

Editorial

Safety with fireworks needed for weekend

This year's Fourth of July, like usual, promises to be a bang. But it is essential that people do not get so carried away in the celebration of our great nation's birthday that they neglect basic considerations for others and the environment.

Thus, safety and common sense in the firework fun is imperative.

To prevent injury to oneself and others, fireworks should be exploded outside, not inside, and away from any concentration of people.

Consideration for dogs, cats and other pets also should be kept in mind. Because some animals scare easily, it is best to keep them indoors. Loud explosions can traumatize a pet.

Because of the extremely dry weather Eugene has experienced lately, fireworks should be set off in an open area, preferable a parking lot, where there is no dry grass or plant growth. To minimize the risk of fire, bottle rockets should be shot off over water.

The U.S. Forest Service warns that fireworks should not be used in Oregon's national forests because of the extreme fire hazard this time of year. So if you go camping over the Independence Day weekend, leave your fireworks at home. Remember: Smokey's watchin' you.

So, while having a bang this Fourth of July, be careful not to blow up anyone or anything.

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Faculty forum

High court to be further right than public, expert says

The papers predict Reagan will nominate Judge Robert Bork. How do you feel about this choice, especially with his connections in Watergate?

Well I don't think you can be sure that he will be the nominee. Just because the papers say he is ahead doesn't necessarily mean he will be selected. Intellectually he is the strongest candidate.

James Klonoski is a professor of political science. He teaches several courses dealing with the Supreme Court. In a short interview with the Oregon Daily Emerald he offered his opinions on various aspects of Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell's resignation on June 26.

He does have this "black mark" with the Watergate administration. But in the legal community he is very well respected as a scholar and judge, and he would have a great deal — even though his views are very conservative — he would still have a great deal of support because the guy has intellectual integrity and smarts.

But you have to be careful in this business because

with all the names out there... and all of a sudden plop-o comes a different name altogether... So one should not be led or misled by what today's papers say.

Watch out because there are conflicting points of views in the administration... Everyone out there has a chance. Bork probably has earned the right intellectually. But there have been a lot of professors out there, and even good judges, who look like they have earned the right but are never appointed. So you can be ready for a June or July surprise. At the same time you may expect the name of Bork.

How do you see the Senate Judiciary Committee approaching and investigating a candidate, especially because the committee is controlled by the Democrats?

See, if this was next year they would probably delay it until after the election. But because it is this year there is just too long of a time until now and the election to delay it and string it out.

The Court will be meeting '87-'88. For the Senate Judiciary Committee there should be a full Court on board, so they're more likely to approve and say let's get on with it.

Then do you think they are just throwing names out to see reactions?

They're just going about business trying to find best person who fits the bill for what they want: A person who has intellectual integrity, who could philosophically and ideologically satisfy the critics' philosophy and ideology and get a guy on there who could serve 20 to 30 years.

What they're doing now is just politics of judicial appointment, as usual. So they have to decide who is the best choice — one who can manage to go through the crucible. He has to run the gauntlet... It's just a pure political challenge. But so much is riding on it.

Do you feel it was right for Powell to resign now, or should he have waited until next year?

Most of us and his colleagues were taken completely by surprise when he resigned. What were Powell's motivation for resigning when he did in terms of timing? Well, I think they're going to remain obscure at this time.

... He's been on the Court for 15 years. Did he finally feel he had enough? Or is he really a Virginia Democrat — that's pretty conservative. Or is he really a closet Reaganite? See, I can't believe he is a closet Reaganite.

But I'm still surprised that, given all the consideration, that he would have chose this particular time to resign. But then I don't think he is as ideological as these other guys. Brennan would never resign to give Reagan a chance. And Marshall would never resign to give Reagan a chance. Stevens is a younger man who would never consider it. And Blackman has switched over to that side. He would never resign to give Reagan a chance.

I'm not sure that I understand the timing of Powell's resignation at this time. Why he would give Ronald Reagan the opportunity to put his stamp — in-

tellectual, ideological, philosophical stamp — on the court for who knows how many years to come?

Somewhat obscure I would have to say given my own analysis of the decision...

Do you have any final conclusions?

The catch in all this, of course, is the country's now is moving back to the center. I didn't say it was moving left — but it's had its little adventure with Reagan to the right.

You can read that in Lou Harris's new book "Inside America" on the issues of the country moving to the center, but with this appointment the Court will move to the right. And you're going to have a real philosophical, ideological incongruity, I think, between a country that has readopted moderation as its approach in understanding of politics and choice-making and a Court that will reflect the country's desire to have Ronald Reagan as president in '84.

They made that choice. Maybe not for the ideological reasons that Reagan stood for and some social issues and so on, but that's what they got. That's what there going to get now from Ronald Reagan in 1987.

What they did was they made a choice of a president in '84 and the president chooses the members of the Supreme Court. So the public in a sense, then, is now returning to the center of gravity, the political center of gravity. But it's going to pay a price, if you will, for its choice in '84. I mean that's just the way it is.

So you have times on the Court when the country's in one mood and the Court's in another.

Robert Dahl has always said that the Court eventually follows the election returns. Well, I guess the Court is kind of following the election returns of Ronald Reagan. But there are all sorts of election returns between '80 and '86. Reagan's election returns didn't necessarily mean that the country went that way totally.

So Dahl, when he says the Court follows the election returns... Well, the election returns aren't that pure. In the last six or eight years they had Reagan as an election return but also voted for an awful lot of Democrats during that time...

But then, if you have a Democratic president in 1988 he might make some appointments too, so then the Court would follow the returns of '88. We can't see that...

So you have all these considerations of who the next president is going to be and maybe, if he is a Democrat, he will appoint some justices that reflect the changing public opinion now when the public is returning to the center of things.

For the time being it looks like we're going to get the Ronald Reagan public opinion of '80 and '84, and it's just going to be out of synch and out of tune with the political movement of the public generally. That is, I think, the most interesting aspect of this whole movement.

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