

Editorial

Information is key to family planning

President Reagan's proposal to cut off aid to family planning centers that provide information on abortion services will not only restrict the availability of information on family planning services and options but also affect mostly low-income women who seek advice from agencies like Planned Parenthood.

By forcing family planning agencies to decide whether to end distribution of abortion information in order to maintain federal funding, the Reagan administration will effectively propel some agencies to inform their clientele with inadequate information, leading some people to make choices not in their best interests.

Furthermore, cutting off aid to family planning centers will affect low-income individuals who rely on the agencies for information and services that they cannot get elsewhere.

This means that while those with money will continue to consult their private physicians about family planning decisions, those with inadequate resources will have a disadvantage in seeking information. As a result, the incidence of unwanted pregnancies will increase as will the social costs that such situations entail.

Rather than try to decrease information about the options available, the Reagan administration should seek to provide full information to help more readily decrease the number of abortions in the long term by giving people more information about other options available to them.

DeFazio deserves cheers and thank-you cards too

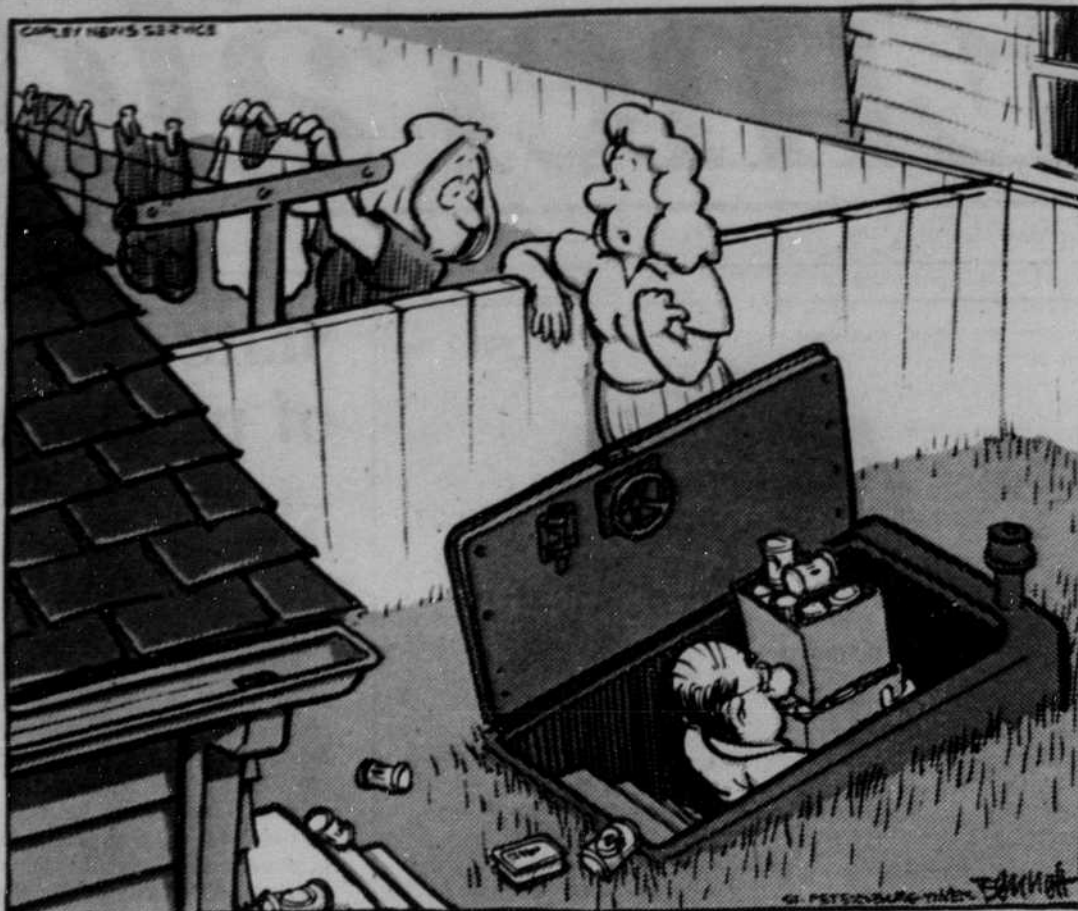
U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio earned his way off President Reagan's Christmas card list this year — and should be commended for it.

According to Congressional Quarterly magazine, DeFazio voted in opposition to President Reagan in 87 percent of 99 major votes surveyed by the publication. DeFazio, the feisty freshman congressman who represents Oregon's 4th District, was rated the toughest anti-Reagan Democrat in both Washington and Oregon. Moreover, he checks in as the seventh toughest Democratic member of Congress against Reagan-supported measures, Congressional Quarterly reports.

It's truly unfortunate that DeFazio did not get a Christmas card from Reagan this year. As a small personal sacrifice, the letter lost is something DeFazio and his constituents can bear, and DeFazio's voting record surely is bound to please the Eugene constituency.

When he was on campus last week, DeFazio lambasted Reagan's quest to get more Contra aid. And this is precisely the kind of thinking that got DeFazio off Reagan's Christmas card list in the first place.

Good job, Peter.



'...Survivalist?... No, he's an economist.'

Letters

Best interests

Craig Harris states in his commentary (ODE, Jan. 14) that, at a time when AIDS is killing people, dances should not promote sex by using such titles as "Safe Sex Dance." If he is in fact worried that sexual innuendo will cause AIDS, then it is nice of him to be concerned.

However, I have noticed that many of the people who criticize casual sex because of AIDS are the same ones who vehemently opposed it (sex) before the occurrence of AIDS.

It seems to me that they are seizing upon the AIDS scare in order to continue their long-term practice of imposing their values and personal choices on others.

It is hard to swallow advice from those who blindly cling to second-hand, amoral attitudes they call morals. Their approach can be counter-productive. The best thing is to have only the liberal, health-conscious people protect our students. At least they have our best interests at heart.

Alice Berry
Eugene

Democracy

Last Wednesday's letters section was lots of fun. For once all three letters were responsible. Chronologically:

1) Leslie Glasser: The Six-Day War only resulted in new territorial acquisitions (substantial though they were) by Israel. The nation itself was created shortly following World War II. Further, this isn't a question of autonomy (though Palestinians would like that) but rather of right to live where they had dwelled for generations. Israel used the land they'd acquired for themselves. I'm strongly reminded of the American Indians.

2) Elizabeth Willard: I wish I had been there. Though with the justice system how it is now I'd probably get sued.

3) Karen Engels: Well, there's a concept regarding this that dates back to (maybe past) the Constitution. It's called Power of the Purse. You know, they have the "power" (a dance), and you have the purse. This concept has enabled Congress to keep the president from seizing power for 200 years; it should certainly suffice to keep a dorm dance from digressing from the common taste. This concept, however, will work against you if your morals are not shared by a majority of others; the result would be overwhelming ticket sales. That's democracy, I guess.

Finn John
Student

Peace

In 1948 the Israelis imposed themselves on what was then known as Palestine: then the majority of people were Arabs. Ever since, whether by terrorism or persecution or expatriation, the Israelis have tried so much to dominate the region.

The Israelis then shifted their aim to acquiring territory by war. The 1956 and 1967 wars

are examples of aggression that not only focused on eliminating the Palestinians, but on inhibiting the Arabs from their rights to their land.

Although the international community has condemned the Israelis for their acts of aggression, the Israelis insist on their "own" provisions for peace, where their invasion of Lebanon and the bombing of the PLO's headquarters in Tunisia show the extent of their pledge to exterminating the Palestinians.

In effect, the Israelis have turned their back to all international initiatives and especially U.N. resolutions 242 and 338. Both resolutions order the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories and grant the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. Moreover, the Israelis have had the opportunity to show good intentions but have decided otherwise, and the recent outcry is an example.

In the midst of all this, the Arabs have agreed to attend a Geneva peace conference without preconditions, but the Israelis have ever since refused.

The Israelis do not want peace; they will only attend a peace conference where "Israel" is recognized as the sole power presiding over Palestine.

On the other hand, the Palestinians will not accept this condition, since they are the natives of Palestine. They have a right to their own land and will not tolerate Israeli dominance.

The quest for peace needs truthfulness and sincerity. If the Israelis desire peace, then they will have to accept the Palestinian rights to exist rather than embellish the current situation which is unacceptable to any standard.

Hussein Alessa
Muslim Student Association
Thursday, January 28, 1988

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