

## Giant coastal redwoods are in serious jeopardy

The clash between loggers and environmentalists is such a never-ending problem that many of you may let your eyes glaze over at the mere mention of the topic. But the issue is rearing its ugly head again, and this time it needs to be addressed.

Oregon's last remaining giant coastal redwoods are in severe danger of being cut down this year, due to old growth timber legislation approved by Congress last year. The redwoods in jeopardy are part of the Grapevine timber sale, and are located just north of the California border.

The problem stems from the so-called "compromise" legislation approved last year, which mandates a timber sales level of 310 million board feet. If the ancient redwoods aren't included in the logging, this sales level will be virtually impossible to reach.

According to Wendell Wood, Eugene spokesman for the Oregon Natural Resources Council, this "compromise" legislation has from the beginning been seen as a tremendous victory for the timber industry. Indeed, if the state's only standing giant redwoods have to be chopped to meet the bill's standards, it hardly seems like a fair compromise.

The stretch of ancient coastal redwoods at one time ran from the Chetco River in Oregon to San Francisco Bay. Appallingly, about 4 percent of these trees remain.

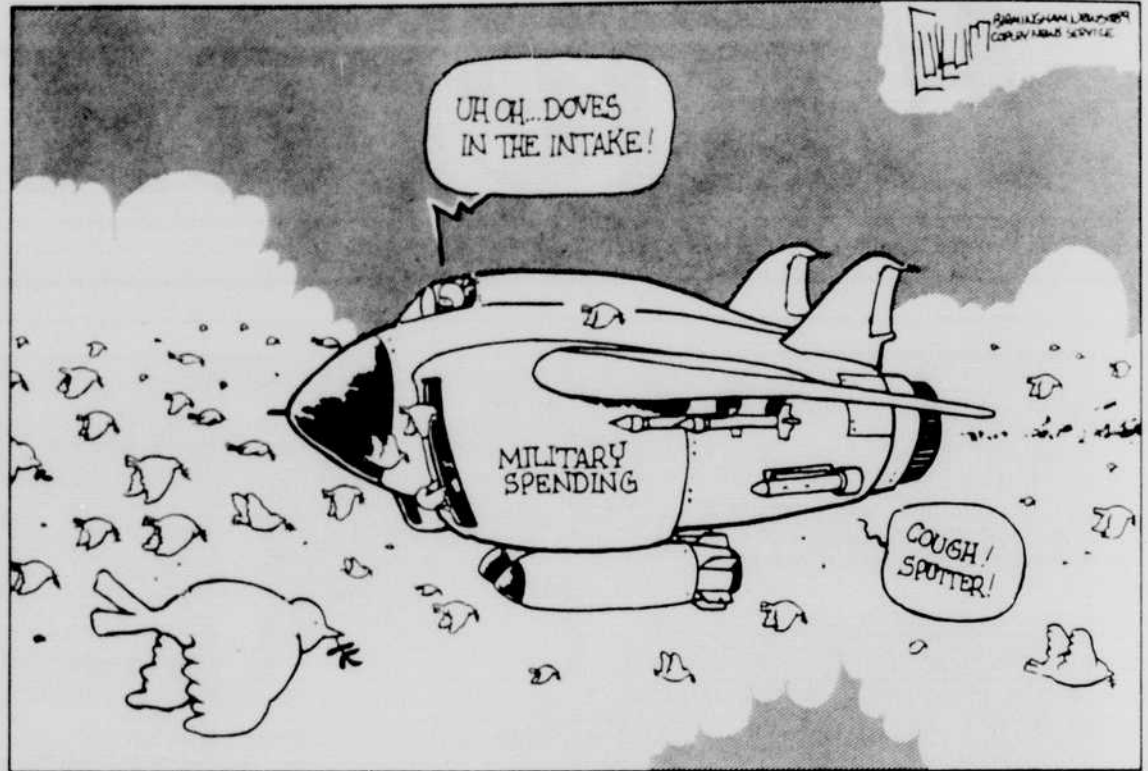
In California, most of the old growth redwoods are protected because they are in Redwoods National Park in northern California. The others are currently in no danger of being logged, because they're located on private land or on state preserves.

The Save-the-Redwoods League in San Francisco has spent a total of \$62 million buying private tracts of redwoods in order to preserve them. We in Oregon should take a lesson from our neighbors to the south and get busy defending the life of these historic and valuable trees.

Letters of protest, the more the better, would help the cause. The following address was recommended as a prime place to send comments:

Congressman Peter DeFazio  
211 E. 7th Ave., Suite 287  
Eugene, OR 97401  
687-6732

A short note decrying this loss wouldn't take time, and it may help to reverse the fate of our last remaining redwoods.



## Commission correct to drop video poker

Last year, in a desperate attempt to provide funding for mass transit programs and college faculty salaries, the Oregon Lottery Commission came up with a plan to introduce a video poker game.

Unfortunately, almost no one wanted it.

Commission officials estimated the game would produce \$35 million over the next two years, \$25 million of which would go to faculty salaries. But to start the game, the commission needed the support of the counties, which they didn't get.

Of the 36 counties in Oregon, only Curry County approved the game. Several large counties and the city of Portland rejected it outright. The other counties just stalled on making a decision.

In the meantime, the plan lost support among its original backers. Last October, Gov. Goldschmidt urged the proposal to be dropped. House Majority Leader David Dix (D-Eugene), who himself co-authored the bill, also agreed with the commission dropping the game. The Oregon Student Lobby never supported it, saying gambling was a poor way to pay for faculty salaries.

About the only people upset with the game's death are bar and tavern owners, who are angry at losing the revenue the

game would have produced: increased sales and an actual percentage of the game's intake.

Dropping the game was a good idea. It obviously had no support among county administrators, who feared the game would lead to increased illegal gambling. As it is, there are currently 5,000 to 6,000 video poker machines in the state, bringing in an illegal \$100 million each year.

The \$25 million raised by the game would have been a nice little chunk of cash for salaries. But to echo the OSL, it would have been a bad way to get the money.

With his plan shelved — at least for now — Dix has come up with another way to boost salaries. He has asked the state Emergency Board for a \$5-\$7 million allocation until the Legislature meets again in January 1991.

Lottery officials haven't given up their plan yet. Because it is still on the books, they can bring it back anytime they want to. However, until lawmakers can come up with an additional source of revenue — such as a sales tax — the faculty salary crisis, and the school finance problem in general, will only get worse.

## Letters

### Contemptuous

The brutal slaying of 14 university women in Montreal is yet another example of man's contempt for women. Yes, it is an extreme example, but an example nonetheless.

I am not accusing all men of being sexist or oppressive toward women, but increasing cases of rape and sexual harassment indicate that the problem does exist. It's likely that the majority of women on this campus have been the object of at least one form of harassment, even if it was just a crass remark from a passing motorist.

I know that the good men out there have had to take the blame for the actions of a token few. Some people have gone so far as to label all men as sexist. This accusation is yet another part of the problem.

I don't have any cut and dry answers to this frustrating issue, but I wish it would stop. To sum it up in two simple words: it sucks.

Kiran Beyer  
Student

### Free ride

I am outraged that the University Athletic Department provided free tickets and expense-paid vacations to administrative and local government officials and spouses for the Independence Bowl.

Given the fact this university has already incurred a \$200,000-\$300,000 deficit to go to the bowl game, despite a lack of modern educational facilities and equipment, and below-average salaries for faculty and GTF's, I resent the additional expenditures for these officials.

The argument that they could discuss politics related to the Eugene-Springfield area and the University while watching football is nothing more than a distortion of reality. If they're truly concerned about the University, let them drive over to campus any day of the week or call — it'd be far cheaper and more constructive.

A far better proposal would have been to have a lottery and distribute the free tickets among the students of the Uni-

versity — these are the people who support the teams through their incidental fees and paid attendance. As far as I am concerned, let the official "fat cats" pay their own expenses if they truly support the University.

Greg Ringer  
Geography

### Toxic scum

What better place to have a toxic cover-up than on our very own University campus. How can we expect our corporations and big business to be honest and ethical with their toxic waste disposal when our own University can't even be honest and ethical?

Not only does our University conceal its toxic dumping from the students and the Eugene public, but it has the audacity to do it within a few hundred feet of the Willamette River. What better place to dump toxics if one wants them to leach into the river?

So as it sits now, our University buries toxics on University

lands next to the river where hundreds of community people swim and play all spring and summer, and then conceals their evil toxic deeds.

Sean DeMeritt  
Student

### Academics first

The University is discriminatingly promoting NCAA athletics over academics. In a memo, Provost Norm Wessells suggested people participating in the Independence Bowl (football team, marching band and cheerleaders) receive special consideration for their finals.

The ideas suggested were: an early final, a final at the beginning of the winter term, a make-up final, or a final that could be given to participants while in Shreveport.

We see this policy as a slap in the face to academics and academic policy. It is discriminating: it gives a privileged minority the opportunity of flexibility and choice denied to the

rest of the students.

For years, we've heard "No early finals," "No make-up finals," or "no major assignments during dead week." These policies that have been enforced in the past were wiped away for a minority of "bowl bound" students and football money.

Students should have been able to ask their instructors for opportunities equal to the aforementioned bowl participants. Over \$500,000 was put up for this game; money that could have been used for universally beneficial ends (eg. computerized registration, as opposed to Mac Court Hell.)

Do not be denied your equal rights and opportunities as tuition-paying, thus athletic-supporting students. Do not be duped by arguments that claim a better (more professionalized) football team will increase the quality of academics at the University.

Guy Jeffress  
History/Sociology  
Charles Reis  
Philosophy