

# Editorial

## Closing P.L.O. office hinders negotiations

In a move contrary to free speech, the Reagan administration recently told the Justice Department to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization's United Nations observer mission in New York City.

In addition to going against the American spirit of free speech, the attempt to close the observer mission violates the United States' treaty obligations as host to the United Nations, according to a 143-2 vote by the U.N. General Assembly, with only the United States and, of course, Israel dissenting.

The prohibition on P.L.O. offices in the United States comes in the wake of legislation called the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1988 and 1989, which even Secretary of State George Shultz denounced as "one of the dumber things that Congress has done lately."

The "P.L.O. is a terrorist organization," Congress says, and should not benefit from operating in this nation. But if the P.L.O. is a terrorist organization, which it surely is, is not the Israeli government something similar? It depends, of course, on what is considered terrorism.

The P.L.O., in its perennial war against the state of Israel, often parks a Mercedes-Benz packed with TNT near Israeli government offices or in a Jewish settlement.

Likewise, the Israeli government has conducted similar actions against the Palestinians. Its soldiers have buried people alive, beaten children and doctors alike, ravaged the homes of families and blown up a ship carrying Palestinian refugees. This may be called state-sponsored terrorism.

So why shouldn't Israel have its U.N. offices in New York shut also? Because by keeping the doors open, it helps keep alive the possibility of U.N.-sponsored dialogue and a negotiated settlement to the conflict in the Occupied Territories — that is, if the P.L.O.'s mission is kept open, too.

## Boycott of tuna could help save the dolphins

Dolphins, perhaps the most intelligent creatures on Earth, are being slaughtered by the purse-seine nylon nets fishermen use to catch tuna, as proved by recent film footage obtained by Greenpeace and broadcast on ABC World News Tonight.

Before 1972, U.S.-based commercial fishermen slaughtered Dolphins without restraint for years. In 1972, however, the Marine Mammal Protection Act was passed, reducing the total amount of dolphins that could be killed by U.S. fishermen to 20,500.

But to escape the restrictions on dolphin kills, some U.S. fishermen relocated in foreign countries, most of which have no limitations on killing dolphins. Once in these foreign nations, many of the fishing fleets continued to slaughter dolphins.

Because schools of tuna swim with dolphins, fishermen drop their nets near the dolphin, and dolphins get killed in the process. "The kill is intentional; dolphins are being exploited to increase the profits of the tuna industry," said Ben Deeble, an ocean ecology campaigner with Greenpeace.

The film footage elicited a response a few weeks ago from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The organization moved to limit with a "comparability amendment" the dolphin kill rates of foreign fleets that sell tuna in U.S. markets to 75 percent more than the 20,500 limit imposed on U.S. fleets. That's still too many dolphins being killed.

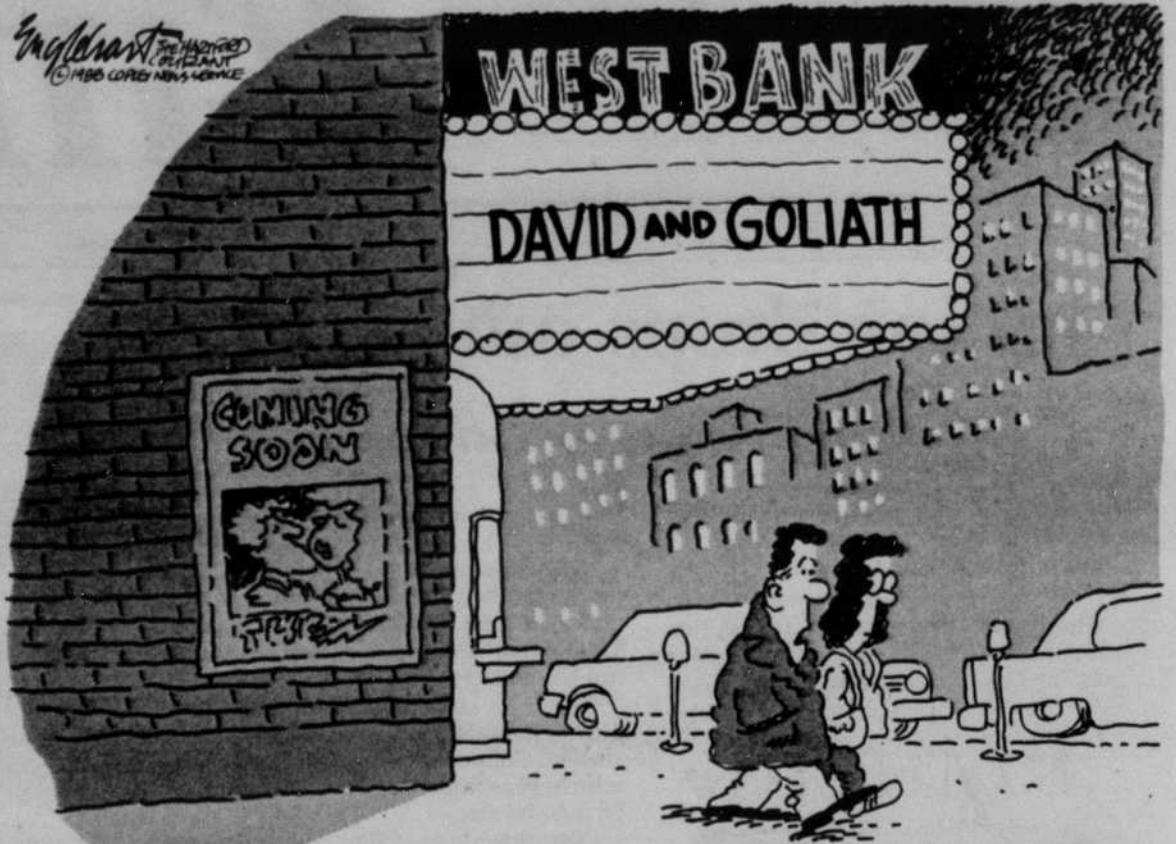
More action is needed to limit further or abolish completely the killing of dolphins. One avenue is a boycott of yellow fin or "chunk light" tuna (eat Albacore tuna instead). Another avenue is to write Senator Bob Packwood, who's on the Senate Commerce Committee, and urge him to sponsor legislation stopping the senseless slaughter of dolphins.

### Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.



"WAS DAVID THE ONE WITH THE RIFLE OR THE ONE WITH THE ROCKS?"

## Letters

### Write in Cuomo

Oregon Democrats *do* have a choice in the May presidential primary: writing in New York Gov. Mario Cuomo.

The current crop of candidates has failed to excite and unite Democrats. If it's a Dukakis-Bush contest this fall, who'll stay awake?

Given the closeness of the Democratic race, Oregon's May primary will again take on national focus this year. Oregonians have supported write-in candidates in the past (remember Jerry Brown?). An Oregon write-in campaign — organized by a grassroots popular effort — followed by similar efforts in California and New Jersey, could send a message to the Democratic Convention delegates this summer: Give us a winner.

Lee Weinstein  
Portland

### Low coverage

I am writing in response to the Emerald's minimal coverage of the demonstration that took place at the Nevada Test Site, March 9-20. The demonstration

was in protest of continued underground nuclear testing at the only underground testing area in the United States.

Not only is testing taking place on land that belongs to the Shoshone Indians, but it is also in violation of the ABM treaty, and until last year it defied the Soviets' 18 month unilateral test ban. Fifty Eugene residents, 20 of whom were students, took part in this action, and it was supported by many others who were unable to travel to Nevada.

The Emerald's minimal coverage of this event not only ignored continued testing, but also ignored the fact that many people, including students at the University, are involved in the process of helping to change the direction in which the arms race is heading.

Varya Siegel  
English

### High quality

Even if Karen Gaffney and Steve Hoyt were unopposed in their bid for the ASUO president and vice-president positions, they are both candidates of high quality and should be elected.

Karen was this year's ASUO vice-president and was chair of the EMU Board last year. She was both active and effective in last fall's efforts to prevent Paul Olum's ouster by the State Board of Higher Education.

Steve is a member of this year's Incidental Fee Committee. This has given him a chance to review all student-funded groups on campus and deal with important student concerns such as child care.

Both Karen and Steve have given the student body many hours of committed service. They have proved themselves to be responsible and effective. We are fortunate to have such a good ticket to vote for this year — two of the best!

Randy MacDonald  
Political Science

### Yeah, that thing

Maybe someone should think about re-painting the yellow sculpture in front of the art museum.

Nicholas Starin  
Anthropology

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