

LETTERS

Genocide

I am writing to express my outrage at the brutal repression carried out by the Mexican government in Chiapas. I am also appalled by the racist and insensitive reporting of these events in the U.S. media.

Articles such as "Uprising focuses new attention on Indians" (*Register-Guard*, Jan. 9) refer to Chiapas as a "backward" state. The author also asserts that the recent uprising was probably initiated by "outsiders" — doubting it could have been indigenous in origin because the "attacks were well-planned and coordinated" and had a "mark of military sophistication" — a sophistication of which he must believe indigenous people are incapable.

As a Latin American historian deeply concerned with indigenous rights, I could use this space to denounce the history of colonialism and the persistence of poverty and injustice in southern Mexico. I could discuss the strong heritage of resistance among the Maya throughout history. Or, I could share my experience living in Chiapas in 1990 and tell you that rural protests and the subsequent killings of campesino and indigenous leaders are nothing "new" — they were events reported in the local papers daily.

But, academic language fails me now. I find all I can say is my heart aches. While the upris-

ing itself came as no surprise to me, the brutal repression that followed did. The claims that President Salinas "reacted judiciously to the guerrilla attacks" is insane. It is appalling that national governments continue to condone and implement economic and military strategies which amount to genocide.

However, given our own nation's experience in dealing with indigenous peoples, perhaps it is not surprising there has been no moral outrage over the recent events in Chiapas.

Theresa Lowrie
Graduate student
History

In short

Mary Tegel's complaint about the neon and plastic banners on the EMU was superb (*ODE*, Jan. 10). I could not help but feel rallied to the defenses against this "visual onslaught" by a "corporate enterprise," a.k.a. TacoTime (no doubt a monopolizing conglomerate which supports CIA drug runs and Eugene's Nazi Bicycle Police Corps).

It's relieving to know that, though our society is predominantly "programmed" by "commercialism" and the like (Mary apparently longs to live in ancient Gaul), there remain some brave souls who retain the ability to complain about, well, darn right everything. I for one will take this opportunity to voice my humble opinion that rock concerts are still not acces-

sible to the deaf and that "no smoking" signs are mysteriously anti-masculist in nature.

But maybe I should leave these issues for Mary's much more articulate pen. Fortunately, universities are continuing to reach the lingo of political correctness, not to mention that Birkenstocks are the preferred footwear for anyone taking an anti-consumerist stance. Mary's letter is proof positive that her four-plus years of college are being put to good use. People can rest assured that *our side* has a competent counterpart to Rush Limbaugh, cliché for cliché ("suffering a visual onslaught," "deadening of our senses," and my favorite, "stomach fodder.")

In short, long live the Cause Against Oversized TacoTimes everywhere!

Jon Mitchell
English

Cheaper books

We are all aware of the reality of the high cost of books; they are expensive. I don't believe that we should take out our anger and frustration at the ungodly price of books on the University Bookstore. I would like to come to the bookstore's defense. In order to curtail the high price of books, I would like to offer the bookstore a list of alternatives that it can present to all of the students who are more than unwilling to shell out the bucks for books.

1. Indentured servitude to the bookstore for a semester.
2. Donate one pint of blood and plasma each week to the bookstore.
3. Donate an organ to the bookstore when you expire.
4. Give the bookstore your first born (or promise your first born).
5. Five finger discount.

Mark Verbiske
Spanish

Shenanigans

The "Gang of Four" (our famous leaders Reagan, Bush, Meese and North) are turning out to be nothing but a bunch of cowards. They have been trying to hide their guilt behind a smokescreen of lies and cover-ups that have cost us taxpayers \$35 million (but this was not Walsh's fault). Now they have appealed in secrecy to the

Supreme Court for more protection. Enough already of these shenanigans. All this has received only mild coverage by the media. I am sick of these men pretending to be upstanding pillars of society who "just never knew"! We still have to pay their exorbitant, ill-deserved pensions, and Ollie North even has the nerve to run for the Senate in Virginia. Only in America! If you give emotional testimony and are a ramrod Marine with blue eyes, you can act really stupid or pretend you were "out of the loop" and get away with it.

Corporate crime in America is carefully protected and almost never punished. The criminals are high up in the government and give one another pardons or just slip away like eels. It's all in the name of "national security," but everyone knows! Can there be any doubt why our kids are disillusioned, unmotivated and on drugs?

Hilde K. Cherry
Eugene

LETTERS

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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