

Congress can't be commander of army

"The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States"

— U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2.

Even when the matter is black and white, some people will always try to fire up a debate.

Congress has proved that principle in recent weeks, as it repeatedly has chosen to grapple with President Clinton over control of American foreign policy, particularly American military policy.

Although the president should never have the power to engage in military action indefinitely without congressional (or popular) approval, expecting the president to put all foreign policy decisions up for congressional scrutiny is both unrealistic and unnecessary.

Military involvement in the island nation will make matters worse.

One of the more obvious indications that Congress is going to make its voice heard in international matters occurred last week, as leaders began exerting pressure on the president to clarify (and, in many cases, reduce) the role of American troops in Somalia.

But the attempts made by congressional leaders to prohibit any attempt by President Clinton to commit U.S. troops to Haiti presents the most straightforward assault on the president's power as commander in chief.

Fortunately, the Senate rejected a proposal which would have required the president to get congressional approval for any military action in Haiti, with a few limited exceptions.

Instead of such a drastic measure, most of the Congress chose to support a bill that said that the President *should* OK any decisions with the Congress, but that he is not required to do so.

This choice is superior because it allows Clinton a reasonable degree of latitude in deciding whether to involve the United States in Haiti without forcing him to surrender control to the Congress.

However, the greatest mistake Clinton could make would be to take advantage of that latitude. Any American military involvement in the island nation will make matters worse.

If American troops were to be committed there, one of the missions they might be charged with would be to put ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide back in power and protect him from the military who overthrew him soon after his election in 1990.

The American public has repeatedly sent the message that it doesn't want the United States involved in a prolonged military operation, but keeping Aristide safe and in power would be just such an operation. By his own count, Aristide has escaped nine assassination attempts. Even if he is the democratically elected president of Haiti, he has enemies. And he has enough of them to occupy a U.S. peacekeeping force for a long, long time.



LETTERS

We need it

While the University campus has yet to respond to its call, the sales tax measure needs us as much as we need it. I don't believe the faculty realize the damage that 1990's Ballot Measure 5 will continue to do to all public schools, including ours, if tax reform is not approved.

When I arrived at the University in 1989, resident tuition and fees were \$544 per term. Without tax reform, tuition in 1995 will be more than \$3,500 per year. What do students get for the increase? We get fewer programs, more crowded classrooms, more stressed-out faculty and more user fees.

Please take a few minutes to learn about Ballot Measure 1 and what it does. It really will help us as students. Vote yes for Measure 1 Nov. 9.

Sean Meurisse
Journalism

Rude behavior?

In response to Stephanie R. Colheny's letter (*ODE*, Oct. 18), she makes quick judgment out of her brief presence and with no idea of what the issues are. This is, simply and ironically, "rude behaviour."

We think that it is only fair that judgments be made after a thorough analysis of the situation and issues involved.

Nawab Chakaar
Concerned Muslim

Concerned

I am the person with long white hair who you've seen roaming around campus in women's clothes. I have a great love for women and derive great satisfaction in exploring feminine aspects of myself.

I never wore women's clothes in public until I moved to Eugene in May 1992. I became courageous.

I have walked around seeing and hearing of people who have taken photographs and videos of me. I also found out, after I discovered how popular I was, that people were selling these pic-

tures and videotapes. Not one person has ever shown me any of the pictures or videos. Nor have they asked.

My last year in Eugene has been like getting continually raped and abused by an entire community, a team of psychiatrists, then driven out to some dirt road, beaten and left there to die. You'll never know how many times I have wished I was dead or wished I could die to get away from what people have done to me.

Michael Swatzel
Eugene

Congrats

Congratulations to Shannon Wall for her recent appointment to the Incidental Fee Committee. Her expertise in diverse student issues will bring much needed wisdom and hope for a successful year.

Shannon, along with Caitilin Twain, last year's ASUO safety affairs coordinator, led a campus-wide educational campaign on a federal bill titled the Violence Against Women Act and lobbied at the White House on numerous student financial aid issues.

Her diplomatic and selfless personality will help bring the IFC and other branches together for the upcoming budget season. Good luck, Shannon!

Bobby Lee
Sociology

End this brawl

Leftists call conservatives closet fascists (Gary Sudborough, *ODE*, Oct. 20). Conservatives call leftists closet totalitarians. Let's end this brawl.

Fascism, as advocated by Hitler and Mussolini, implements one basic moral premise. Communism implements that same premise as an axiom.

Altruism is that moral premise which it rationalized the Nazis' and Soviets' slaughter of millions of people. Hitler is most eloquent: "This state of mind, which subordinates the interest of the ego to the conservation of the community, is really the first premise for every true-

ly human culture. ... The basic attitude from which such activity arises, we call — to distinguish it from egoism and selfishness — idealism. By this we understand only the individual's capacity to make sacrifices for the community, for his fellow men."

Neither Clintonites nor Reaganites challenge this premise; they seek merely cheat on it.

Those people who truly wish to oppose totalitarianism must discover Ayn Rand's code of rational egoism and its political corollary — laissez-faire capitalism.

Damon A. Cole
Mathematics

Open house

Are you are one of hundreds of students paying more for housing now because of the current University freeze on allowing anyone into lower-cost University housing projects?

Or perhaps you've suddenly "evacuated" because for parts of Amazon "planned" for demolition and know why a state senator commented that "you are being treated like animals." Or maybe you are a past resident of Amazon — like myself — still living in Eugene, who questions why some officials would choose to forget the commitment the University made in 1980 to maintain Amazon indefinitely, or at least for 30 years, as low-income housing.

Instead, these officials have pursued a plan they admit is flawed, using an expensive architect to design expensive housing to replace the old — but comfortable — soft and affordable housing most students prefer.

If you are interested, please attend an open house at Amazon (227 Patterson St.) Saturday, between 2 and 4 p.m. Updates, videos, tours and free refreshments provided. If interested, but unable to attend, call Nancy at Amazon Community Tenants at 484-6241, or me at the Eugene Citizens for Low Cost Housing at 484-9167.

David Zupan
Eugene

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