

Industry shouldn't be knocking on wood

Excuse the pun, but the local timber industry's reaction to the U.S. Forest Service's management plan for the Willamette National Forest is clearly a case of "not being able to see the woods for the trees."

In a press conference Tuesday, the Willamette Forestry Council (WFC), a board created by logging and timber companies that use the Willamette National Forest, challenged the Forest Service proposal to limit the annual harvest to 568 million board feet. The WFC would prefer a harvest level of 730 to 740 million board feet.

This level of harvesting poses a threat to the continuing usage of the National Forest and endangers the timber industry's future as well. Quite simply, the industry is cutting down the trees faster than they grow back.

The WFC's recommendation is based on fiscal year 1987's harvest, which was a banner year for the timber industry. Rising demand for Oregon lumber from overseas and a Congressional nod to increase timber harvests led to a substantial increase in the volume of trees cut.

This banner year should not become the standard for future harvests, however, because the Willamette National Forest is already seriously over-cut. For the last 25 years, Congress has approved a timber harvest in excess of what the U.S. Forest Service recommends.

In the past, many timber companies have been careless about over-cutting on their own corporate forest land. For example, Weyerhaeuser has cut its operations in Coos Bay by almost half because of a depleted wood stock. This recklessness in national forest lands, intended for the use of all, would be even more unfortunate.

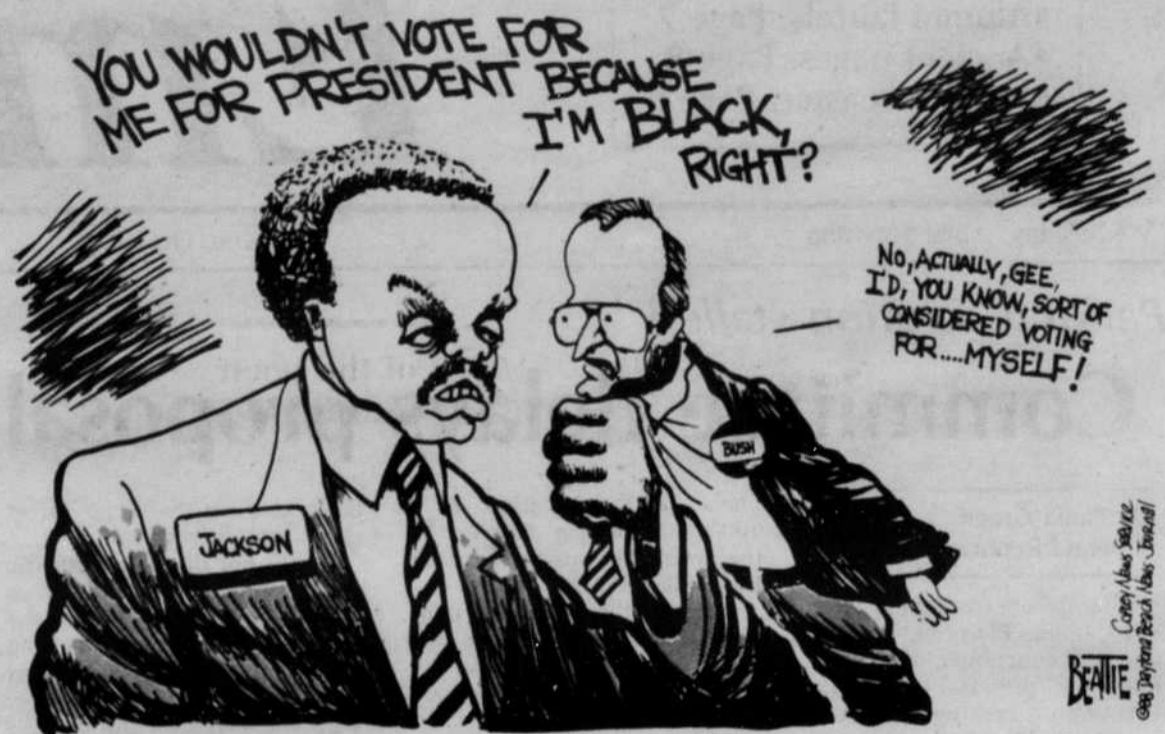
Given the economic uncertainties facing the timber industry, the Forest Service's conservative proposal seems more reasonable. Housing starts are wavering, and while Pacific Rim countries are currently demanding a large volume of Oregon wood, local mills — such as the one at Philomath — are being shut down for lack of demand.

It's tax time for Bonzo: Earn more, give less back

The filing deadline for 1987 income taxes is two days away, and many citizens across the country will be enjoying the benefits of tax reform. Two such people are President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy. They made more money last year than in 1986 and returned less in taxes.

Despite this good fortune, the Reagans contributed almost \$5,000 less to charities than they did the year before. And while the Reagans are certainly not required by law to donate any of their earnings to worthy causes, it certainly goes against what "trickle-down economics" should accomplish — giving tax breaks to the wealthy for the benefit of the poor.

Through the President's salary, various royalties and a trust fund, the Reagans earned \$345,359 last year, which was \$8,719 more than they earned in 1986. Their tax liability was \$86,638, which was \$5,822 less than what the bill came to before the reform.



Letters

Make me laugh

I glance through and read the Emerald most every day. Unfortunately, I can't find the time to read everything, so instead, I am selective and read the most important articles or sections — i.e., the Far Side, the personals and, most importantly, the letters to the editor. As you can probably guess, I obviously read the Emerald for the entertainment and humor aspects.

Lately though, I have noticed that someone has been missing in the Emerald. That someone whom I speak of is our beloved and favorite columnist Blake L. Sliter. For those who are not familiar with Blake, he is a very witty and humorous writer who submits entertaining letters to the editor. These letters contain the finest satire and demonstrate the rarest skill of all, the skill and fine art of heckling.

My point is, do we really want to read any more depressing and boring letters addressing the ASUO, Gay And Lesbian Alliance, Incidental Fee Committee or any other trivial topics such as these? We would rather read enlightening, humorous and not-so-serious letters directed toward sex, "beer sluts," dogs going through their spring ritual in public, and the oldie but goodie, the Greek system.

So, Mr. Sliter, please take this letter to heart, do some rethinking and come out of hiding. We need some entertaining letters at which we can laugh. Please write more to the Emerald and heckle anyone and everyone. What fun would life be if we couldn't laugh at ourselves?

Mark W. Olenich
Special education

Greek support

I would like to respond to Ron Munion's recent statement that the Greek Endorsement Committee is trying to change its image by "throwing out many of their (sic) beliefs and values that they've had for years" and "the endorsement of an SPA slate (Gaffney/Hoyt) will be rejected by the Greek community" (ODE, April 7).

As a member of the Greek Endorsement Committee in 1985 and in 1986, I cite the past record of the committee to assert that Munion's presumptions are entirely false. In 1985 the committee endorsed the SPA-backed presidential ticket of Lynn Pinckney and John Dreeszen. In 1986 the Greek Endorsement Committee endorsed another SPA-supported ticket — Steve Nelson and Caitlin Cameron. Both years, with the support of the Greek community, these candidates won their elections.

The Greek Endorsement Committee has a clear track record of supporting candidates from all University political parties in the sincere attempt to choose those candidates who will best serve the student body as a whole.

Yes on OSPIRG

On April 19 and 20 students will have the chance to vote for or against the continued funding of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG). I encourage everyone to vote yes on ballot measure 81 for a number of reasons.

OSPIRG is extremely educational, for those students who work for OSPIRG and for the student body at large. Students involved with OSPIRG learn communication skills, organizational skills and leadership skills. In addition, these students learn, in practical and real-life situations, how public policy is formed and, more importantly, how to have an impact on public policies.

This type of training is invaluable if we, as students, are to fulfill our responsibility to be functional and effective citizens.

Students not actively involved benefit through the many forums, speakers, workshops and meetings (always open to all) which OSPIRG conducts. These range in topic from hunger relief to toxics to recycling to renter rights.

OSPIRG is effective. Last term OSPIRG groups did some excellent work, including: the collection of 2,700 pounds of canned food to feed Lane County's hungry, the recall of two dangerous toys due to OSPIRG's toy safety report, the registration of over 700 voters by OSPIRG and the ASUO, and a meeting with the governor to present him with 23,000 citizen statements expressing concern for toxic waste.

Keep a good thing going, vote yes for OSPIRG.

Laura Simic
Eugene

Jeff Heiman
Rhetoric and Communication

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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.