

Letters

Abortion

I'm shocked that some people supporting state-funded abortions have tried to sway voters by saying that it's cheaper to kill a baby in the womb than to deliver the baby alive. Such arguments are both flawed and sick.

After all, what does one have as a result of an abortion except a torn-up, fragmented and quite dead baby? Even putting aside the issue of killing human babies as well as the psychological impact on the woman later in life, an abortion returns nothing from an economic perspective.

On the other hand, a delivered baby — even if raised by a mother receiving some sort of public assistance — will contribute a great deal to the economy. Besides helping to sustain many important sectors of the economy (especially education and related fields) the child will grow and become a tax paying, working American adult. To look at the costs of raising children in the short-term, to advocate anti-natal policies such as abortion, displays absolute economic ignorance — as well as a strange concept of the value of human life.

I'm all for cutting off state funded abortions. Abortion is detrimental to our society and our economy and the state should not legitimize this counterproductive and wasteful act by financing it any longer.

Lori Parkman
Elmira

For DeFazio

We have a clear choice in this congressional election. Peter DeFazio supports arms control and an end to nuclear testing by both superpowers. Bruce Long supports increased spending on new nuclear weapons and "Star Wars" and continued nuclear testing even though the Russians haven't tested since August 6, 1985.

It has been discouraging to live through Reagan's promotion of a new nuclear arms race and his refusal to renew arms control agreements.

It has been discouraging to see domestic programs cut, including work-study and financial aid, so the military budget can be increased to fund new nuclear weapons.

While Reagan is president, only Congress can fund education rather than new nuclear weapons. Only Congress can cut off funds for nuclear testing, preventing the production of expensive new weapons.

If you are a person who cares about this, you needn't despair. One person can make a difference.

Janice Marshall
DeFazio supporter

Diverse union

In the ODE's editorial on Oct. 15, some incredible revelations came to light. The Associated Students of the University were criticized for failing to represent all students — yet only the unfulfilled needs of conservative businesspersons were mentioned. The overall tone of the piece was that the ASUO is nothing but a bunch of "professionals" getting in the way of state agencies.

The Associated Students is a conglomeration of students advocating for underrepresented ethnic groups, women, gays, lesbians, student parents, the other-abled, the environment, peace, Democrats, Republicans, human rights, and even music. As a matter of fact, the Oregon Commentator is an ASUO program. Thus, the ASUO is not a small roomful of campus tyrants, but actually a quite diverse union of ideas.

The implication of the ODE's editorial is that the State Board should control all students; the Emerald editors ask that we, the ASUO, should give up the independence we have achieved and proclaim ourselves in need of a state guidance the ODE rather naively believes to be benevolent and nurturing. The Emerald editors think we are getting just too irritating to the real "professionals." That's what S.I. Hayakawa thought in the late 1960's when students joined with faculty and staff at San Francisco State to fight for control of their school's curriculum.

Yet this is precisely the goal of ASUO groups are fighting for: student empowerment. There are many potential reasons why so few students vote every year in campus elections. Of course, the Emerald may be right in asserting that students may not like what they see student government doing. As for the other point — that students don't know what the ASUO does — well, the Oregon Daily Emerald could and should assume part of the blame for that, as it is the campus' only daily source of news.

Lisa Loving
Editor, The Record

Bird in hand

Reagan doesn't seem to understand that a nuclear arms

negotiation in hand is worth several nebulous Strategic Defense Initiatives in the bush. To come so close to a dramatic and successful agreement only to let an irrational, unproven concept like Star Wars jeopardize world safety is beyond comprehension.

I think that everybody that feels like they want to do something should call their favorite news source and tell them that Reagan made a mistake at the Iceland summit; forget Star Wars!

This approach has several nice features: it gets your vote directly to the people who report the news, it can't be brushed under the rug by a politician, it prevents getting one of those form letter responses from your senator or congressperson that insults your intelligence, and it's easy.

A few possible news sources are the Register Guard, KVAL-TV, KEZI-TV, KMTR-TV, KLCC, etc. Why not take advantage of the opportunity to use these organizations that are designed to serve the public?

Mark Van Order
CIS

Disturbing

On an issue which requires grave concern and action — the nuclear threat to our planet — the casual remarks of professors Baugh and Fisman are disturbing (ODE, Oct. 15). By regarding the abortion of peaceful agreement between Gorbachev and Reagan as an event worthy only of casual intellectual speculation, we perpetuate the fantasy that planetary destruction is science fiction, a fantasy made painfully concrete by the President's fascination with Star Wars.

Delia Fisher
Instructor, English
San Diego

Endorsements

Because of the large number of letters the Emerald receives around election time, letters endorsing a candidate or position on a ballot measure must be limited to 150 words. Endorsement letters exceeding this limit will be edited for length.

Letters to the Editor should be turned in to the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

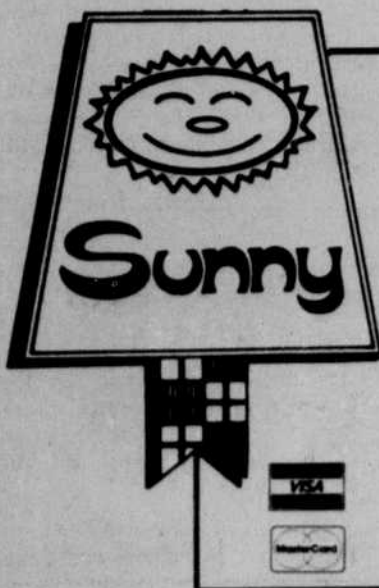
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