

## Put the ethics aside and turn over diary

In the news again... and in the news again. Sen. Bob Packwood seems to be spending more time on the front page of the newspapers than in the Senate.

Those pages of his diary that Packwood brought forward himself, in his defense, are on the verge of being used in the case of the prosecution as well. As unethical as the personal matter may be, Packwood is the one who brought more than 8,000 pages of recorded information before the entire nation.

Packwood, however, picked his way through the pages, allowing only those that he found beneficial in his defense to be public knowledge. Let's not forget that Packwood is on the defense stand, not doing the accusing. The people who have filed charges against him are entitled to the other side of the story.

Granted, it seems unethical to permit the public to page through Packwood's personal life, public servant or not. But, as a member of the Senate, he is also a member of one of the most prestigious organizations in the world, which possesses a great amount of power and responsibility. With that clout comes the power of the Senate to impress upon its members the same degree of discipline, more so than any court of law. Membership in this organization also imposes rules and obligations that are to be followed. If not followed, undesired, stiffer-than-usual repercussions are sure to result.

It is Packwood who invited the Senate Ethics Committee to read his diaries. He put his diary on the stand or, at least, the part that would be a benefit to his defense. Then the committee, just like Packwood, was asked to be put on the stand to determine whether it should be entitled to the rest of the story. The committee won, and Packwood lost. Therefore, ethics aside, it's time to turn over the rest of the story — the rest of the diary.

Finish the case and close the books. This case is going on and on. There is no need to launch it into the court system and watch it drag on. Yes, Packwood is obviously entitled to a fair ethics committee review on the charges against him. If his diary were exposed, there could be even more charges filed against him. Violations, if exposed, will portray a more significant case with harsher allegations. But if the laws were broken, then Packwood should suffer the consequences.

Packwood said, "I would hate to think just because I kept a diary ... and the things I put in it, that that would be a cause for resignation. And ... I'd hate to think that we've reached the place where, if I exercise my constitutional rights, that this is the conduct unbecoming of a senator."

It's more than flexing constitutional rights; it is the simple fact that his representation may not be up to expectations.

The people of Oregon elected Packwood to represent this state. They are entitled to a representative who applies his undevoted attention to the work at hand, to the people of this state. When Packwood ran for senator, he also knew that what was expected of him far surpassed that of a regular citizen. Whether or not the battle is over, if the representation of this state is jeopardized by personal matters, then it's time for him to step down.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the office... It's



## LETTERS

### Puppets

American foreign policy does not reflect any human dimension, and it is basically on the side of business and American special interests.

American involvement in the Middle East (as in the Persian Gulf War) not only brought democracy to the region, but it kept the dictators' power intact. In Iraq, the brutal Saddam Hussein is still in power and continues to kill the innocent Muslims in areas south and north of Iraq. In Bosnia, thousands of innocent civilians are being killed every moment, and still the United States remains silent. In Somalia, the humanitarian mission has changed to a military mission.

In the Middle East, the United States and its puppets are ready to wreak havoc on the general population with the help of corrupt leaders such as Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheik Al Saba of Kuwait.

U.S. foreign policy is not doing what it is supposed to do. The U.S. government chooses its side according to its needs. Its economic interest is more important than human rights.

If the U.S. government cannot police its own cities and citizens, how can it try to police the whole world?

**All Keyhanford**  
Urban & Regional Planning

### Pro-life

Recently, Carol Berg wrote a letter to express her concern about selective abortions of gay fetuses (ODE, Oct. 8). Her concern is shared by the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians and many other pro-lifers.

Shockingly, the threat is real, and it is not restricted to gay fetuses in some hazy future. There are many indications that selective abortion is already a growing problem.

One recent study reported that of fetuses diagnosed with Down's Syndrome, 92 percent were aborted. The new U.S. Surgeon General has called lower numbers of Down's Syndrome babies a "positive health effect" of abortion.

Low numbers of girl babies in China and India, and the link to sex-selection abortions, has recently been reported. In the United States, 62 percent of geneticists interviewed in 1992 said they would be willing to do

amniocentesis solely for the purpose of gender identification, a number computed to be 1 percent in 1973.

Doctors specializing in late-term abortions say they are doing more abortions because sonograms are becoming so precise they can detect even the subtlest defects in the fetus.

Columnist Alexander Cockburn writes, "The shape of things to come can be summed up ... (by) eugenics decked out in the respectability of modern technology. First you knock out the embryos with Down's syndrome and similar ailments, then you widen out from this beachhead."

With abortion on demand, selective abortion is a very real problem. At-risk groups include all who are outside the prevailing culture. Abortion, far from being a private choice, has very far-reaching public implications.

**Kathleen Freeman**  
Computer and Information Science

### Baha'i faith

The Baha'i faith, incorrectly titled "Baha'ism" (ODE, Oct. 28), is an independent world religion proclaiming the oneness of God and the oneness of humanity, supporting the standard of unity of all religions and including millions of adherents from every ethnic, national and religious background. It condemns all manner of prejudice and superstition and declares the purpose of religion to be the promotion of amity and concord. Its holy scriptures direct Baha'is to the highest standard of personal conduct and to loyalty to their government. Its worldwide record of activities dedicated to peace and unity is open to all.

T.J. Fooladi's repeated, underhanded and misguided attacks on the Baha'i faith can do no harm, but they are tiresome. It is a matter of record that in Iran, Baha'is have been persecuted by every government, both monarchical and ecclesiastical, since the beginning of the faith in 1844. It is the Baha'is in Iran

who are systematically murdered and raped, whose holy places are demolished by mobs with pickaxes and whose rights, jobs and properties are taken — not the other way around.

Baha'is adhere to a different standard, as stated by Baha'u'llah: "They that are endowed with sincerity and faithfulness should associate with all the peoples and kindreds of the Earth with joy and radiance, inasmuch as consorting with people hath promoted and will continue to promote unity and concord, which in turn are conducive to the maintenance of order in the world and to the regeneration of nations."

**Beverlee Patton-miller**  
Faculty Adviser  
Baha'i Campus Association

### Paid dearly

A reply to Joseph Borton's letter on the University of Washington assault case (ODE, Nov. 3).

You refer to the journalist's "disgusting opinion" for stating that "the victims were not harmed." When a journalist writes that a victim is not harmed, we understand that he or she means "not physically." How a victim felt or should feel "inside" is not for you or anyone else to say. In fact, by focusing on the pain you think a victim should feel, I think you contribute more to the problem than to the solution.

The women involved obviously did the right thing by reporting the intruders, and those young men have paid dearly for their foolishness. Aside from their punishment under the law and by their school, the *Emerald* humiliated them publicly by putting their mug shots on the front page (ODE, Nov. 2), a measure which struck me as rather perverse. Perhaps you would like the *Emerald* to display those women's inner feelings on the front page, too? Let's hope journalism never comes to that, if it hasn't already.

**Mark Gifford**  
English

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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