

## State needs to plan for lost timber jobs

Last Thursday, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management released an explosive report on the economic impact of protecting the northern spotted owl. Headlines statewide screamed "Officials say owl-protection plan would cut 28,000 jobs in 1990s."

That's quite a staggering statistic. However, according to the report, the actual number of forest products industry jobs lost would be more like 12,500, or 5 percent of all forest products jobs in Oregon, Washington and California combined. The remaining 15,500 would be support service jobs, with about 1,500 of those being Forest Service positions.

If the Forest Service implements the plan, there is no doubt that parts of the state will be faced with a potential recession and heavy unemployment.

But according to a press agent from Rep. Peter DeFazio's office, the Forest Service estimates that a total ban on log exports could save 15,000 jobs, and Oregon and Washington have been adding 160,000 new jobs to the work force every year. It would seem that the Northwest has the means to offset the effects of protecting the spotted owl and the last stands of old growth.

Oregon and the rest of the nation are facing the same dilemma of economic conversion. As the country looks to convert from a military-industrial economy to one more in tune with a time of peace, millions of people will need to be retrained to fill non-military jobs.

Oregon needs to start taking decisive action to convert its own economy by retraining the displaced timber work force to fill new jobs being created every year in other fields.

The days when people could spend a lifetime working in the same job or industry are gone. Even if the Forest Service does not implement the recommendations released Thursday, some timber jobs will still disappear.

Annual timber sales on all national forests in Oregon and Washington will drop from 4 billion board feet to 3.4 billion because of the federal Clean Water Act, a new vegetation management program, and policies and laws that protect scenic rivers, recreation sites and botanical reserves.

The state should face the reality that the economy is changing. Rather than haggle over the spotted owl, funds should be allocated to set up education programs to train workers for such fields as the high-tech industries that are courting Oregon.

State leaders have time now to plan for the future before the unemployment line starts to grow. They should take advantage of it, before it's too late.



## Magazine removal smells like censorship

Censorship can crop up in the most unexpected of places. For example, take a look at the Lane County Courthouse.

Last week, two Lane County commissioners decided between themselves to remove an anti-timber industry, environmental magazine — *Forest Voice* — from the information booth inside the Public Service Building.

It all started when Commissioner Jack Roberts noticed a stack of *Forest Voice* magazines was on the information booth's counter, right next to the timber industry publication *Timber!*. Apparently, Roberts didn't believe *Forest Voice* was an appropriate publication to have in the courthouse, as timber receipts make up a large portion of the Lane County coffers. So he went to commission chairman Bill Rogers with his complaint and got the magazines removed.

Roberts and Rogers are only two of five commissioners. They are not a majority, and they didn't even bother to consult with the other members before passing judgment on *Forest Voice*.

That Roberts and Rogers made this decision without consultation is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. That mistake has already been rectified, as the rest of the commission will get a chance to vote on the issue at a later date. But even this does not re-

move the sting of Roberts' and Rogers' original plan.

It's frightening that two county commissioners would perform such censorship, and then defend the action by acknowledging the influence of the timber industry. At a time when logging companies are facing a drastic reduction in business, it's interesting to see how much control they still have on county government.

Commissioner Jerry Rust has blasted both Roberts and Rogers for their underhanded censorship. As politicians, the two should have seen how much potential damage the decision could cause. Free speech seems to have been chucked out the window. Roberts, a lawyer, should at the very least understand the first amendment.

Roberts and Rogers have done a disservice to their constituents. This blatant show of favoritism is not appropriate for any type of government official. *Forest Voice* deserves a place on the counter.

Denying fair representation of all sides because it could damage a county industry is a violation of free speech rights. Censorship of sensitive issues is not the job of county commissioners. If Roberts and Rogers continue this catering to special interests, maybe it's time for them to get voted out of office and go back to the private sector, where such practice is acceptable.

## Letters

### Student power

Students living in dorms and east campus housing make up the largest group of voter-aged people in Ward 4, city of Eugene. Students have the power to make an important change in the city council.

The best candidate, Paul Nicholson, lives near the University and owns Paul's Bike Shop. He practices the politics of giving. He supports student causes by posting signs at his business in solidarity with Central America, to abolish apartheid, and in support of human rights.

He has contributed bicycles or bicycle components to student groups, such as the Outdoor Program, OSPIRG, and Students Against Apartheid, and to community groups that enjoy widespread student support, such as CALC, ONRC, Peaceworks, Southern Willamette Greens, and Womenspace.

Students need a friendly voice in city government. They

need someone who will listen to their concerns, who understands the subtle but real differences that distinguish the University community from the rest of Eugene. Nicholson will listen because he has been a graduate student and assistant, teaching English and speech communication. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, and a master's degree in English as a Second Language.

Nicholson's opponent Rob Bennett owns and manages apartment complexes and lives on the other side of the Willamette River from the University. His voice in city government has supported narrow special interests and has opposed human rights, citizen participation and student activists.

The contest in Ward 4 is very important. The student vote can make a difference. Look for Paul Nicholson on your ballot, Eugene City Council, Ward 4.

Howard Bonnett  
Biology

### We're sorry

The Bad Daddies would like to apologize for any offense taken at our poster for our shows at New Max's on April 27 and 28. The poster was a commentary on the repressive and heavy-handed tactics used by the Eugene Police Department when they tear-gassed a party on the night of March 31.

The completely unnecessary show of force by the police that night we felt was reflected in the photo on the poster, showing a young, unarmed boy being marched down the street at gunpoint by the army. We did not intend to trivialize the horror that was the Holocaust, or make those of the Jewish faith feel uncomfortable attending New Max's that weekend.

We were unaware of the feelings that would be hurt using the photo on the poster; it was only our intention to slam the EPD for behaving in a way we felt was intolerable. We are frustrated by those who have

accused us of being anti-Semitic and seem unwilling to accept our apologies and believe us when we say we had no idea the poster would be interpreted by some as anti-Jewish.

Surely, there are more important pursuits for those working to raise public consciousness than to continue to vilify those who have admitted their mistakes and are willing to learn from them.

Rob Waldman  
Manager  
The Bad Daddies

### Thanks

I would like to thank all of the students who voted for the child care budget in the last election. The quality of the Child Care and Development Center on this campus is incredible and unique, although it isn't at all luxurious as some have claimed.

What makes this program high quality are the teachers,

co-teachers and students who work there. The genuine caring they give our children, the exposure to a loving and learning environment provides many, including me, the peace of mind we need in order to focus on our studies.

I would also like to thank the professors and instructors on this campus who understand that we, as student parents, are not traditional students. They allow our children to come to class with us when child care arrangements fail, or our child is a little sick. Thanks also to the students who tolerate this and to those who do more than just tolerate children.

I am in my final year here, and I have had two of my three children while being a student here. I wouldn't have made it without the CCDC programs and other support offered by many of the above mentioned people. Thanks again.

Laurie Ainge  
Student