

## Large cuts in army first U.S. response

It took long enough to happen, but the Pentagon is finally responding to the rapid democratization of Eastern Europe.

Last week, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney announced a plan that would eliminate 25 percent of all Army members and cut 34 percent of the existing programs by 1997. It is the first major overhaul of any branch of the U.S. armed forces since the Soviet bloc crumbled.

Active-duty soldier figures would be cut from the present level of 764,000 to 580,000, while National Guard and reserve rosters would be slashed from 776,000 to 645,000. In addition, several weapons systems on the drawing board would be completely scrapped.

That the Pentagon would take such action says something for public opinion. While the Soviet Union debarked on a rapid demilitarization, the U.S. was seemingly content to chip away at the defense budget. When Cheney submitted a proposal amounting to only a 2 percent cut in funding, responses ranged from criticism to outright shock.

Faced with this, the only choice was to begin dismantling the army. It won't come as any surprise if the Navy and Air Force follow suit.

From an economic standpoint, Cheney's plan is fiscally smart. By cutting a little bit of the "fat" out of the bloated Army, he can streamline programs and improve training methods. A smaller army will mean a better army, with a different emphasis of its role in national defense.

But money matters aside, it's heartening to see the government finally try to emphasize peaceful solutions to international conflicts. Deserved or not, the United States is a role model for the world, and it is hoped other countries will take heed of America's move and begin to dismantle their armed forces as well.

Recently there has been a call for severe cuts in the country's defense structure, and even Cheney's proposal has come under fire for not cutting enough. But critics should remember that what takes a long time to build up will also take a long time to take apart. The United States has been a military power for 50 years, and it's unrealistic to think that will change in a heartbeat.

The army cuts, by putting more than 250,000 out of work, will have a dramatic impact on the economy. These people will need to find other jobs. Since many of them are highly trained in technical fields, that can only benefit the private sector. It is hoped that the government will deploy them in other fields and train them not in war, but in peace.

## ODE endorsements for ASUO elections

Today is the first day of the ASUO primary elections; be sure and vote today! Just as a reminder, here's the list of people the *Oregon Daily Emerald* has endorsed for Incidental Fee Committee Seats and the ASUO Executive. Take this with you to the polls.

- **IFC one-year seats**  
Jennifer Bills  
Ernie Brown  
Barclay Lloyd Grayson  
JoSonja Watson
- **IFC two-year seats**  
Tim Hughes  
Don Stull
- **ASUO president and vice president**  
Kirk Bailey/Sheila Stichel



## Keep an eye out for 'dolphin safe' tuna

The recent decision by the three largest tuna companies to buy "dolphin safe" tuna is a surprising indication of what public protest can do to change the environmentally disgusting practices of a large industry.

In recent years, large-scale fishing for tuna killed between 100,000 and 200,000 dolphins annually.

One of the most economical ways to catch large numbers of tuna has been the purse-seine method. A large net is cast around a school of tuna and is pulled shut like a drawstring bag. For reasons unknown to marine biologists, dolphins swim in groups with schools of tuna, and are inadvertently pulled in.

Dolphins are also slaughtered by gill and drift nets, hanging almost invisibly for miles in the ocean.

On Thursday, H.J. Heinz Co., maker of StarKist tuna, suddenly announced that it would not "purchase, process or sell any tuna caught in association with dolphins." The makers of the other two large tuna brands, Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee, followed suit within hours. All three cited angry consumer responses — cards, letters and even tuna boycotts by large environ-

mental groups — as main reasons for the ban.

While environmental groups — and dolphins, no doubt — will benefit from the change, people in the tuna fishing industry were not as thrilled by the news. They say the ban will hurt, if not destroy, their business.

One group, the American Tunaboat Association, claimed it killed "only" 12,643 dolphins, under the surprisingly high U.S. limit of 20,500. Regardless, the ban will give the tuna fishing industry plenty of motivation to find a safer way to harvest its crop.

It comes as no surprise — but is sad nonetheless — that the tuna companies have made their move so late, and only because they were threatened with losing profits. As Daniel Sullivan, president of Bumble Bee, told *Newsweek*, "Canned tuna is good for you, and we want to continue to sell as much as we can."

Regardless of the reasons, the changes in the tuna game are welcome, and hopefully other industries will follow.

Consumers should look for the specially marked cans of "dolphin safe" tuna, which should be available in stores within three months.

## Letters

### Lighthouse

Greg English is more than a candidate for the EMU Board; he is a lighthouse to guide us into a safe future. I have known English for more than four years and my opinion hasn't changed — he's brilliant.

He has an approachable personality which is a rare find in people in this sometimes confusing and fast-paced world of strangers. He has enough enthusiasm and energy to power five lighthouses.

English is dedicated to any project he puts his name on. I have worked with English within the University Democrats. He is always willing to help out in any way he can, whether it be sitting at information booths, to bake sales or co-chairing the Community Liaison Council.

Once English is elected to the EMU Board, he will always be up-to-date and fully informed on the issues. One fine quality about English is he isn't afraid to ask questions, some of which are tough and pointed but nev-

er unjust.

When decisions are to be made, English will make informed, educated and fair choices. This University needs English. The EMU Board needs English. Vote Greg English in the EMU Board two-year seat. Let your ship come in under his guidance.

Puneh P. Moasser  
TCF/English

### Awareness

With the eagerly anticipated success of Earth Day 1990 approaching, I could not help but think of the millions of people who will come to a better understanding of the problems that face the environment by educating and introducing ways for people to be an active part of the solution.

I have met many people who are concerned with environmental issues and are willing to talk about the problems, but so few of these same people take the simplest steps to make a difference. Maybe you know more people now who are re-

cycling than you did a year ago, but until everyone is doing it consistently we will be faced with our planet dying.

Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group has been successful at raising the awareness and the action that people take on the environment.

In addition to providing quality information on the environment, OSPIRG provides many quality services here at the University. For example, the Consumer Hotline answers students' questions about what their rights are as renters; a Hunger/Homeless group actively helps those who need it; quality research in toxics, solid waste and other pollution has led to statewide legislation protecting the community in which we all live.

I hope you will support OSPIRG's continued efforts in education and the quest for a clean planet not only at the voting booths, but by stopping by the OSPIRG office (EMU Suite 1) and seeing what things you can do.

Andy Brainard  
Pre-business

### Doubts

Based upon the Pre-law Society's lack of communication during the budget process with its IFC tag, Steve Maples, I seriously doubt that Maples "will work at length to get the job done" as ASUO President, as stated by Stephen Stent (*ODE*, April 15).

Beginning in December and up until our budget hearing, numerous attempts were made and several messages were left to contact Maples. At the hearing, Maples neither apologized nor gave an explanation why he didn't contact the Pre-law Society.

Rather than announcing that they would be at Rennie's to answer questions, Kirk Bailey and Shelia Stichel have actively sought out student opinion by

going to dorms, greek houses, and Amazon housing. An "open-door" policy is a good one as long as student opinion is also sought out on a campus that is mostly apathetic.

Not only do Bailey and Stichel have more experience with ASUO, but they have shown more commitment for all students by working in the ASUO. Maples couldn't even muster enough commitment to be an appropriate IFC tag for a student group he never kept in contact with.

Vote for someone who has shown commitment rather than only made an empty promise to be committed.

Laura Callahan  
President  
Pre-law Society

### Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.