

Federal timber plan might work for best

Listening to Oregon Rep. Bob Smith, you'd think Northwest environmentalists have scored a knockout in the ongoing timber-spotted owl bout. Smith's call is early; this is a decision that will have to go to the judges.

On Saturday, the Senate approved legislation that would allow for more logging of Northwest old-growth forests while also protecting the spotted owl. The bill, part of an \$11.2 billion Interior Department appropriations, had already cleared the House (where Smith accused his peers of caving in to "radical" environmentalists) and is now headed to Pres. George Bush for signing.

The timber plan is a one-year setback for environmentalists. Over the next fiscal year, the plan will provide for the sale of 9.6 billion board feet of federal forest timber and also requires that half of the environmentalists' legal injunctions be dropped.

The rate of timber cutting and selling approved by Congress cannot be maintained very long; the state's old-growth forests simply won't be able to sustain this.

But when this plan ends on Sept. 30, 1990, environmentalists can look to a more level playing field. At that time, the U.S. Forest Service is required to have completed 10-year management plans that will set a more reasonable logging pace.

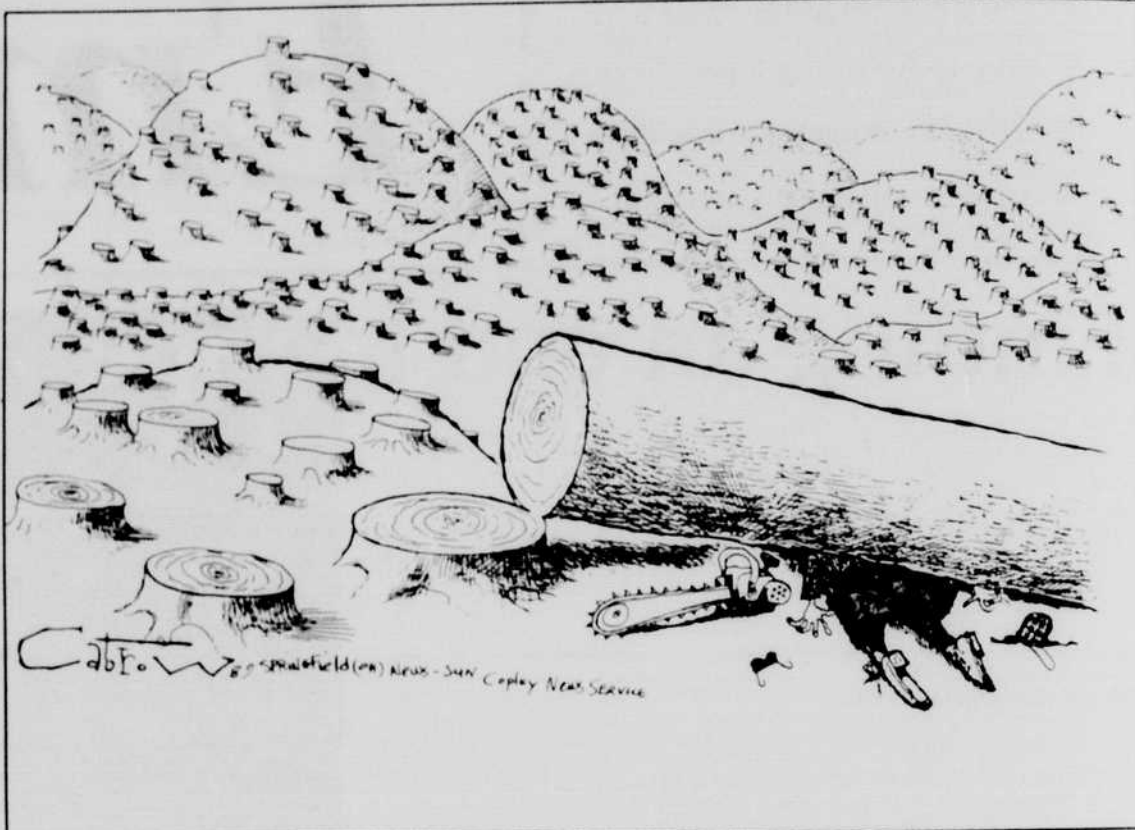
The legislation also requires that federal agencies strive to preserve adjacent plots of old-growth forest, rather than allowing logging in fragmented patches. A seven-member advisory board has been established to review timber-sale programs in national forests in Washington and Oregon.

These changes might lead to the protection of critical spotted owl habitats in the future. Of course, we will only know after a year's wait, and that year may be crucial for the endangered bird.

The wait is not the only downside to the congressional plan. For better or worse, what was once a regional issue has now moved up to the national level. When future entanglements come up, the Senate will have the precedent to move in and set policy.

Moving the dispute to the federal level was a gamble that paid off for the environmentalists, because, at present, there is a strong environmental lobby. Ongoing discoveries of greenhouse effects and ruined coastlines have finally gotten people to move. But whether that environmental lobby can retain its muscle in the face of big business is debatable, especially during a span of governmental conservatism.

For the answer to that question, like the answer to future harvest levels, we will have to wait a year.



Dix should continue to aid investigation

With the national political scene focusing on Congressional ethics reform and illegal campaign spending, it shouldn't come as any surprise that Oregon Democrats are coming under fire for the same things.

The controversy centers on the House Democrats' 1988 campaign financing report. Apparently, the document, filed with the Secretary of State Barbara Roberts' office in November, is rife with errors, omissions and mistakes.

The report is under heavy scrutiny from a House committee, and three auditors from Roberts' office have joined the hunt. It will be no easy task to sift through the records, as apparently numerous bank statements and checks are missing.

In the last week of September, the controversy took on a new twist when Carl Wiederaenders, a chief aide for House Majority Leader David Dix (D-Eugene), resigned because he "accidentally" tore out a page from a campaign finance document. The page Wiederaenders took failed to list a \$10,000 contribution to the caucus from Rep. Hedy Rijkjin (D-Newport).

Since then, Dix has come under intense

fire from Democrats, Republicans and state officials alike. Dix contends he had no knowledge Wiederaenders had taken the page. The story goes that Dix was told a page was missing, confronted Wiederaenders and returned the page.

To prove his innocence, Dix reportedly underwent a two-hour polygraph test. Dix said the test proved he he did not know about the missing page until later in the day.

We're inclined to believe him. Dix has gone out of his way to cooperate in the investigation, and no concrete evidence of his guilt has turned up yet.

University-area residents have a special interest in the investigation. Dix is the University's representative in the House, and is one of the staunchest supporters of higher education. Anybody who has ever seen him at work on the House floor knows he is a major player in the legislature.

Even if Dix isn't involved in the Wiederaenders scandal, he and his fellow Democrats have a lot to answer for. They clearly need to clean up their campaign spending ways, and deal with all the nagging questions brought up in the investigation.

Letters

Open minds

School is back in session. And we students, the future of America, have returned to the classroom to gain knowledge to improve our lives and our world.

Or have we?

In the last week of class, every professor and graduate teaching fellow was bombarded not by questions of what the course would try to accomplish, but "what will we be tested on?"

The whole attitude of just wanting to know what will win a person good grades is very dangerous. When a person signs up for a class, they should be there to learn something, not to manipulate the material into a neat package of facts ready to be regurgitated for good grades.

Let's open our minds to more than the importance of a good grade point average.

Kirk Rinaldi
Student

No support

The other night, I attended a demonstration of Project Safe Run. I was amazed, impressed and believe wholeheartedly in what that program is trying to accomplish. When I asked one of the chapter house leaders if any student organization supported them, or if any university monies were donated to them, she said no.

I asked why not, and she guessed that maybe no one had thought to do it. I hope that's the only reason, because Safe Run is a program which provides direct service to a needy population, and, more importantly, to those who have a say over shared funds, it works.

Safe Run has provided canine escorts for women runners and walkers for several years. In the University area, probably thousands of women are in need of just such a program, and yet no student organization has moved to support them, and to my knowledge, no member of the student government has championed such an effort. Is it merely because no one

thought of it, or no one cares for a program that actually works, no matter how desperate its need for funds?

I challenge the student body and student government to direct collective effort in moving to support this program. Students, join with your elected representatives and make the system work for you; make it accomplish some good. Don't settle for excuses from the system or yourselves. You are all too resourceful and creative to fail.

Logan Dhonau
Student

Ridiculous

These questions might seem ridiculous, but one must ask: Do you know where the EMU Ballroom is? Have you heard of the Cultural Forum? Did you know there's an active Native American Student Union on campus, and a thriving Native American community in Eugene/Springfield?

Can you imagine that Univer-

sity students might be interested in important theater productions and/or Native American matters?

How you were able to ignore the Wednesday night performance of "Fires on the Water," a dramatization of Tlingit raven stories, is beyond me. While the Ballroom was packed — even standing room was hard to find — the *Emerald* apparently didn't even know (or didn't care) what was going on. *The Register-Guard* and *What's Happening* had pictures and articles, while the *ODE* — the "campus paper" — had absolutely nothing.

Students who depend on the *ODE* for their information missed an incredible evening. The audience was hushed and intent on every word and move-

ment from the five Alaskan performers. At the end, the hall erupted in a standing ovation. Only two other stops are scheduled on this "tour": Portland and Washington D.C.

Add these questions: how relevant, how alert, how important, how helpful is the *Emerald*?

Jeff Harrison
English department

Fans in groves

The fans "are coming to Autzen in groves? (*ODE*, Oct. 6)" Shades of Birnam Wood, what does this portend?

Sue Hamilton
Psychology department

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.