

Authority

To me, the most disturbing aspect of the recent gassing incident is that it continues a trend of severe or harassing police responses. Such exaggerated responses include those detailed in the *Student Insurgent* (Vol. 1, no. 1), the recent harassment of "Frog," as well as incidents I have personally witnessed.

I hope that one positive outcome of the confrontation on March 31 will be an increased awareness of this law enforcement trend, which most often finds expression against the homeless and others who are without advocates. In negotiations between student groups and the police, I hope that this broader context is not forgotten.

If maturity is characterized by unexamined respect for authority, as implied by Greg Chapman (*ODE*, April 9) and others here, may I forever remain immature.

Robert Schofield
Graduate student

Bad Bart

Several studies support the following facts: 12 percent of all married men and women are battered; 25-35 percent of all children have been sexually molested by a man or a woman by the age of 16; 75 percent of all children have been excessively disciplined or physically abused by their mother or father.

This is reflected in what we see on television. In general, we have practices the philosophy that the solution to disagreements, miscommunication, or any other type of problem can be solved by some form of aggression, manipulation or abusive behavior.

We as a society have become so desensitized to this very serious situation that a cartoon (?) has been created based on this philosophy. It's appalling to see how popular a show is that presents abuse as acceptable, funny and humorous.

"The Simpson's" is that show. And yet, I haven't heard any church group, feminist group, Men Against Rape, etc., give voice to this issue; why?

By not speaking out they are silently supporting the "sexuality is bad, violence is OK" philosophy (quite bigoted I would say). We must object to the stereotyping used in this show; and we must object to the greater crime of minimizing the seriousness of aggressive behavior and abuse by making

it acceptable or humorous. Next time you watch the show, be aware of the abusive behaviors that are being presented to you as acceptable or funny ... it's neither.

Gary Darby
Eugene

Endangered

Ron Jefferson, your letter "Preservationists" (*ODE*, April 11) is typical of the timber industry's short-sighted mentality regarding old growth issues.

"Where will they stop?" you audaciously ask those of us who wish to see the shamefully scarce remains of virgin forest preserved.

When will you stop? is the more appropriate question. The answer is clear: You will stop when there are no more ancient trees to cut down.

The "gimme" decade has come to an end, and so must your simplistic ideas about what trees and owls mean.

Uncompromising? You'd better believe it. You are not going to cut down one more old growth tree without a serious fight.

These trees have been here much longer than you and they will outlive you despite your fantasies.

As for your pathetically worn out argument about jobs; if the timber people had begun a long time ago to form a policy based on sustained and balanced cutting and planting of second-growth trees instead of greedy cut and run strategies, they would not be forced to stoop to their current tactics.

If you lose your job, you will find some other way to survive. I will start worrying about your well-being when you get out on the endangered species list.

I suggest that you and your little band of signatories participate in some of the Earth Day festivities next weekend. You might just gain an appreciation for your environment which you are obviously, sadly out of touch with. Love your mother!

Tim Webber
TCF

The truth

The April 11 *Oregon Daily Emerald* editorial about a "pre-

mature end" to the Iran/Contra scandal may itself be premature.

Your comment about how the "American public has tired of lengthy and complicated trials" is well-reasoned. It's probably right about public impatience with an issue that has dragged on several years.

But the issue may be far from over, especially as concerns former and current heads of state. We can judge for ourselves the evening of the Ben Linder Room dedication, April 23. That's when Tony Avirgan, ABC newsman injured by terrorists in Nicaragua (where Linder was murdered), will speak in the EMU Ballroom. Avirgan will describe his role as plaintiff in a court case charging U.S. officials with responsibility for his injuries, as well as activities related to Linder's killing.

The end of the Poindexter trial could be but the start of the public finally hearing the truth.

George Beres
Eugene

Open-minded

Having been a student at the University for the past four years, and always a close follower of ASUO affairs, I view ASUO Executive candidates Steve Maples and Diane Cushman as two very competent candidates. Their "open door policy" is an appropriate campaign theme because both candidates are very open-minded.

In addition to open-mindedness, Maples and Cushman are firm, and stand by the issues of which they believe tenaciously. I have had the chance to know both candidates personally. Maples has been a classmate of mind in various political science classes, and Cushman and myself have many mutual friends.

Cushman and Maples are also up on the issues, and have a wide perspective on ASUO affairs. Integrity would be the one word description that I would lend to both candidates. Both of them will work at length to get the job done.

Knowing the candidates personally, I can safely assure the cynics that the "open door policy" is not just another empty campaign promise. Maples and Cushman will defi-

nately be there for the students, and make a change for the better here on campus. They are sincere as well; gone will be the days when one goes into the ASUO offices, unable to get a straight answer from the people who are supposed to represent them.

As a candidate for ASUO my-

self (Student Senate), I shall look forward to working with both of them next year. If they are elected the ASUO will definitely will be more open-minded.

Stefan Stent
Political science/RHCM

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