

Logging fest threatens ecosystem and owls

The logging of the Northwest's old growth forests over the weekend was an act environmentalists rightfully called the "Easter Massacre."

Last week, U.S. District Judge William Dwyer in Seattle ordered all timber sales on national forest lands in Washington and Oregon halted for 60 days, until a lawsuit over the protection of the spotted owl is resolved.

Unfortunately, Dwyer's ban on timber sales didn't stop logging companies from working over the holiday weekend to fell the old growth timber. Hoping to protect the logging industry, last weekend's lumberjacks provided their own version of being "all dressed up with no place to go." The trees have been cut, but they can't be moved until the ban is lifted.

This tactic, while legal, clearly violates the spirit of Dwyer's restraining order.

Not only is logging in the snow uncommon, but to work over the holiday weekend was a matter of "chain saw justice." The Forest Service managed to time the logging so it couldn't be stopped in court.

There is, fortunately, a bright side to the ugliness.

Several environmentalists, including at least eight University students, protested throughout the weekend on logging grounds to protect and preserve the forests and the spotted owl's habitat. The protesters were arrested, but they managed to stall logging operations for several hours over the course of the weekend.

Yes, it's true, that Oregon's timber industry is of utmost importance to the state's economy. But dollar signs have replaced the pupils of their eyes, and if ever there was a case of people not seeing the forest for the trees, this is it.

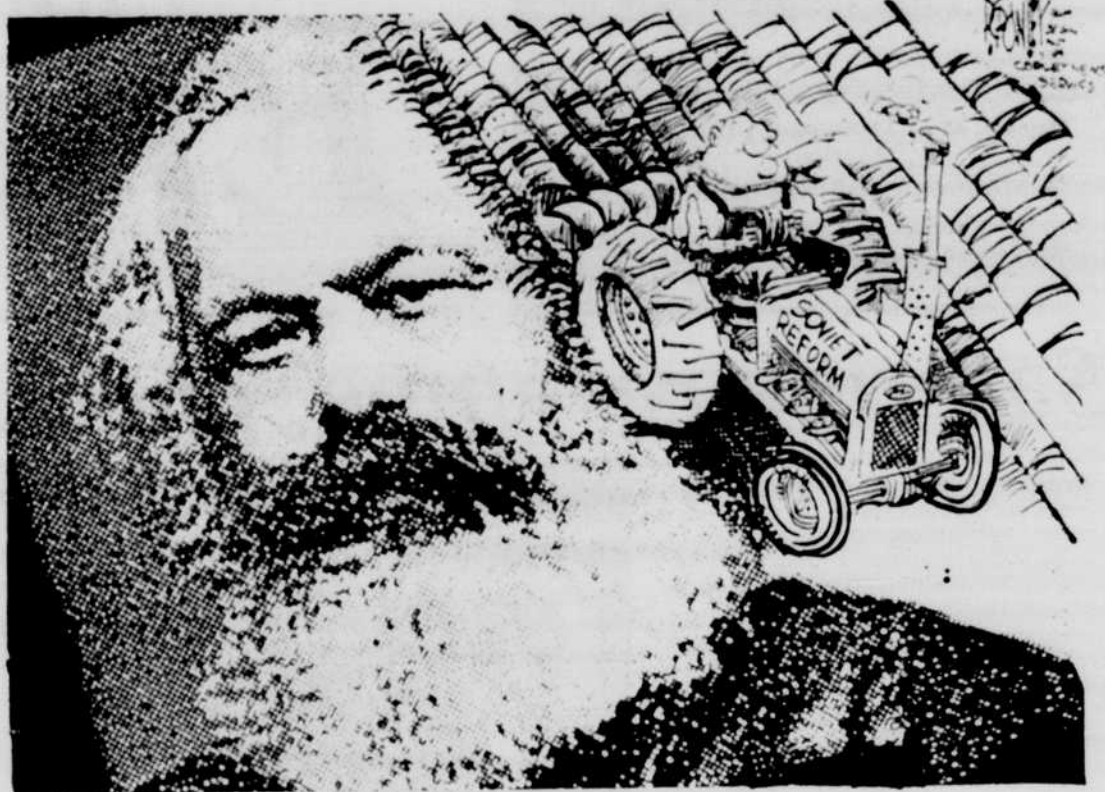
An estimated 2,400 spotted owls live in the ancient forests of the Northwest. This fragile habitat is the only place they can live.

Many similarities can be drawn between the felling of the old growth, and the felling of the tropical rain forests in Brazil. In both situations, a unique ecosystem is involved. It may not be readily apparent, but the Northwest's old-growth stands are part of a rainforest, as well — a temperate rain forest. They are part of an ecosystem, like the tropical rain forests of South America, that is the only one of its kind on the planet.

We deplore the tactics of the logging industry for their last-ditch efforts in the "Easter Massacre."

The survival of a species is at stake here.

Dollars may come and go, but when a species becomes extinct, there is nothing that can bring it back. Similarly, an old-growth tree, once felled, cannot be reclaimed. This remains true whether it is hauled to a mill or left lying on the ground.



Oil spill nightmare a portent of the future

Five days after the largest oil spill in U.S. history, environmentalists and oil producers alike have recognized the situation is as viscous as the spill itself — and has renewed the age-old environmental question about the wisdom of continuing to develop oil on Alaska's North Slope.

The massive cleanup, which is barely underway, will require several months to contain the spill; but the economic and environmental damage to the area may just be irreparable.

Moreover, the spill could have been avoided. The third mate, who did not have proper certification, was in charge when the Exxon Valdez ran aground the ice. But perhaps even more incredulously, the tanker's captain *did* have certification — although his license to drive on land has been suspended.

As of yesterday, it was determined that the jagged coastline of the half submerged Chugach Mountains will create hidden pockets of oil as the slick reaches shore; this will create pollution for years to come, as the oil moves from the pockets back into the main body of water.

Moreover, the slick has reached Smith,

Naked and Knight islands — home to herring and salmon about to spawn, shore birds, water fowl, deer and a sea otter colony. And an arm of the slick is moving toward the herring-rich seas near Montague Island — and where there is herring, many other notches on the chain of life are present.

This also is the time of year when whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions migrate into the area for a feeding frenzy. And this is the time of year when the fishermen set their nets.

However, David Parish, a spokesman for Exxon — the company that owns the tanker responsible for the spill — claims the company does not expect any major environmental damage as a result of the spill. They are, however, pessimistic about cleaning up; it should prove to be quite a task.

For years, Alaskan fishermen have warned that an oil spill could wreak havoc on Prince William Sound's environment. And like they say, "this is a heck of a way to win the argument." The fishermen's worst nightmare has just become reality, as now they claim there could be damage to the marine environment for the next 20 years.

Letters

Learning

In a mystic institution, new letters of value enter with implied teaching. Here your own universe justly excites new, neurotic ideas. Fortunately, every riddle builds unique, given learning, embracing you.

Mike Jespersen
Student

Thanks

Our moving sale was a nightmare: We weren't prepared for the mob which arrived an hour early, dickered over the worth of our personal belongings, and swarmed through our home and into our private bedrooms.

One woman picked up a small basket — which was full of jewelry — and asked if I was selling it. When I realized I had left out my jewelry box, I dumped it out in the other bedroom and closed the door. But — someone had already stolen the jade bead choker which my mother had given me.

The happy ending: The

woman who bought the basket recognized a vendor at the Piccadilly Market as someone who had been at our sale. The vendor claimed that she had bought the jade choker from us and sold it to this woman for \$5. This woman then left the choker in our mailbox, called to let me know it was there and refused to accept payment.

I was so amazed when she called I couldn't adequately express my thanks. Her honesty and concern is refreshing and absolutely unexpected. Much love to her: My last memories of Eugene will be of her generosity and kindness.

Susan Lee-St. John
Eugene

Artful freedom

"America the land of the free (expression) and the home of the brave." Recently it has been only the home of the brave. I am an artist currently showing at the Scarlet O' Heifer's Gallery at 410 W. 13th Ave.

One of the paintings I had

displayed in the window facing Cafe Central had to be taken down because of complaints taken by the landlord, Lynch Realty. The unknown critics have, I believe, infringed on my freedom of expression, and freedom to display my art in public places.

William Fien
Eugene

Go to voters

Oregonians are receiving convenient, clean and safe service at the gas pump for prices lower than surrounding states. But some are not satisfied with our traditional Oregon system. They want to create a system that gives the choice between expensive service or no service.

Two bills have been introduced; House Bill 2522 and House Bill 2627 to bring self-service to Oregon. With it would come inconvenience, safety hazards, discrimination against the elderly and the handicapped, the loss of jobs, and higher prices.

Members of Oregon Automobile Association of America are

overwhelmingly opposed to self-service. Oregon AAA is, however, willing to have this issue placed before the voters, as it was in 1982. Proponents of self-service will not agree to have the voters decide. We have faith that the citizens can make the right decision on this controversial issue.

Dell Isham
Lincoln City

Carte blanche

Were it not for the Oregon Daily Emerald's coverage of the University's plan to implement a policy change concerning the use of animals in research on campus, the public would be unaware of such developments. I wish to add some clarifications, however, so that while there is still time, concerned readers may be able to inquire into and challenge the proposed new policy.

The University President's office has described the policy change as being only "technical." It has also represented that the policy is necessary to

bring the University into compliance with federal policy. Neither is the case.

The current policy allows for animal use *only* when it bears some connection to human or animal health. The proposed policy will allow animal use merely for the sake of "knowledge." This is no minor, technical change. It is, in fact, monumentally expansive, permitting virtually any imaginable use of animals in the name of the "need to know."

In addition, federal law does not require that the University have such an expansive policy. On the contrary, the current policy, somewhat more humane than the federal version, is perfectly in compliance with the law, and could remain on the books indefinitely.

How can the University claim to be reducing the numbers of animals used in research and, at the same time, issue itself a carte blanche for increased animal use?

Susan Harlan
Coordinator,
Citizens for Animal Rights
Wednesday, March 29, 1989