

Outcry worse than offensive cartoon

On Jan. 15, the United States launched Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf region. In Bend, residents wanted to lynch the editorial cartoonist of Central Oregon Community College's student newspaper, the *Broadside*.

Jim Winkle published a cartoon in the paper that was a take-off on the Dewar Scotch "profile" ads. The text from that cartoon is printed below.

The cartoon, considered grossly offensive by a large number of Bend residents, caused a furor in the community. The editor of the paper and the cartoonist each received death threats and the school was bombarded with phone calls and letters voicing complaints. Letters to the editor in the *Bend Bulletin* the week following the cartoon were extremely critical of Winkle, Todd Pittman, the *Broadside* editor, its adviser and the college itself.

Threats that citizens "will remember this when it comes time to vote on anything involving the college" have been made, along with a boycott of the paper's advertisers.

However, like most student newspapers, the editorial control is not in the hands of college administrators. It is correctly left to the judgment of students. Denying funding for the college is misplaced vengeance. Do Bend residents really want to punish every student in the school because of decisions made by one or two people?

Many of the offended have said the cartoon was immature and ill thought. But punishing the entire school is also immature and not well thought out. As is usually the case with an angry mob mentality, logical thought has been thrown out the window.

Obviously, people have the right to be offended by the cartoon. But they should take enough time off from their efforts at tarring and feathering Pittman and Winkler to read the Bill of Rights. The *Broadside* had as much right to run the cartoon as others have to complain about it. Freedom, the word most associated with justification for the war, means tolerance. That means having to hear or read things you may not agree with or that offend you. Without tolerance, freedom means nothing.

Winkle says he was only trying to bring out the ugliness of stereotyping. The cartoon failed to do so and simply offended people. Letters to the editors of the community and college papers may be deserved, but that is as far as the controversy should go. All of the other threats that have been made are slaps in the face of the Constitution of this country.

Finally, couldn't all of the energy that has been wasted persecuting these two college students be better spent discussing the war and educating people about the history and politics that started it in the first place?

Free speech or insult?

Editor's note: The text from the controversial cartoon and an explanation by the cartoonist are printed below.

HOME: The Great Satan
 AGE: Young enough to be scared by the responsibilities of college.
 PROFESSION: Contributor to Northrop and McDonnell-Douglas Corporations.
 LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Sent to the Middle East to remind the Arab world why they hate Americans.
 LAST BOOK READ: High school history book.
 HOBBY: Telling jokes about Muslims.
 PROFILE: Admires authority, xenophobic, alcoholic, repressed homosexual.
 QUOTE: "Gee, those Iraqi missiles look familiar."
 WHY I DO WHAT I DO: "I'm ready to go to war against Iraq because Jesus is on our side."

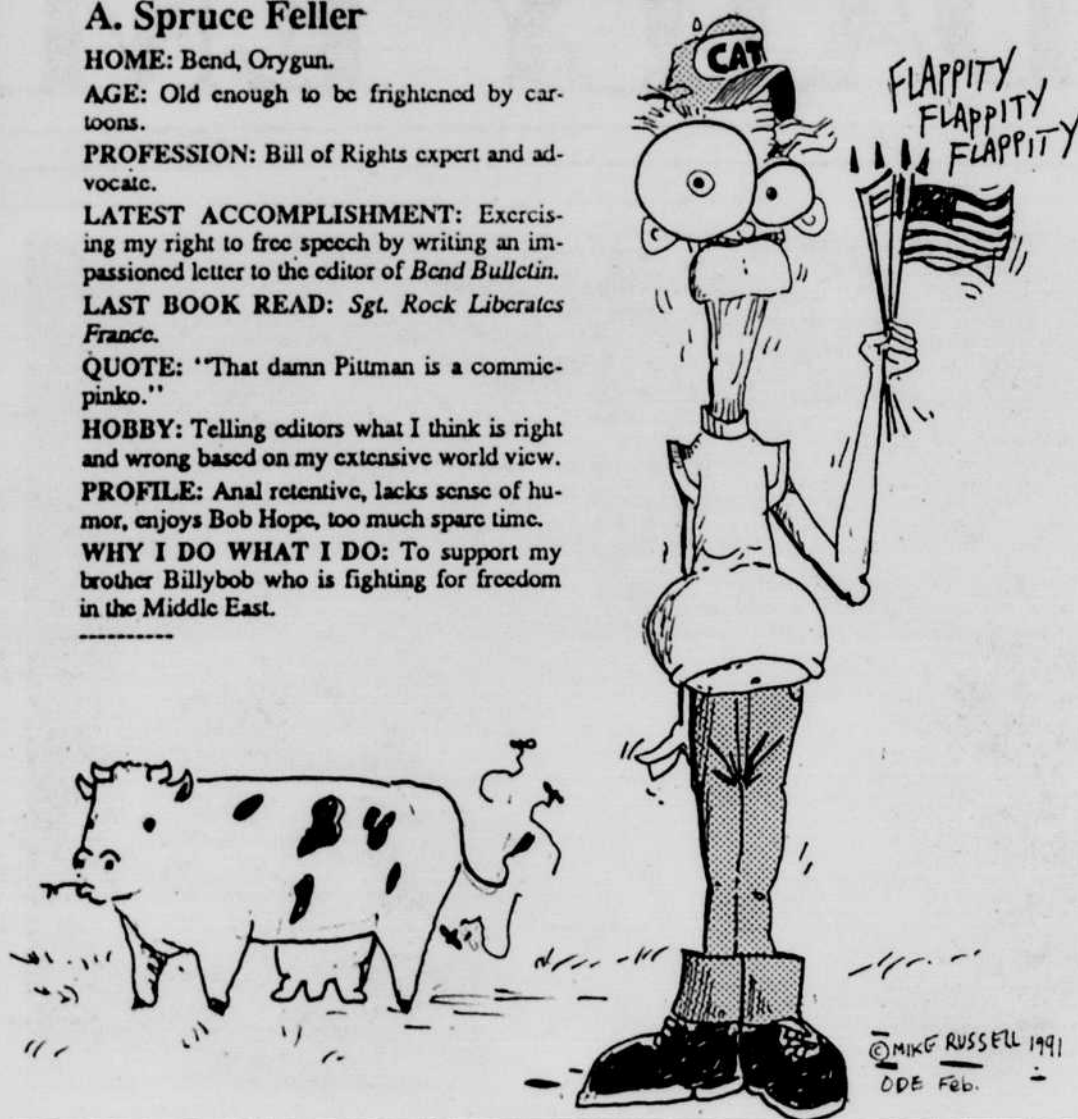
The cartoon was in direct response to anti-Arab/Muslim sentiments expressed in the media. Arabs have been depicted as insane war-mongers.

This was offensive to me. I thought one way to make a point was to use the cheapest stereotypes of the U.S. soldier to make it clear how cruel racism and prejudice is. The cartoon was strictly a comment on the American media, not American soldiers. — Jim Winkle

FARMER'S PROFILE

A. Spruce Feller

HOME: Bend, Orygun.
 AGE: Old enough to be frightened by cartoons.
 PROFESSION: Bill of Rights expert and advocate.
 LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Exercising my right to free speech by writing an impassioned letter to the editor of *Bend Bulletin*.
 LAST BOOK READ: *Sgt. Rock Liberates France*.
 QUOTE: "That damn Pittman is a commie-pinko."
 HOBBY: Telling editors what I think is right and wrong based on my extensive world view.
 PROFILE: Anal retentive, lacks sense of humor, enjoys Bob Hope, too much spare time.
 WHY I DO WHAT I DO: To support my brother Billybob who is fighting for freedom in the Middle East.



LETTERS

What a country

In response to Garth Fernandez's letter (*ODE*, Feb. 1):

Last term, every time I walked by the office door to the College Republicans, I saw many different signs urging passersby to vote yes on Ballot Measures 8 and 10. If your organization was impartial, why were these signs allowed to remain?

Also, every member of the College Republicans that I talked to said that they were in support of Measures 8 and 10. With those truths aside, I will turn to the issue of human rights.

Saddam Hussein is definitely an abuser of human rights. However, who are we to be talking of defending human rights?

What country continued to use slavery well into the 19th century? What country interred thousands of Japanese-Americans civilians camps during World War II with no regard for their lives? Which vice-presidential candidate, in 1980 advocated keeping the hostages in Iran until Carter was out of office in order to make his incoming administration take office amid a rise of popularity?

What country, under George Bush, supports a political party (the PRI in Mexico) that "won" its last election through fraud, and the murder and intimidation of its political opponents? What president recently rejected a civil rights bill, along with Congress?

What president, on or around Aug. 2, said that no U.S. troops would be sent to the Middle East? What country has sup-

ported Hussein during the 1980s?

Until this country obtains an exemplary record concerning human rights and social welfare, we should not be out fighting for "freedom."

Matt Emrich
Eugene

Strip less

"Not Hudson Van Curren" is exactly why Adrian Wallace will never be a cartoonist.

Making it in an art-related business, be it acting, music or cartooning, takes skill, talent and patience. The only things apparent in "Not Hudson Van Curren" were skill and bitterness.

The mock strip wasn't even clever, a main component of most successful strips, and something found on a regular basis in the real Hudson Van Curren.

All strips have their less funny days, and Hudson Van Curren is no exception to be sure. What struggling artists like Adrian Wallace should realize is that a comic strip need not be hilarious or of portrait quality to be interesting.

Hudson Van Curren took some time but it has gained some popularity on campus among those who recognize that it isn't always funny, but almost always has a message and is sometimes quite politically biting.

Wallace, learn to appreciate art you haven't produced for what it is instead of jealously comparing it to what you feel you can do. Otherwise, you're destined to be a bitter artist doing portraits in the mall.

Joshua Cox
Music

Stop ranting

Meredith Kaplan betrays her own ignorance about the Middle East in a recent letter (*ODE*, Feb. 4) assailing Professor Ron Wixman's expertise on the area.

I lived in the Middle East for nearly a decade and remember well when the Soviet Union exerted a greater presence in many countries there than the United States. The Soviet experience in Afghanistan, and its on and off arming of Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Yemen over the past 30 years sufficiently qualify a Soviet expert's insights on the area.

We should also remember that 50 million Soviet citizens have close cultural ties to Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan, and that 500,000 Soviet Jews are now on their way to Israel to join thousands who are already there.

We need more, not fewer Soviet experts commenting on the Middle East ... and if they know a few Baltic folk dances and have soft bellies ... so what?

I recently heard Wixman lecture on the Middle East before a group with extensive experience in the area. I found his comments and insights accurate and to the point. The general consensus of the group was that it was one of the best lectures on the subject most had heard.

Kaplan should stop ranting about false experts and shoddy scholarship on the campus and attend a few more of Wixman's lectures so she won't appear so foolish next time.

Gary Burlingame
BS 1969
MA 1974

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