

## Inspiring veterans lead to possibilities

As the 10,000 participants and visitors of the VIII World Veterans Games crowd Mahlon Sweet Airport with smiles on their faces to leave our fair town, we want to take a moment and reflect on the overwhelming success of the two-week-long athletic event.

We say overwhelming success, and we mean it. The indications are that the Games were an inspired occasion all the way around. They were inspiring both in their on-field activities, and in demonstrating what Eugene-Springfield and Oregon can do in hosting similar future events.

Some notes:

- First of all, thanks must go, of course, to the athletes and their families who participated. Without exception, they were warm, friendly people who did our community a great service by visiting here. Their good-naturedness rubbed off on nearly everyone and made this town a better place to be for the time they were here.
- Consequently, the local citizens of Eugene and Springfield should be proud of the way they greeted the world athletes with open arms. There was a tremendous outpouring of welcomes and affections for the athletes. Local residents did a great credit to their city. It should be noted that Eugene won the bid for the Games over cities such as Los Angeles and Miami exactly for its warm, cozy atmosphere.
- According to *The Register-Guard* and area merchants that we talked to, the games were not the financial bonanza that they were expected to be. Some businesses reported no increase in sales at all; others, such as the Eugene Hilton, reported an increase but not one as high as was expected. Nonetheless, the games were an influx of cash during a usually slow season. They also represent an investment of sorts — the good times the visitors had here may lead to future return visits, and the sponsorship of future events similar to the Games. While we're on that subject ...
- The local organizers, handlers and promoters of the Games are the ones deserving of the most thanks, and are the ones with the most reason to be proud. Some of the participants we talked to said that this was the best-run Veterans Games ever held; some said that the organization was better run than the Olympics. That's a huge compliment to the people who set things up here. More importantly, it shows that this region, and its people, are capable of running events such as these.

Which leads to this: Over the last two years, there has been a push by a handful of state business and government leaders to groom Oregon as a future host site for a Winter Olympics. Well, why not?

At first, hosting the Olympics sounds like an impossible dream. It's this same kind of impossible dream that would lead a 94-year-old Taiwanese man to run sprints before thousands of screaming spectators. It can be done; Wang Ching-Chang proved that.

This state has the tools and the temperament to turn that dream to a reality. Just do it.



## Letters

### Raw criticism

I guess it's best at times to resort to raw criticism, no frills. Michael Shaffer (*ODE*, Aug. 3) writes "... (The) mother, who, if well educated, is in the best position to choose which is best for all persons concerned."

This is true, but very few women think of what is best for all; they rather think of what is best for them! Women who end a life because allowing it to continue will change their aren't thinking of what is best for anyone but themselves.

If you examine the early history of "great" people, you'll most commonly find that they did not have a "great" home environment. You'll find that they had a mother who gave them a chance, who nourished and brought them up to the best of her ability.

Education isn't the issue, Michael. The desire to think of others above self is the issue. The vast majority of unwanted pregnancies are a result of women who allow someone else to control their body, thinking that this will somehow lead to their self-fulfillment.

When pregnancy results, the same self-centered person makes the "best" decision and ends it. So, as one of my old favorites says, "Who ya tryin' to kid, kid/Wrap it in a fine philosophy/But the bottom line still me me me" (Steve Taylor).

I guess I can also answer Erika Jostad (*ODE*, Aug. 3) in one sentence. Don't let anyone else control your body, and we won't have any other bodies to worry about!

Bob Weigel  
Lab technician

### Toxicology

Animal rights activists have questioned the use of live animals in toxicology and consumer product testing, and have asked that alternatives be developed. I think they are right to question and resist human attitudes that reduce animal life to pure object and attitudes that deny animal pain.

Currently, there are no full replacements to live animals in most research and testing, although progress has been made and will continue to be made with the support of an informed polity.

We'd like to send all interested readers an article from *Scientific American*, August 1989, by A. Goldberg and J. Frazier. The article has some biases, but describes methods and measures taken to reduce animal use in toxicology. Please send a stamped envelope with your request.

I have heard compelling ethical arguments against animals in research, and I know now that animal advocates hold these ethics as deeply as I hold mine, different though they may be, and I value a diversity of ethical systems. I apologize for past vitriol.

Technology is not a magic wand that can clean up after a wasteful culture indefinitely. We may be able to do more "humane" toxicology, but why do we have a culture that teaches us to crave 37 different colors of dippity-do (requiring bureaucratic safety testing), and that hamburgers grow on bushes and beg to be eaten? How do we change our cultural values to eliminate the possibil-

ity of another Bhopal disaster or Exxon oil spill?

D.L. Brink  
Coalition for Animal Research  
Eugene, OR 97403

### Bad cartoon

We, the members of the Muslim Students Association and the Muslim community of Eugene, would like to express our deep concerns regarding the editorial cartoon published in the *Daily Emerald* last Thursday, Aug. 3.

Firstly, the cartoon attempts to communicate its political message by inconsiderately comparing the living conditions of Muslim women to those of hostages held by terrorists. Muslim women's way of living and dressing is a deeply respected and honored tradition in addition to being religiously inspired.

Secondly, the cartoon portrays a false stereotype of Islam and Muslims that is frequently seen in the media. This stereotype accomplishes nothing but the instigation of hatred, racism and violence in our University and city community.

It should be noted that our past experiences with the staff of the *Daily Emerald* against such insensitive and useless imagery have not been fruitful. We find ourselves continuously being misrepresented and discriminated against in your coverage of events regarding the Muslim world.

We urge you to seriously look into our concerns and to take any action you find appropriate. We would like to remind you that such cartoons or articles not only distort the educational atmosphere of our University and its reputation, but they also jeopardize the safety of our members in this community.

Khaled Al-azzouni  
Muslim Students Association

Ed. — *The Emerald* apologizes to its readers for Thursday's cartoon. It was a poor choice to run with our editorial regarding ongoing events in Beirut; the slight to Muslim women was unintended.

### 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.

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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Accounts Receivable, Circulation, Newsroom: 686-5511  
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