

Rape victims need abortion financing

Once again George Bush has showed the American public his complete lack of sensitivity and comprehension of women's rights and abortion.

This past weekend Bush vetoed legislation that would have authorized federal abortion funding (through Medicaid and other federal funds) for rape and incest victims.

Although the bill made it through Congress the first time around, it is uncertain as to whether the House or the Senate can muster enough votes to override Bush's veto.

This piece of legislation is unique because it takes into consideration what women may experience in these situations. Often women who have been raped don't file reports with the police because it can be an uncomfortable and embarrassing experience.

The legislation would require "prompt" reporting of a rape or an incident of incest to either the police or to a health clinic. The White House was not willing to give abortion funding to a victim who only went to a health clinic instead of the police. Supposedly Bush and others are concerned that people will use this program fraudulently to have the government pay for their "unnecessary" abortions.

So the ball is back in Congress's court. Pro-abortion lobbyists will rally members of Congress to vote on their behalf and anti-abortion lobbyists will do the same. Hopefully, the reason, compassion and logic of the pro-abortion movement will win out and Congress will pass the bill in its original form, thereby granting justice to women who have already suffered much injustice.

Unfortunately it appears that instead of struggling to make this bill pass in its current form, Congress may be willing to make a compromise and settle on an alternate proposal. Not surprisingly this new proposal has stricter guidelines to which a woman would have to adhere to in order to receive abortion funding.

The new law would require a woman to report a rape within 48 hours to a law enforcement office and an incest victim would have to name her assailant. It is estimated that under this law only about 100 women a year nationwide would receive funding. It seems unlikely that there are only 100 such cases in the United States each year. Why does the government want to make it so difficult for a woman to rid herself of something she never wanted or asked for to begin with?

Bush seems bound and determined to keep government money away from women who deserve access to an abortion. He has promised to veto any legislation that would use appropriated funds to pay for abortions unless the life of the mother was endangered. He has obviously kept his promise.

Congress should override the veto and make clear to the American people that rape is unacceptable and that the government will do everything it can to prevent it and to protect its victims.



Oregon unprepared for big earthquake

The only natural disaster Oregonians have to deal with on a regular basis is rain. But geologic experts will tell you that this could change, and the result would probably be rather grim.

Consider this: Last week's Bay area quake, measuring 6.9 on the Richter Scale, caused almost \$1 billion in damages and killed at least 100 people. And San Francisco was supposed to be ready for this occurrence. Most of its buildings were up to construction codes and (with a few tragic exceptions), withstood the shaking of the ground. The World Series should resume soon, and the area's rapid transit system is humming along just fine.

Still, people died, and it will be awhile before the Bay area will be back in perfect running order. Residents have to drink bottled water while the mains are being fixed, and although most streets are passable, some are still littered with rubble, cracks and ground upheavals.

Contrary to what some may think, tremors aren't confined to Southern California, Japan and Armenia. Northern California has the infamous San Andreas fault; Oregon and Washington have the Juan de Fuca Plate, a section of the earth's surface that is sliding under North America about 200 miles offshore.

Sometimes plates lock during this process (called "subduction"), and then release themselves, causing an earthquake. Geological data taken from areas on the Oregon coast has revealed that major quakes have been occurring in this area for thousands of years.

Now what would happen if an earthquake of the same magnitude hit Portland or Eugene, or any other city in the Pacific Northwest? Geologists say a quake with the magnitude of 8.0 could hit Washington and Oregon — a quake 10 to 20 times more powerful than the San Francisco earthquake, occurring in an all but unprepared area.

The Northwest needs to be better prepared for an earthquake, plain and simple. The solutions are obvious: more stringent building codes have to be implemented, and older buildings, especially those used daily by many people, have to be fortified. The chairman of the Oregon Structural Engineers Association was quoted as saying that even Oregon's new building codes, which go into effect next year, need to be made tougher.

Additional federal funding for more seismology stations also needs to be allocated. While predicting "the big one" will be all but impossible, the next best thing to predicting an earthquake would be research.

Letters

Inaccuracies

The *Emerald's* otherwise much appreciated coverage of Dr. Andrew Linzey's Oct. 18 lecture on animal rights contained several inaccuracies requiring correction.

Linzey did not "describe himself" as the one priest in England more concerned with animal souls than with human souls. He stated that his detractors describe him as such, and went on to explain, most eloquently, that the human condition benefits immeasurably by the concern for animals.

While Linzey did say that the Judeo-Christian tradition has often failed adequately to address the plight of animals, he also emphasized that the same tradition holds promise for bringing great healing to animals and the environment.

Linzey did not describe as "larger world issues" those issues that have received more of

the Church's attention than has the plight of animals. On the contrary, pointing out the horrific scale of animal suffering, Linzey elucidated the error in morally-minded people perceiving animal rights as a secondary, or smaller, issue.

Though Linzey is, in a sense, "taking his speech" on a national tour, it is noteworthy that he is in the U.S. at the invitation of the Humane Society of the United States, during the upcoming annual meeting of which he will be a keynote speaker.

Finally, the *Emerald* story did not report the most memorable part of Linzey's lecture. This was the point at which he urged "personal and collective disengagement" from the exploitation of animals and the environment.

Lucille Kaplan
Eugene

Equal rights

Although the University and the ASUO advocate and support a comprehensive affirmative action and equal opportunity policy, many students don't know or understand what this is, or how it affects them.

In short, everyone on campus has the right to work, study and live in an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. Should these rights be violated, everyone has the right to object free from the fear of retaliation.

Equal opportunity in education, employment and access are affirmed to everyone without regard to race, color, gender, religion, age, disability, national origin, marital status, veteran status or sexual orientation.

If you have been a victim of harassment, you have the right to do something about it. Document the incident or incidents

with time, date, place and witnesses. Talk to the offending party, explain what their objectionable behavior is and why it should be changed or stopped. If you aren't comfortable with this, write a letter instead. Keep a copy for yourself.

If you have further questions about harassment, there are several resources available on campus. For additional information and referral, contact the Office of Affirmative Action at 686-3123 or the ASUO office at 686-3724.

At no time is there an obligation to file a formal complaint, and confidentiality is respected for all parties. Discrimination, in all forms, is against the law. You have a legally protected right to report it and expect it to stop, without fear of retaliation.

Ryan Kennedy
ASUO Affirmative
Action Coordinator

Still here

The law school is still here, no matter what they write about it in the papers. We are still living up to our standard. Please do not worry.

A few days ago, as the U.S. continued to make history while not supporting — or I mean supporting — coups, all I heard was the hum of accreditation.

They are up in arms northwest of the University. Remarks and demands are popping up all over. I'm always amazed how excited Americans can get when their little world is affected.

Don't worry pit bulls, you'll have your accreditation. You'll get your BMW and "L.A. Law" won't have to go off the air before you have time to enjoy it.

Darren Welsh
Law