

## Oregon scenic rivers should be protected

Federal legislation seeking to protect, or at least to study, segments of more than 25 Oregon rivers and streams recently has been sponsored by Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., and Reps. Peter Defazio and Les AuCoin, D-Ore.

The legislation seeks to designate scenic and wild rivers that lie on U.S. Forest Service land under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in an attempt to protect the rivers from speculative development.

Only 74 rivers in the nation have been designated as recreational, scenic or wild, The Oregonian reported. If all 27 of the rivers proposed for protection in Oregon receive such a designation, the national total will increase by a third.

Although the proposed legislation may be excessive, it is generally a good idea and should be supported; however, more interaction between competing federal and state agencies is needed to ensure the best possible plan for all interested parties.

In drafting the final version of the plan, Hatfield, Defazio and AuCoin ought to work closely with state and federal agencies as well as the Northwest Forestry Association, which represents timber companies operating throughout the Northwest.

The legislators also should be sensitive to demands of environmental groups in Oregon, such as the Oregon Natural Resources Council, which claims the proposal excluded several key rivers from consideration.

The preservation bill should serve to designate and protect as many Oregon rivers as possible, incorporating the concerns of the region's constituents. In addition, organizations with conflicting interests, such as environmental and forestry groups, must compromise to make the bill a success.

## Carlucci cuts defense spending to benefit all

President Reagan's new secretary of defense, Frank C. Carlucci, recently slashed \$33 billion, a cut of about 10 percent, from next year's military defense budget.

Despite Carlucci's questionable involvement in a U.S.-inspired coup in the African nation Congo in 1960, he should be commended for taking steps to reduce the military's overblown budget, which had been inflated by retired Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger.

Burdened with a large budget deficit, this reduction comes at a crucial time for the U.S. government. Next year's military budget will now be presented to Congress at \$290 billion, rather than Weinberger's original \$323.3 billion projection. Furthermore, this cut brings next year's military budget down from the \$296 billion just approved for this fiscal year by \$6 billion, representing a nice little decrease in military spending.

The reduction, according to Aviation Week, might affect both the Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars, and the production of additional MX missiles.

However, considering the severe implications of a military economy, as evidenced by the huge budget deficit, military spending should be cut even more.



## Letters

### A little logic

I like to promote the idea that women can think. Strangely enough, some women seem bent on proving me wrong. The recent discussion in this forum on Planned Parenthood and women's rights is a case in point.

When considering the possibility of an unwanted pregnancy, a little logic goes a long way.

Sex is a biological transaction; you make a deal, you get a baby. All this feigned surprise when a pregnancy comes onto the scene strikes me as a bit illogical. It's like going through the checkout line, and being shocked and indignant when you find yourself the owner of a bag of groceries. If the groceries are unwanted, there is a simple solution.

It's also illogical to cite abortion as the right to control one's own body. A woman does have that right; I staunchly defend it. However, few women seem inclined to exercise it when "it feels so right it can't be wrong." In any case, abortion is not the control of one's own body. It is the control of someone else's lit-

tle body.

Can any woman actually stand there with a straight face and demand the right to choose to terminate a life because it interferes with her own? My next-door neighbor knows some people who interfere with his life: the guy who side-swiped him at an intersection, some of his daughter's boyfriends, his ex-wife. Funny, though, it wouldn't go over real big if he asserted his right to terminate their lives. I guess he could always join the Mafia.

The time for choices, and control, is before you hit the sack. By the time the only question is: to kill, or not to kill?, just how much choice should anyone have?

Ruth Simer  
Eugene

### Good boycott

Recently a journalism student wrote you in response to a letter concerning the band, The Guardians of American Morality, and their offensive lyrics and posters. He said "because one writes the lyric 'go home and beat the wife and children' it does not mean one advocates violence against children."

I would like to ask him, what does it "mean?" To go home and clean the house? It is frightening that a student of journalism puts so little stock in the value of words. Words have meaning. As a folklore student myself, I can tell him (and the Guardians) that songs, stories, poems and other forms of written and oral narrative serve a definite purpose in our society. They provide social, educational (for children as well as adults), psychological and cultural functions. It is no accident and no joke that America is one of the most violent countries in the world, or that child abuse is more rampant than husband abuse. The fact the band members sing of such things, and are responsible for posters bearing their name with a derogatory photo of a woman,

does not indicate to me that they support women's interests, nor ending the victimization of women.

Therefore, I encourage all musicians, clubs and patrons to continue the boycott of this band until this current phase of their "lyrical" development has ended. Also, as entertainment director for the Saturday and New Holiday Markets, I do not hire bands that discriminate on the basis of class, race or sex.

Melinda Hoder  
Graduate, folklore

### Unneeded story

Friday, Dec. 4's front page article on the Gay and Lesbian Alliance's "youth group" was displeasing to a large number of students I have talked to. The Oregon Daily Emerald showed poor judgment concerning this unneeded essay.

One would think enough real news occurs at the University that the Emerald would not resort to allowing the Gay and Lesbian Youth Group free advertising. At the very least, the report was not front-page material.

I must commend GALA for a fine job penetrating the ranks of our only campus daily. It must have been quite a challenge to get a reporter to write an editorial on the front page condoning homosexuality and praising the efforts of its youth group without even the slightest hint that homosexuality is found contemptible by a great majority of Americans. (Could it be wrong? Spare the thought!)

This is a lifestyle that is detested by the God of the Bible! It would not be so difficult, however, to get this reporter to write an article on GALA if, by chance, this reporter happened to live in and advocate GALA's lifestyle.

Kevin Allen  
Student

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