

Log export ban is beneficial to state

Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio has been a long-time expert on local environmental issues. In a Tuesday news conference, he took up a familiar theme: banning log exports.

Keeping logs in the state is not a new issue. For the past several years, Oregon lawmakers have been demanding, begging and pleading the federal government to adopt some provision that would staunch the flow of raw timber out of the state.

In last year's Oregon legislative session, lawmakers passed a resolution preventing log exports off federal and state lands. However, the measure was passed with a catch. It would only go into effect when the federal government gave states the power to control commerce.

The problem is, under the U.S. Constitution, individual states do not have the power to control interstate commerce. Therefore, banning log exports is illegal, unless federal authorities create measures to legalize it.

Such legislation already exists, in the form of the Export Administration Act. DeFazio is asking President Bush to issue a ban on log exports from private, state and federal lands.

DeFazio's plan is one of the few bright spots in the whole recent timber debate. While the environmentalists and timber industry officials continue to stand fast on old growth issues, the Eugene congressman has come up with a genuine compromise.

By keeping all logs in state, Pacific Northwest mills would have an additional 3.6 billion board feet a year. This would keep local mills from going out of business for lack of timber to cut.

To timber officials, this proposal must seem like a godsend. With the recommended ban on old growth logging gaining more and more support each day, the timber industry is facing massive layoffs. By restructuring the industry, and preserving the last bits of old growth, the proposal is pleasing to both sides.

DeFazio seems determined to keeping the timber industry intact while recognizing the importance of environmental issues. In addition to the export ban, he has also recommended tax credits and financial incentives for mills and timber companies who modernize for second growth timber instead of old growth.

It's difficult to understate the value of DeFazio's proposal. It's a plan for the much-needed restructuring of the Northwest timber industry. Unless logging officials change the emphasis of the industry, their companies and the thousands of people they employ are in trouble.



One-day reprieve is over; taxes are due

As a public service, we'd like to remind readers that next Monday is tax day. The Internal Revenue Service granted you a one-day reprieve, because the traditional April 15 deadline falls on a Sunday. If you haven't taken advantage of the IRS' unusual generosity and already filed, now is the time to consider doing so.

Before you hurriedly fill out a 1040EZ and a 40S and put them in the mail though, we'd also like to remind you of a few other things:

- Reaching the end of your Oregon tax form is kind of like leaving an airport — you'll get hit up for money several times. On your form, you can donate some or all of your state refund directly to a number of charities.

The Oregon Nongame Wildlife Fund, Oregon Arts Development, Child Abuse Prevention, Alzheimer's Disease Research and the Oregon Peace Institute are worthy causes that depend on the refund donation system for a large part of their funding. Don't overlook them in your hurry to get your return in the mail.

- Very few college students own their hous-

ing. Instead, most live in rented housing; a troublesome way to live but one that is rewarded at this time of year. If you're not aware of it, you are eligible for Oregon's Homeowner's and Renter's Refund Program if your 1989 household income is less than \$17,500, you rent from a residence that pays property tax, and you were living in Oregon on Dec. 31, 1989.

You're not generally eligible for an HAARP refund if you live in a fraternity, sorority, co-op house or dorm. But if you rent a house or apartment, you should investigate the refund. It takes only a little extra work to fill out the HAARP form; you'll receive your relief check next October.

• While on the subject of taxes, we also want to mention Oregon Peace Works Tax Day on Monday. Peace Works is protesting the fact that about 60 percent of your federal taxes will go to fuel the military budget, even in this time of the so-called "peace dividend."

The group is holding a demonstration and vigil at 8 p.m. Monday, at the downtown post office, 520 Willamette St. If you care at all where your money goes once you mail it in, here's your chance to speak out.

Letters

Interaction

We, the members of the University's Black Student Forum, would like to express our concerns regarding the recent turbulent incident in the University area.

We refer specifically to the confrontation between students and the Eugene Police Department, which took place on Saturday, March 31. While we understand the need for law and order, we question the amount of force employed by the Eugene police.

As black students, our main concern is that the relations between local law enforcement and students of color will be further strained by this confrontation. We thus pose the following questions:

Why was the only reference to race, in the entire police report, to a person of color (an African-American)? Why were none of the numerous whites present referred to in terms of race?

Were the other antagonists present, "raceless/colorless," or is it just not practical to use the word "white" when referring to people who are not so-

called "minorities," particularly when the behaviors that they are exhibiting are destructive?

Considering the recent situation, we feel that our concerns are justified. As students at the University, and members of the Eugene community, we urge you to consider these questions. We all need to recognize the potential for racist attitudes to enter into every facet of our lives. We also need to look for more positive means of interaction, and begin to pave the way for more open and constructive communication among ourselves.

Anthony Allen
Marcelle Morris
Jasmine Prezeau
Members
Black Student Forum

Have-nots

I would like to speak to you of homeless and inequity, of compassion and social responsibility. On Sunday afternoon, Mary came by to get my bottles, as she often does. She asks for money or a ride, I offer food, a scarf, a blanket.

I have little, but I offer what I

can. She asked me to help her to the store with the bottles, and as we walked together, we stopped at another house. I waited as he turned her down, coldly saying he need the bottles himself. He looked to be, like me, a student.

Did he really need those bottles? Can our society spare nothing for the less fortunate, not even a few nickels and a little compassion? Homelessness isn't contagious, so if Mary comes to your door, or Joe stops you downtown, please give them your bottles or a little change. Even if that's all you can spare, it's the least you can do. This is your community, and we are all part of it, the housed and the homeless, the haves and the have-nots.

Stephanie Lawson
PPPM

Two sides

In case those of you addressing the maturity (or lack thereof) of partygoers two weekends ago may have forgotten, there are two sides to every story.

I, too, live within close proximity to the party on 14th and

Mill. I was also disturbed by the actions of certain individuals. Though not present at the party, I was treated to a number of healthy doses of tear gas.

The individuals in question here can also be accused of a certain lack of judgment: "restraint" (Thomas Baughman, ODE, April 9) is not the first word that comes to my mind when describing the Eugene Police Department's decision to employ the use of tear gas, and to do so without the required warning.

Is it so ridiculous to question the indiscriminate use of the gas? Consider the caustic effects on the partygoers and residents alike. What would seem more ridiculous are the allegations of student immaturity in the face of unquestionable authority, when it is this working concept of appropriate action that should give rise to ridicule.

Zaz Hollander
Student

Boycott

On the CBS Evening News of April 6, it was disclosed that

AT&T has succumbed to pressure from anti-abortion groups and has withdrawn its support of Planned Parenthood. The activities of Planned Parenthood include providing education and birth control to low income people, as well as abortion referrals and gynecological exams to uninsured women.

Those of us who would like to support these activities should express our displeasure with this action by writing to AT&T and canceling our AT&T long distance service (if applicable). I have already taken these steps in an effort to pressure AT&T into restoring their support of Planned Parenthood.

I urge anyone who believes that AT&T's action was cowardly and contributes to an alarming trend toward taking away women's right to control their own bodies to do the same. The pro-choice majority can only be effective if we use our collective voice, to demonstrate the strength of our numbers and the seriousness of our determination to maintain the right to control our own bodies.

Susan Japport
Eugene