

Create a ban on all old-growth logging

Last week, a governmental study group released a report on the impact continued old-growth logging would have on the spotted owl. The task force recommended 8.5 million acres of old growth be put off-limits to loggers.

Timber industry officials declared such a lock on old growth would devastate Oregon and Washington. Thousands of jobs would be lost, bringing economic doom to the Pacific Northwest. As usual, timber officials are prone to exaggeration.

If the task force's proposal is adopted, there will be an impact on the Oregon timber industry. There is no way around that. There are about 135,000 people in the timber industry in Oregon and Washington; the industry's highest estimates say that half of those will be lost if an old-growth ban is enacted. While we see a bit of hyperbole in those figures, there is no doubt that some communities which rely solely on logging for jobs and money will be hard hit. Seen in that light, it's understandable why people in the logging community would oppose a ban on old-growth harvesting.

Regardless, it's time for such a measure.

The spotted owl is the crux of the present argument, but it is really just a symptom of the entire disease. Oregon can no longer depend on timber as the No. 1 source of revenue. You can't maintain a state on a single non-permanent resource — and while trees are renewable, old-growth lands simply are not.

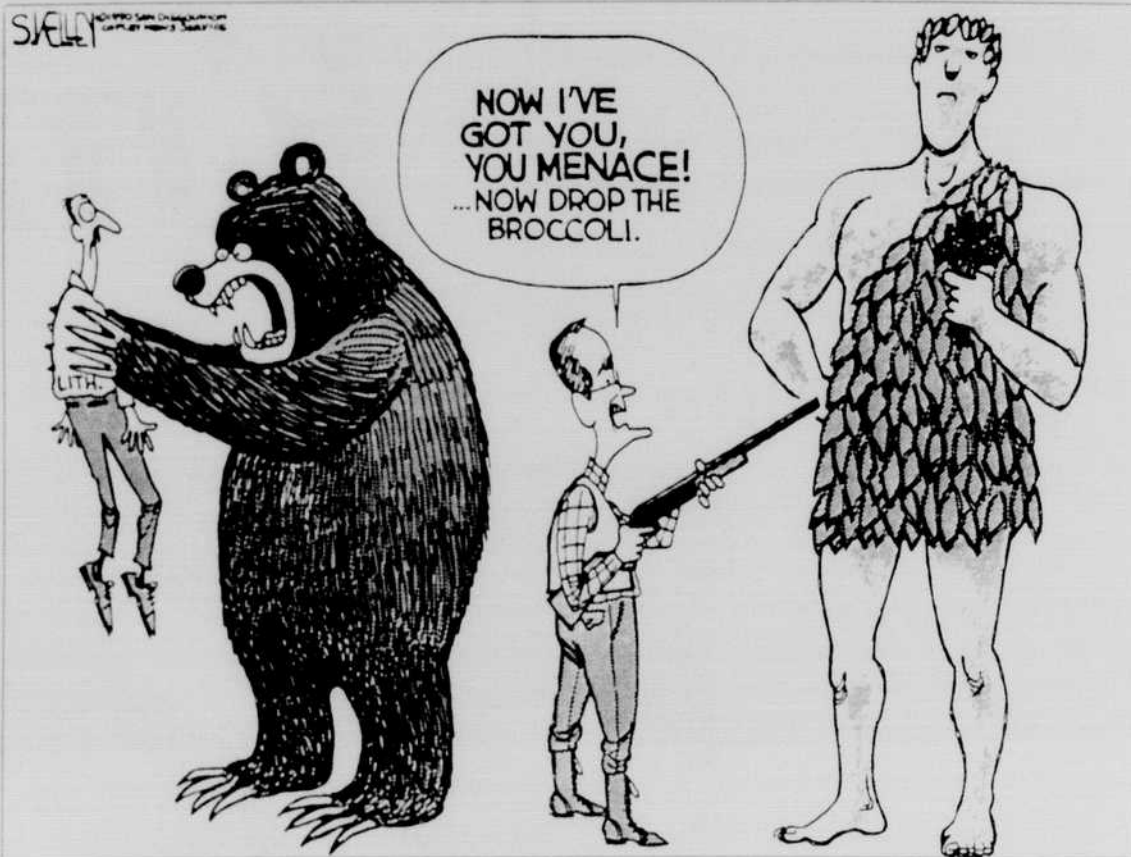
The shift to second-growth harvesting and other industries must begin now. The economic devastation will only be greater if we put off this change until there are no trees left. And the economic devastation will be negligible compared to the natural devastation.

Lawmakers have to understand that the budget cannot ride on the shoulders of the logging industry. There must be a shift, not only to second-growth lands, but to other economic sources.

Happily, some lawmakers have come to this conclusion. But the spotted owl report has caused a rift in the state Democratic party. Last Saturday, convention delegates rejected a plank which would have backed a ban on all old growth logging. The very next day, the delegates changed their collective minds and inserted the proposal in their platform.

Notable Democratic lawmakers, such as House Majority Leader Carl Hosticka (D-Eugene), have gone on record against the ban. Democrats from logging communities are incensed. They fear that such a ban means political death. They maintain that because their constituents are vehemently opposed to any such proposal, democratic legislators backing it face certain defeat.

Rather than watching their political backs, these timid legislators would be better off looking for ways to create jobs for their constituents in other industries. Because that's a political reality these lawmakers will soon face, whether or not they're re-elected, and whether or not there's a ban on old-growth logging.



Letters

Maturity

I'm sorry to see that our "mature" University students have once again shown their unfortunately typical adolescent behavior at "the parties" last weekend.

So maybe the cops did show up in full riot gear. So what? They did so only after receiving citizen complaints. But more importantly, no matter how much we like (or dislike) cops, they are still a figure of authority, and mature, responsible citizens respect that authority.

The police came to try and enforce the law. If you don't like the laws, there are ways of changing them, but throwing beer bottles at cops is not the way.

The behavior exhibited March 31 is similar to what I would expect from a group of junior high kids upon being told by their parents to go to bed, not supposedly mature college students who were clearly in the wrong.

Greg Chapman
Music

Idiocy

Students asserting their right to urinate in public and police using tear gas to send them to proper toilets certainly indicates that meaningful battles are taking place between students and police.

If the University would like to reduce enrollment, I suggest informing incoming students of the idiocy of the ones already here and of the restraint the Eugene Police Department shows in dealing with them when the students are "fighting for their rights."

Thomas Baughman
English

Out of hand

Regarding the "riot" last weekend, I'm thankful the police took appropriate action in a tough situation.

I live a block from where the party happened. The noise was disturbing everyone within two blocks. I drove home and was stuck in waves of people refusing to move, carrying various bottles. Things were out of hand.

Excuses from those attending the party, or defending it, are ludicrous. The real problem is maturity, or lack thereof. Is it reasonable to think a party with live music outside and 300-plus noisy people milling around in the streets could be controlled? Everyone knew tensions were high since last year's riot.

Most importantly, articles and letters have failed to mention that police didn't arrive in riot gear. Rather, officers without riot gear talked with those in charge of the party, saying it was out of hand and had to be disbanded. As they left, they were pelted with bottles. Police then called for backup, who arrived in protective gear to assist dispersing the crowd.

When the band finished tearing down, as requested by police, some in the crowd let bottles fly. Only then was tear gas used.

People, we're in college now. We are now considered adults. Grow up and learn to act like one. I don't appreciate having my neighborhood trashed for a "good time." I do appreciate the prompt actions of the police, who only did their job to keep order and peace in the neighborhood.

Kevin Dahlstrom
Theater arts

Harvest

As the Berlin Wall comes tumbling down and Nelson Mandela prepares for negotiations between the African National Congress and the South African government, the potential for peace in our troubled world seems enormous.

Yet even as warring factions sit down to talk of peace in nations around the globe, human suffering — upon which genuine and lasting peace can never be built — is on the rise. And the United States and the Sovi-

et Union are actually increasing arms sales throughout the developing world.

Put simply, the gap between the potential for peace and the reality of peace is immense. While politicians and policymakers in this country dither over whether our bloated military budget should be cut, the tremendous opportunities for the United States to become a leading international peacemaker are slipping away.

Last month, I introduced a resolution in the Senate designed to seize those opportunities. The Harvest of Peace Resolution, which now has 10 sponsors, calls for a 50 percent reduction on worldwide military spending by the year 2000 — a decade away. The billions of dollars saved would be spent to address the root of human causes of war and violence: poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

The time to act is now. The Harvest of Peace Resolution has been endorsed by a wide range of organizations, including Bread for the World, Oxfam America, RESULTS and SANE/FREEZE. Passing this resolution and implementing its goals, however, will take the support and commitment of individuals throughout this country — and indeed, the world.

Mark Hatfield
U.S. Senator

Good work

I wish to congratulate the Eugene Police Department for silencing those morons Saturday night, March 31.

Any idiot referring to the "Gestapo-type tactics" of the police is simply too ignorant to understand that some people live in that neighborhood and appreciate sleeping at night unbothered by the drunken screams of adolescents.

Keep up the good work, officers.

Chris Neumeyer
Law

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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