

## Woes of governor's wife needlessly told

Was it an incredibly slow news day or something? Not really. Nevertheless, *The Register-Guard's* front-page lead story last Saturday was a quasi-expose on Margie Goldschmidt, "a private person in a public life."

The article came three days after Gov. Neil Goldschmidt announced he would not seek a second term in office. He revealed that he and his wife of 25 years were separating, which was the main reason for his decision not to run again. The news of the separation should be all we need to know about the situation. Most of the public isn't craving to know all the gory details concerning the breakup, and even if we were, that information still isn't worthy of a front-page story.

Why the *Guard* feels we should hear all the details of a marriage on the rocks is questionable. But the worst aspect of the situation concerns *The National Enquirer*-type approach the article exhibited.

The story took on a gossipy tone from the start, relying on unnamed acquaintances and "sources who know the couple" for information on her personal life.

The article repeatedly described how adamant Goldschmidt has been about keeping her private life private throughout her husband's political career. So the paper decides to splash the story and all its "revelations" across the front page, complete with color photo. Makes sense.

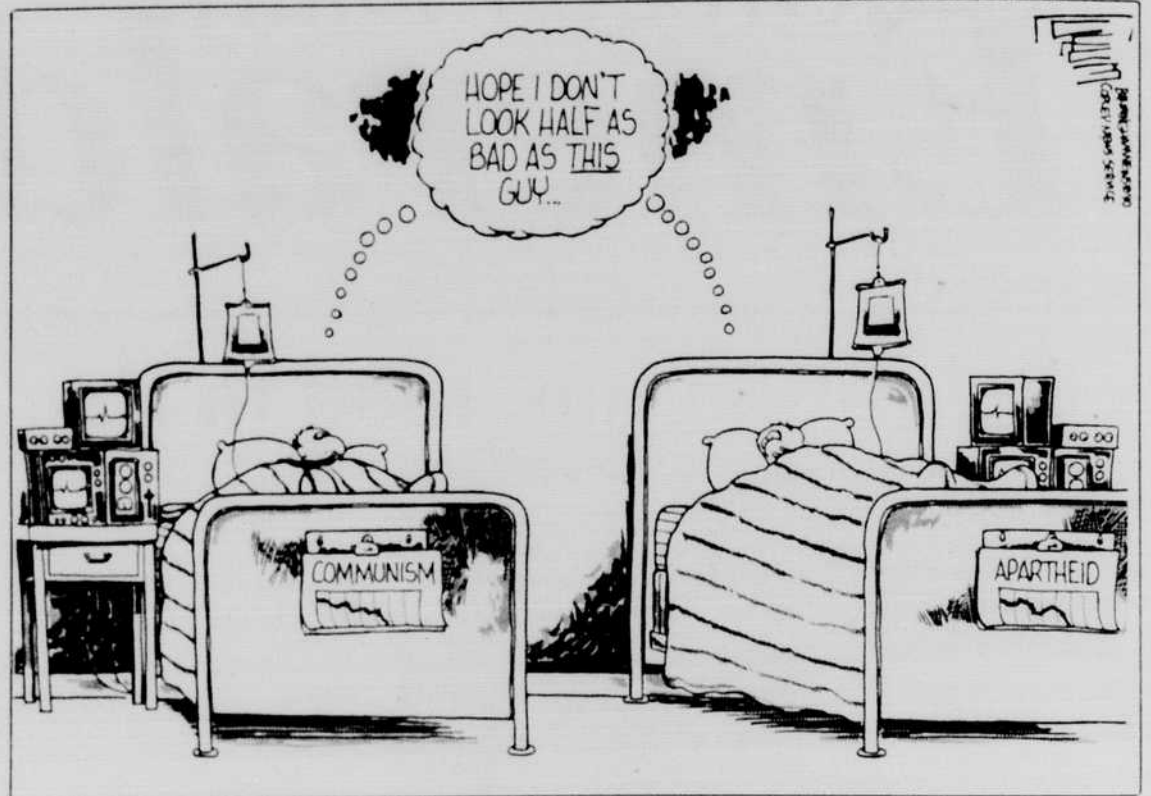
The caption under the photo reads that Goldschmidt "shuns the limelight as vigorously as her husband seeks it." The irony of all this is obvious and laughable, but it's a safe bet Margie didn't get much of a kick out this unnecessary publicity.

Of course, anyone who is related to such a public person as Neil Goldschmidt should expect a diminished right to privacy. But the separation is news only because it is the reason behind Goldschmidt's political decision. There is no scandal or disgrace here, only an unfortunate end to a long marriage.

To make matters worse, one of the main sources for the "scoop" about Margie Goldschmidt's unhappiness with her marriage came from an interior designer who decorated the governor's mansion in 1987. Now there's a great source for intimate details about the couple, isn't it?

The article employed tabloid tactics to sensationalize the couple's separation and Margie Goldschmidt's private life. Now the question is, should we expect more of this type of gossipy "news" on the front page of the *Guard*? Are we to look forward to more confidential details from interior designers?

Inquiring minds want to know.



## Nicaragua election should go to Ortega

Ten years after the Nicaraguan revolution that brought the Sandinistas to power, an ironic counter-revolution is being waged.

On Feb. 25, Nicaraguans will vote in regional and presidential elections. They will be able to choose from one of two candidates: incumbent Daniel Ortega of the ruling Sandinista party, and Violeta Chamorro of the National Opposition Union (UNO).

The choice between candidates is an odd twist, because Chamorro is the widow of Pedro Chamorro, Nicaragua's national martyr and hero. Pedro Chamorro was a crusading newspaper editor opposed to the Somoza regime; his assassination sparked popular dissent into the 1979 revolution.

Since that time, the Chamorro family has split along political lines. Violeta and two of her children are now strongly anti-Sandinista. This side of the family continues to print *La Prensa*, an opposition newspaper that has occasionally been censored by the Sandinistas. Violeta's eldest son Pedro is a leader of the Contras. But two of Violeta's other children are high-ranking Sandinista party officials, and they have officially denounced her politics.

And with good reason. Despite whatever political or historical significance she might embody, Chamorro herself would not be an effective president for Nicaragua. The UNO

is a coalition of nearly a score of opposition parties united only in their anti-Sandinista stance. Chamorro had no say in writing UNO's party platform; in fact, she had no idea she was to be UNO's presidential candidate until she heard it on the radio.

And just as Chamorro's historical significance is being manipulated by UNO to lend credibility to its cause, so is UNO being used by the United States to wage its campaign against Nicaragua. The United States has poured millions of dollars into the country in an attempt to unseat Ortega. Sadly, Chamorro has nothing to offer her country except a puppet government.

Ortega and the Sandinistas, on the other hand, appear to represent the will of a majority of Nicaraguans. If only this country would stop meddling in Nicaragua's affairs, the Ortega government might be able to solve many of that country's problems. There are also signs that Sandinista repression is ending. On the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, many ethnic divisions are electing their own regional leaders. These elections have been given the Sandinistas' blessings.

This next week, the Latin American Support Committee will be sponsoring information tables and demonstrations regarding the Nicaraguan elections in the EMU. They should be worth checking out.

## Letters

### Go bike

I think oil rigs are wonderful. There's something about those abstract vertical and horizontal lines playing off of the seductively undulating surface waters of the ocean that really gets my juices flowing.

I love oil rigs so much that I would not only like to see them delicately dotting the Oregon coastline but would also like to see a few of these huggable and humble beasts right in downtown Eugene, or even atop picturesque Spencer's Butte.

A scenario such as this might even begin to wake people up to the fact that crude oil as a large part of this nation's energy resources and economic well-being may not be such a good thing. It is all well and good to write your congressman and tell him you don't like oil rigs, but you also need to suggest that he press for viable alternatives such as methane gas and solar energy.

This issue also needs to be dealt with on a personal level.

Think about this: every time you start your car, every time you pull into a gas station, every time you drive to the coast in your gasoline-powered car, every time you buy a new car, it's like telling the U.S. government that oil rigs are a good thing.

So quit your crying and take action: buy yourself a hat and a pair of gloves, pull that bike out of the garage, and ride it; leave your car at home when you can.

Mark Fink  
TCF

### Irresponsible

Anybody surprised about the latest oil spill? My, but those oil companies are irresponsible, aren't they? It's good to know that our University population is enlightened enough to oppose pollution of the environment, and that we would never involve ourselves with such activities.

Sadly, those of you who

drive to school are being exactly as irresponsible as the oil companies. For every gallon of gas you burn, you not only add hydrocarbons to our atmosphere, make our street air unbreathable, and create a safety hazard for pedestrians and bicyclists; you create a demand for another gallon of gas. Oil companies meet demand by buying and importing more crude oil; oil spills are simply business expenses.

Today our University is continuing with plans to build a parking structure on Alder Street, an action which would only encourage more people to drive to school. Building this parking structure would be contributing to the pollution problem on our already overburdened planet.

As University students and present and future stewards of Earth, do you believe this is something we should be doing?

Peter Quady  
Landscape architecture

### Formula

As casual readers of recent letters to the editor in the *Emerald*, we have noticed a trend in the subject matter that absorbs much of the space in this forum. These topics are: 1) pro-choice vs. anti-abortion, and 2) who's the best quarterback in the NFL.

We believe that there is a direct correlation between the two and have worked out a formula to uphold this hypothesis. It is as follows:

The best quarterback equals his quarterback rating times the number of abortion letters divided by the sum of the number of pro-choice letters multiplied by losses plus interceptions.

By plugging in numbers from last football season, and *Emerald* letters to the editor for January and February, we have determined that, in fact, Vinnie Testaverde of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers had not only the

finest season of 1989, but perhaps of all time (although Jim Zorn's fantastic 1979 season for the Seattle Seahawks that coincided with a Right-To-Life letter campaign will probably never be surpassed).

Some have said that Testaverde "sucked" last season, but if the math is done correctly, we think you'll find we're right. In closing, we would like to add that Don Majkowski, Jim Everett and Joe Montana finished 3rd, 11th and 18th, respectively; so there.

Daniel Krewson  
Math analysis  
Bradford Blaser  
Statistics

### Doors

The signs say "exit," they are only doors.

Paul Mitchell  
Student