

U.S. shouldn't risk others for profit

So what if it's a killer. As long as it means money, just call the United States Limits-Aren't-Us.

U.S. tobacco farmers will receive \$3.5 million this year in federal money to promote overseas sales of their product. The agriculture department's gift is an answer to the falling American demand for tobacco, a probable result of the anti-smoking/health-wise campaigns launched during the last several years.

This type of scheme should sound familiar. After all, it's not the first time the United States has risked the health of other countries' residents, all for a profit. Even worse, it's using tax monies to do it.

Examples abound, and look, here's one now: Pesticides. The demand for them here in the states slowed down in the 1980s — thanks in part to bans on certain chemicals. So, in our capitalistic wisdom, America simply increased exportation of those chemicals that were no longer allowed here.

And when the United Nations passed a resolution in 1983 calling for restrictions on the export of products whose use has been banned in the exporting nation, guess who refused? Yep, President Reagan, arguing in his infinite logic that those countries importing our banned products should be free to do so if they choose, and that if we didn't sell them the products, someone else would.

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Ironically, banned pesticides continue to pollute the food Americans eat via imports. Talk about bad karma.

It's great that American health campaigns have gone so well; it's just too bad the message gets turned back at the borders. Obviously, U.S. mentality hasn't yet developed to the point of seeing the big picture.

And so it goes with the promotion of American tobacco overseas.

Using tax monies for promoting the use of a substance that kills is about as backward as national policy can get. Granted, our tobacco farmers need the continued income, but the other sides of the dice need to be considered. Is it worth our tax dollars to make sure sales go on as usual? Could we use the money in a better way to remedy the situation — one that doesn't involve death — perhaps?

As big and almighty as we may think we are, the United States is part of the world community. It's time we began acting that way.

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.

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VERMIN ASKS... WHAT IS DEBATE?

DEBATE IS THE EXCHANGING OF VIEWPOINTS OVER A CERTAIN TOPIC.

JOBBS!
JOBBS!
OWLS!
OWLS!
AARGH!!

YOU NARROW-MINDED REACTIONARY BONEHEAD!!

DEBATE ALLOWS US TO INDULGE IN RIGHTEOUS INDIGNANT YELLING AND SCREAMING.

SAY, I GUESS OWLS ARE IMPORTANT TOO.

COMIE! NAZI! PUNK! JERK!

DEBATE IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL WHICH COULD BE ENDED FOREVER BY ONE THING: UNDERSTANDING.

CARE ABOUT SOCIETY! KEEP DEBATE ALIVE! STICK TO YOUR OWN POINT OF VIEW!

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LETTERS

The dotted line

I just wanted to bring up a few points missing from the Playboy/Bookstore debate.

First of all, this is not just a matter of the bookstore deciding not to sell a product. I'm sure they make those kinds of decisions every day. This is about the bookstore removing a product that is already on its shelves because of pressure from one small group.

The American justice system is based on precedents. If you allow one group to repress material it doesn't like, you open up the censorship gate for any holier-than-thou slime to start down the censorship path.

I can still remember the black and white films of Nazis burning books they thought harmed society by polluting the minds of the masses.

Now let's look at some other groups who would advocate ridding the bookstore of Playboy. Jerry Falwell and his former Moral Majority would no doubt join in along with the "open-minded" OCA.

And don't forget that beacon of integrity, Charles Keating, who was a determined foe of Playboy.

So let's see who these Playboy censorship people keep company with: a fascist government that murdered six million people because it thought they were harmful to the world; religion-crazed bigots who think their values are the only ones that count; and a man who went to trial for bilking little old ladies out of their life's savings.

Where do I sign up?

Tom Entzel
Eugene

The simple life

Brian Westby, I hope you read your letter in the Feb. 4 edition of the Emerald.

If you did, maybe you read further and noticed below your letter an advertisement announcing a presentation concerning rape. I doubt that in that presentation they claimed that knowledge of martial arts is the catch-all solution to preventing rape.

Don't you know that by ignoring the real issues that cause rape, you empower those committing these terrible acts? I hope that you are not afraid of learning anything, and will someday (hopefully soon) take time to educate yourself about rape.

Rape is, and continues to be, a factor of life, because so many of us choose to ignore its causes.

No, Westby, I am not "against learning anything." Maybe you should ask yourself if you are. Educate yourself about rape. If you and all of us would do that, sir, then that indeed would make life "a hell of a lot simpler for everyone."

Luci Longoria
Student

Blowing smoke

Brian Hoop and Jennifer Bills are at it again. While advocating the rights of homosexuals as a worthy cause, upholding rights at the expense of someone else's is not fair.

That's what will happen if the military is kicked out of the EMU. The fact is that the Student Senate is blowing smoke. Federal law supersedes state law, city ordinances, and yes, student senate resolutions (go figure).

If you don't believe me, check out 798 F.2d 81.

What irks me is that with all the talk about how unfair the DOD regulation is, the Student Senate wants to pick on recruiters. Military recruiters are following rules; they don't make them up. Besides, what about the free speech rights of the military? Oh yes, Bills wants to diversify this campus, but only if the people allowed here align with her political philosophy.

Sounds kind of hypocritical to me. What about the rights of students interested in talking to recruiters? Shouldn't they be allowed to get information where it is most accessible to them? The DOD policy may be discriminatory, but the courts have found that it is not (ditto for the Saferide policy).

It's about time that Bills, Hoop and the rest of the Student Senate came back to reality

and challenged the issue at its heart — the Department of Defense — instead of hypocritically stomping on the rights of military recruiters and students.

Chris Ribeiro
Journalism

Condemnation

We appreciate the Emerald's support in the editorial, "Students justified in condom provision." However, there were two mistakes in the article.

First, although there are five "core" members running for political office, we have many more people who help us. On Jan. 27, 12 people participated in distributing 1,200 condoms.

Second, a flier with explicit instructions was included with each condom handed out. Also on the flier were statistics about AIDS and teenagers. On Tuesday, when I attempted to post these fliers without the condom, my effort was censored by the administration. We were warned that if we continued to post these fliers, our junior class vice presidential candidate, Oni Kinberg, would be withdrawn from last Thursday's election.

We appreciate the editorialist's support. If you support our action I urge you to write: Principal Don Jackson, c/o South Eugene High School, 400 E. 19 Ave.

John O'Brien
Planethood Party

Raving mad

I found it quite funny that Jason Moore took up half the inside cover of the Jan. 7 Emerald getting mad at Phil Zuckerman. And I'm not sure I get the point.

If you know Phil at all, you know that he is a very mellow and fun guy. The raving manic, lunatic that you portrayed him as is a fantasy you made up in a moment of melodrama. Please get some facts on this subject of Zionism before you parade your cliché radical PC blanket humanism. Oh yeah, and Jonah Bookstein is not co-director of the JSU.

Ezra Bookstein
Eugene