

## Japanese needn't kill to conduct research

Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has been getting a lot of heat lately from irate Americans regarding his country's unfair trade practices. These concerns surely will be raised today as Nakasone visits the President at the White House. But not all of those lined up to protest Nakasone will be objecting to unfair trading policies — many will be condemning Japan's whaling policy.

Japan's commercial whaling is to come to a close next year. This action would be adhering to a moratorium on commercial whaling handed down by the International Whaling Commission in 1982. But in what can only be interpreted as a circumvention of this moratorium, earlier this month Japan announced it would continue to conduct "research whaling" in the Antarctic.

Japan will continue its slaughter of minke and sperm whales and has set the number to be killed at 825 and 50, respectively. This would be roughly half of Japan's commercial quota for these two species for 1986-87.

This research whaling would be nothing more than a scaled-down version of commercial whaling. The same day the last Japanese commercial whalers returned home from the Antarctic, Japan declared it would conduct research whaling using the very same ships.

According to Japan, the intent of its research would be to gather evidence supporting their claim that there are plenty of minke and sperm whales for the killing. Stated differently, they will be hunting whales to prove these whales can be hunted.

International organizations estimate the minke whale population at 250,000. Population figures for sperm whales is harder to determine but researchers put their numbers at far less than their minke cousins. New England whalers in the early 18th century claimed the Atlantic grey whale was so numerous it could never be eradicated. The Atlantic grey is now extinct and eight species of great whales are currently on the endangered species list, including the blue, the southern and northern right, and the humpback.

Japanese laboratories will busy themselves gleaning organs from minke and sperm whales to determine their diet, reproductive development and the fetal content of females. The meat, however, will waste no time in making its way to Japan's extensive consumer market.

The Japanese have never denied their intentions of resuming commercial whaling when the moratorium expires in 1990. But they would not have to wait. The IWC has no power to levy sanctions on offending nations. Moreover, if a nation wishes, it merely can exempt itself from IWC authority.

Nakasone, in light of America's heightened concern for the plight of the whales and the strains caused by a nearing trade war, has asked his nation's fisheries agency to reconsider the number of whales to be harvested for "research" next year. But Japanese bureaucracy is notorious for its foot dragging.

Unless more economic pressure is put on Japan and the other whaling nations of Iceland, the Soviet Union, and South Korea, these nations always will find whales for the killing.



## Letters

### Assertions

Upon reading John English's letter (ODE, April 13), I was angered and disgusted. Ignorant reactionaries such as English are by no means uncommon (particularly within the editorial page of the Emerald), and as such, I usually opt to ignore them.

However, in this case my sense of futility is exceeded by my desire to respond to English's moronic assertions.

His letter begins with the statement that people are gay because of "low self-esteem." This remark is entirely without factual support, to say the least, as is his idea that one "consciously chooses" homosexuality.

It is almost embarrassing, at this point in history, to have to inform someone that sexual preference is innate in each individual. Further, he assumes that homosexuality is merely a preference regarding sexual activity (in his words, gays "opt only for sex"), and not one that includes emotional orientation.

As if being homophobic weren't enough of a handicap, English's logic is also hindered by his sexism.

In his charge that homosex-

uals are responsible for the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, he must certainly be ignoring half of the population concerned. He forgets or (dare I suggest?) never knew that lesbians are in the lowest risk group for AIDS.

Finally, "gay pride" is not a misnomer. There is no contradiction in being proud of one's way of life, even in the face of the bigotry expressed by English and others like him.

Gay Pride Week is doubly necessary when one considers the pervasiveness of this bigotry.

Kristen McBride  
Student

### Stop and save

Save the whales! Save the baby seals! Save the ERA! Protect the snail darter! Protect homosexual "rights!" Preserve the wilderness areas! Preserve the redwoods! Stop strip mining! Stop capital punishment!...

... Kill the unborn!  
How shameful is this tragically inconsistent set of values.

Jon Wollander  
Eugene

### Moral health

Three cheers for Dan Goulet! His article "Scenarios" (ODE, April 1) captured the essence of the crazy reasoning a lot of people are applying to the AIDS epidemic.

AIDS isn't a disease that generally jumps out and grabs you. Remember — the 'A' stands for acquired. Nobody forced the homosexuals and drug users now infected with AIDS to participate in activities so anti-biological that AIDS became an inevitability.

It's tragic that this disease has leaped out of these populations and infected innocent people. By innocent, I'm referring to the babies of drug users, unsuspecting spouses of bisexual men as well as spouses of men who messed around and brought

AIDS home, children molested by AIDS carriers and blood recipients. Those are the truly innocent victims of AIDS.

As Elaine Beam pointed out in "We can repent" (ODE, April 6), if we don't live according to the moral principles taught in the scriptures, we may quite literally be destroyed. That's not just opinion — that's well-documented fact, where sexual morality is concerned.

If we don't get our act together as a nation we may face diseases that make AIDS seem like a picnic. For all we know, there may be an organism incubating in someone's body right now ready to spread and make its mark — just like AIDS. Living morally is the only way to protect our health and insure venereal diseases won't be the downfall of society.

Benjamin Davis  
Political science

### All incidental

Having followed the articles in the Emerald for the past several months on the IFC, it appears they are not really concerned for the majority of the students.

It looks like there are a few individuals who are top members of this or that organization and are also the people making the decisions on who gets what money.

I personally do not like paying for fraternities or sororities or politically minded organizations. Someday the students may be paying more in incidental fees than for the basic functioning of the University.

I am going to school to become educated in the field of my choice, and if I have time left over, I will search out the incidental activities that interest me, but I do not expect everybody else to be paying for them.

Students need the opportunity to experience a wide range of cultural experiences, but it by no means needs to cost so many thousands of dollars.

Randy James  
Psychology  
Friday, May 1, 1987

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