

## Timber deal's end was the right thing

So much for the art of compromise? Those who accuse environmentalists in the state of crippling the state's timber industry with litigation to protect the endangered spotted owl have new fuel for their arguments.

The proposal to free federal forest lands in Oregon for logging was withdrawn Wednesday after environmentalist factions rejected the deal offered by the state's congressional delegation and Gov. Neil Goldschmidt at this past weekend's big "timber summit" in Salem.

With emotions running as high, it seems likely the environmentalists will be seen as deliberately trying not to negotiate, especially considering the fact that the Sierra Club recommended approval of the deal.

This perception is unfortunate however, because the environmental camp's veto of the proposal was justified on several grounds.

First, the deadline for this proposal was just unrealistic. A timber deal such as the one proposed was not originally supposed to be put together at the summit, so its conception caught people off guard. After the proposal was made, the various environmental groups were given just 48 hours to gather together and decide on a terribly complicated package deal. This deadline was considered necessary to attach the deal as a rider to legislation in Salem. Later, the deadline was extended a day, after the timber industries gave the proposal their approval.

With more time, it may be likely that both sides will come around to agreeing on this plan. So that's the important thing to remember. This plan has been removed from the table, but it needn't be removed from consideration. The process should still be allowed to continue.

Before this plan can be accepted however, some ambiguities cited in the proposal by environmentalists do have to be worked out. While language defining what constitutes "old-growth forest" has been basically accepted, that language has yet to be applied so that anyone knows exactly how much land can be classified for protection. In addition, language should be added, detailing where the estimated 10 billion board feet in timber cuts over the next two years are to originate.

Another main sticking point is that the environmentalists were asked to surrender judicial review of timber plans. That's a no-no. The ongoing legislation to restrict judicial access should be quashed.

While public opinion will likely not be in their favor, the environmentalists were right in refusing to compromise. There are times when you have to stand your ground.



## Don't sack football lottery for athletics

Lately, there's been a curious public debate over the marriage of professional sports and gambling. It's been 70 years since the Chicago Black Sox scandal shocked the nation. Now, the public support for Pete Rose in his continuing drama illustrates the public tolerance for mixing ballplayers and bookies.

Here at home, there's also a movement to join the two. State Rep. David Dix (D-Eugene) has introduced legislation to create a new state lottery game to fund college athletics. The format of picking the winners in a slate of National Football League games should be familiar to anyone experienced with betting on sports, i.e. a good percentage of the population. The point-spread system has been used by Nevada casinos and professional gamblers for decades.

The rub is that outgoing NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle has indicated his opposition to such state lottery games of chance. Rozelle's complaint has hurt the chances for the bill's approval. Once vocal in the bill's support, Gov. Neil Goldschmidt appears to be wavering. That's too bad, because this bill is an excellent idea — for a lottery game.

(In the past, we've been down on lottery games; they tend to hurt the people who buy tickets more than they help them. With that caveat in mind, this one gets our approval.)

On one hand, Rozelle is doing his job; he's trying to protect the integrity of the sport. But he's also forgetting that the sport exists for the fans, and he should be looking to give the people what they want.

And clearly, the public wants to bet on football. The legal sports book gambling industry is a million dollar enterprise, to say nothing of informal wagering and office betting pools.

This type of game would be very popular with gamblers who want a little more than the pure-luck games of chance currently found in the lottery. The money would also go to athletic funding, a responsibility the state is currently neglecting.

Rozelle should also be looking at the future of football. Colleges and universities in this country are the "farm clubs" for the NFL, as Dix himself has pointed out. It is in the NFL's best interest to ensure that the athletic programs of troubled universities, such as those in this state, are helped out.

## Letters

### Underestimated

A total of 455 students and townspeople gathered June 4 at the EMU to hold a protest and memorial service for China's dead — thus ranking the protest among the largest in America — not 200 people as reported in the Emerald (ODE, June 5).

During international events such as these, one of the few things supporters can do is gather in a public place, be counted and hope the numbers are reported back to the country they are supporting. It is therefore discouraging, to say the least, to have a local newspaper grossly underestimate the size of a crowd.

Patricia Lambert  
Eugene

### Ignore brochure

Rational people recognize unwanted pregnancy is always a tragedy. Appropriate sex education including accurate descriptions of techniques and

devices to prevent conception is necessary. Americans must renew development, testing and approval of contraceptives and abortifacients terminated by many pharmaceutical companies under religious pressure. The French drug RU 486, effectively used in family planning in France and China, must be promoted.

Humans being less than perfect, it is neither fair nor wise that the judgment of women be subject to male "machismo" for a sexual act in which men usually dominate, and to which they give little thought except to distance themselves when confronted with its economic and social consequences.

An envelope recently received contained colored brochures with gruesome photographs of human fetuses in various stages of development, claiming they showed aborted "babies."

The bloody impact was fraudulently enhanced by printing some pictures through a red filter. Because the brochure "Life or Death" lacked medical certification it is doubtful the photographs were

accurate representations of the accompanying captions. Given the clear intent to overwhelm the viewers' emotions, rather than appeal to their reason, women are advised to disregard the brochures as blatant violations of their rights to privacy.

Women must recognize religious leaders who oppose family planning and effective contraceptive practices have a vested interest in the growth of their congregations. The misery of others increases their power and prestige and gives them a cause that provides justification for their social role.

Bert Tryba  
Eugene

### Oppose racism

On Friday, June 2 at 4:30 p.m., one block away from Friendly Hall along 13th Avenue, a group of two instructors and one graduate teaching fellow from the Romance languages department, all of Hispanic origin, were viciously attacked with racist remarks and spat at by a man who did not

appear to be a student.

Two of us would like to thank the timely and selfless intervention of an unknown student on a bicycle who denounced the man to his face for his racism and pursued him for a block. He made himself deliberately the blank of the man's racism on our behalf.

Maria Luz Dieguez  
GTF  
Jorge Ayora  
Associate professor

### Right and just

Oregon Citizens Alliance believes in the equal worth of all persons. Discrimination based on race, religion or national origin or arbitrary discrimination based on gender is indefensible. Such discrimination should be opposed by law.

We opposed policies that

lead to reverse discrimination. We believe that there should not be laws granting civil rights protection based on behavior (which includes homosexuality) that is morally wrong or injurious to public health, nor should government legitimize such behavior.

OCA opposes physical harassment. We strongly oppose the harassment of gays at the University. Those who engage in criminal behavior must know that they will receive swift, sure and meaningful penalties that are commensurate with their crimes.

We affirm that foremost among God-given human rights is the right of every individual to live their life as they choose, within the boundaries of that which is right and just, free from unwarranted interference.

Phil Ramsdell  
Lane County OCA director

### Letters Policy

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