

Drug abuse rallies help fight problem

This Tuesday night, 2,000 people turned out at MacArthur Court to pledge their support in the war on drugs. The rally is just another in a long list of organized protest against drug abuse.

George Bush has announced his administration will fight drug use as if the country were in a real war, complete with armed force both in and out of the country if necessary.

Drugs have been around as long as anyone can remember. But in the last few years, with crime and violence around the drug trade skyrocketing, drugs have now become a legitimate domestic threat.

We're not saying drugs are going to topple American society, but they are a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Every presidential administration chooses a theme. With Kennedy, it was the space program. With Nixon, it was detente (among other things). With Bush, it appears fighting drug use will anchor his agenda.

Using U.S. military force to turn Columbian drug cartel members into charcoal briquettes is not the answer. Blasting the source will only open it up for more people to step in. The lure of big money is just too powerful to eliminate the drug flow.

The only way to fight drug abuse is through education. Teaching people about the dangers of drugs is preferable to using an F-14 to smoke a cocaine processing plant. Simple economics come into play. If there is no demand, the supply dries up.

Since most of Bush's drug-abuse budget went into fighting the source, not eliminating demand, the public sector has been the one to fill in the education part.

In general, we support anti-drug rallies like the one Tuesday. Organizers were upset at the turnout, as the unrealistically expected 10,000 people to show up. However, that 2,000 took time out of their schedules to attend sends a signal that Eugene citizens are concerned.

The rally stressed community support to fight what is, unfortunately, one of Oregon's biggest industries. Speakers, such as state attorney general Dave Frohn-mayer, gave frightening statistics concerning the level of Oregon drug abuse.

Speakers at Tuesday night's gathering also told participants how to detect symptoms of drug abuse, and how to fight them. These are key issues, but more importantly, the speakers wanted people to understand the drug abuse solution depends as much on the community as it does on law enforcement.

Eugene has always been a bastion of liberal thinking toward drug use. We should not abandon this principle, but it is time to address the problem.



Late kickoff time nets financial windfall

Oregon's football team is at home for the third time this season, but once again there won't be the normal 1 p.m. starting time when the Ducks and Washington State hook up in a key Pacific-10 battle.

Prime Ticket television will air the game, and by doing so has pushed the kickoff back past 3:30 p.m., much to the chagrin of many. However, the needs of the few outweigh the needs of the many in this case.

In the Eugene-Springfield area, where Duck football is almost a religion, the fans love basking in the sun at Autzen Stadium for an afternoon game. When the game starts at 3:30 though, the fans get antsy. The fans don't get the sun and they have to wait around for the kickoff.

Most people enjoy the 1 p.m. start for many reasons. Getting home at 4:30 has many advantages over 7 p.m. The fans don't have to walk home in the dark. They still have a few hours of light to do something outdoors after the game. A 3:30 kickoff just seems to make the day longer.

However, the financial needs of the football team and the athletic department are just too important in the long run to bypass.

By being on cable television, Oregon

will take home another lucrative payday tomorrow, something the football team and the athletic department desperately need to stay competitive in the Pac-10.

The Ducks will net \$102,000 for the Cougar game, the same amount they received for other games with California and Arizona. Oregon will also be on the Prime Ticket network against Arizona State later in the season. With over \$400,000 rolling in from the cable network, the Ducks are receiving a huge shot in the arm financially.

Judging by the attendance figures from the California and Arizona games though, the fans don't mind the 3:30 starts and are coming to Autzen in groves. Obviously the 3:30 kickoff isn't bothering the fans too much.

For those fans who are angry with the game being moved back, don't worry. It seems highly unlikely that the Ducks two other home contests, with Long Beach State and Oregon State, have no chance of being televised and will indeed start at 1 p.m.

However, even if those games aren't going to start at 1, what's the big deal? What's more important in the long run is what is in the best interest of the football team and the athletic department.

Forum

'Rationality' vs 'rationalism': which is the right truth?

By Thomas Payne

The view that accuses theists of irrational thinking contains two fallacies: one, it confuses "rationality" with "rationalism," and two, it assumes, with rationalism, that the only path to truth is logical deduction. If something cannot be

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proven as a conclusion to a chain of logically legitimate premises and deductions, then it cannot be "true."

Rationality is the capacity to think. It includes a wide variety of ways human beings obtain information about the world. Rationalism, on the other hand, is a philosophical system, popularized in the 17th century, that states essentially that the only path to truth is logical deductive reasoning.

I contend that theism is in fact rational in the broad sense

of a reasonable system of thinking people to base their lives on, though it may or may not be provable by logical deductive reasoning.

if belief in modes of learning other than logical deduction constitutes "irrationality," then by far the majority of cultures in the world are fundamentally irrational. A great amount of what humankind knows is by intuition and experience — not by logical deduction. For example, people know that seeds will sprout into plants even if they cannot logically explain the mechanism.

One major way of knowing God for millions of people is via the experience of him/her in their lives. Even in our "rational" society, much of our daily lives is based on concepts that have not been proven, and in fact may not be provable, by deductive reasoning.

Such concepts as love, beau-

ty, goodness, sincerity, and trust are essential to our daily functioning. We can observe the effects of these concepts in the way human interact with each other, but we can not necessarily prove their existence in a logical deductive manner.

Although space does not permit a detailed analysis of the effect of rationalism on the personality of cultures, I believe that much of the alienation, depersonalization and materialism that is so prevalent in our society is a result of a misplaced faith in logical deduction as the sole source of trust.

In arguments claiming the barbarism of Christianity it is customary to omit mention of the countless quiet acts of love constantly carried out by Christians. These acts range from one friend helping another through a time of stress, through the abolitionist movement in 19th century America, to Mother Theresa's commit-

ment to the outcasts of India.

A cursory reading of the New Testament reveals that Christ taught love and compassion (consistent with his condemnation of self-righteousness and legalism). In fact, the whole message of Christ turns the systems of the world upside down — the last shall be first, the meek shall inherit the earth, the hungry shall be filled while the rich are turned away empty.

The picture of the new order established by Christ is one of "servant leadership" — he who is first in the kingdom must be servant to all. This principle is supremely demonstrated by Christ's sacrificial offering of himself in the service of humanity, and by his service to the outcasts of society.

There have always been those who have misunderstood Christ's message of love, and perverted it to serve their own ends. This is particularly dan-

gerous where many people call themselves "Christians" simply because "responsible" members of society are "Christians," rather than because they have personally considered, understood and chosen the way of Christ as their own.

One should not dismiss Christianity on the basis of the fact that some who have called themselves Christians have failed to exhibit the true characteristics of followers of Christ.

In conclusion, faith of some kind is unavoidable since it is the basis of human life in community. Although faith need not be based solely on logical proof, honest critical reflection on one's faith can have great value, both for theists and for those whose ultimate faith is something other than a personal God.

Thomas Payne is a Research Associate in the Linguistics Department.