Russians we will be taught to fear and hate.

Until Americans begin to approach our nation's foreign policy in the Middle East with more critical insight, we will be unable to recognize the forces that have produced so many desperate attacks of vengeance against our fellow citizens. If the likes of Mr. Sherman have free reign, the number returning from abroad in caskets is certain to rise.

Christian Gunther
Senior, Sociology

Disinformation

Mr. Sacks, your April 1980 newspaper quote about the Soviet Central Asians was Soviet disinformation put out to the newspapers after a very humiliating withdraw.

Assume now that the Afghan army was as potent as you have assumed (which I dispute). Where did the logistical support for this military come from? The Afghan government would have fallen without major Soviet involvement in almost all of the Afghan branches of the military and central government. Do you assume that a country as poor as Afghanistan can afford a modern army by itself?

Concerning the woman's rights issue, the book "Soviet Power" specifically refers to a rebellion starting due to the Afghan secret police, the Asqua, interfering with tribal elections and the autonomy of the outlying districts from the central government. If you wish to say that a change in women's rights was the sole cause, you are badly distorting and covering up for a much grimmer phenomenon.

It is useless for me to go on with you. You quote newspaper articles of the sort that incidentally were a source of apologists for the Stalin regime 50 years ago. You fail to take into consideration disinformation by the Soviets. Finally, you trivialize a multibillion-dollar involvement by the U.S.S.R. in a neighboring country. Good day!

Andy Beckwith
Physics

For men only

At last, it's here! The single greatest sporting event of the year, with the exception of the Superbowl, has finally arrived!

Sports Illustrated calls it "The Bathing Suit Issue," no hilarity intended. Well, what is it, a guide to the newest fashions in bathing suits? Don't be stupid, it doesn't have anything to do with bathing suits. The models wear them so that no one can call it pornography.

What's the purpose? Geez, where have you been? It's made for the entertainment of the readers of Sports Illustrated. So, you mean it's for both men and women? I can't believe you! Of course it's not! Sports Illustrated is a men's magazine, you know, like Playboy and Penthouse.

But doesn't Sports Illustrated cover women's sports? Well, of course it does. Some men like to see women's sports. You know, it gives them a break from "real" sports, kind of like the "bathing suit" issue does. Gosh, I've seen women buying and reading Sports Illustrated before, I don't get it? Neither do the women, that's the beauty of it!

Sports Illustrated exploits women's bodies in order to make money and a lot of women still read the magazine! Well, Sports Illustrated does have the best pictures, you know. Yeah, but all in all, the women aren't real bright are they? Of course not. After all, they're women!

Michelle E. Loew
French

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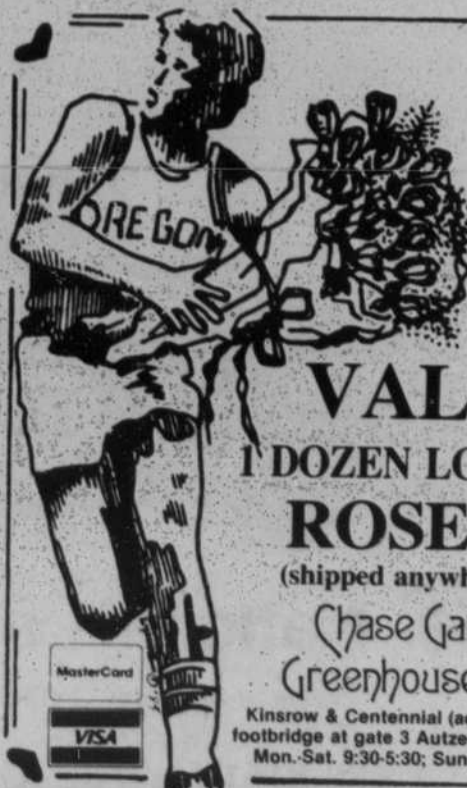
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