

Do what?

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! It's a hard-won, precious freedom. What's more, it's just good Paulus-y.

Carol Berg
Eugene

DeFazio future

My choice for senator in the Democratic Party primary is clear. It is Peter DeFazio.

I chose DeFazio for two main reasons. The first is that DeFazio is a reflexive challenger of fundamental assumptions. Also, he is especially smart and creative, so he would be more likely to invent novel solutions to our complex problems (and, of course, to seek out and add to such solutions others have suggested).

As senator, he would have the time and visibility to best create and promote his social inventions.

The second reason I favor DeFazio is that Ron Wyden seems to have those very special abilities to rise to the top of the House of Representatives.

With 15 years seniority, at age 46 he is in an excellent position to do this. As speaker of the House (or close to it), he could do more good for Oregon and America than any U.S. senator.

Sen. DeFazio, Speaker Wyden and Sen. Lonsdale. Wouldn't that be something!

Dan Weiner
Eugene

Not women's fault

In response to Jean Bond's column about men and rape (ODE, Nov. 6), as a crisis line volunteer for Sexual Assault Support Services, I applaud the message she was trying to get across.

All men need to take the responsibility for stopping rape. However, I would like to point out that even women's views need to change too.

One line stated: "It's fairly clear to women what they should do about violence: defend them-

selves."

This may be true, but this statement supports the common belief that women are somewhat responsible for the violence committed against them.

Women can only take measures to increase their chances of surviving an attack. We cannot prevent an assault.

This statement made by Jean is hurtful to women and survivors, and it contradicts her thesis. We, as women, are taught this double standard: Assault is not our fault, but we can prevent it.

When assaulted, a woman has to deal with her peers, law enforcement and the justice system saying that she didn't do enough to prevent it, or she somehow deserved it.

We need to throw out the myth that if women didn't dress a certain way, drink alcohol or knew how to defend themselves, they wouldn't be raped. In believing this, we are only revictimizing these women. He made the choice; he holds the responsibility.

Jen Johnson
Psychology

Cultures differ

The article "Sorority hosts a banquet for hungry" (ODE, Nov. 16) brought mixed emotions.

Raising public awareness toward hunger is a noble cause, and I commend its organizers for that, but the way it was done upsets me.

In India, eating on the floor with your hands is not a sign of poverty or hunger or unhealthy practice as perceived in the United States. It is a sensuous experience that doesn't only let you enjoy the food with your sense of taste, smell and sight, but also that of touch.

Additionally, it symbolizes unity with the food. Also, sitting on the floor is considered a healthier way to eat.

These cultural norms and practices have taken thousands of years to develop and have become a part of the daily life in

not just India but many other countries around the world.

I ask the organizers to use other creative ideas to educate people about hunger around the globe if they plan to hold such events in the future.

Pawan Kumar
Graduate Architecture

East Timor apathy

The Committee for World Peace had an event on a topic that is usually ignored by the media (including the Emerald) on Nov. 14. The topic was East Timor.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the invasion of East Timor by Indonesia's government, led by Suharto with a tacit approval of the United States.

Indonesia still continues the brutal occupation that has resulted in a tragic loss of 200,000 lives (about one-third of the population). We had a poor turnout at the event.

This reflects the general lack of interest among people in the United States whose government is directly responsible for one of the worst atrocities in the century.

The Indonesia government has been friendly to the U.S. government and corporations such as Nike and Levi Strauss. The United States does not seem to care whether Indonesia has carried out atrocities against its own people as long as the profits keep flowing.

We need to urge the U.S. government to convince Indonesia that it's not worthwhile occupying East Timor.

Many people may be losing connection with each other and feel comfortable in staying in a small cell called "my world" because they won't have to think about any serious problems. This indifference to common good or even vanity may produce a world of division and intolerance that will eventually cost us a lot more than we can afford to pay.

Shin Yasui
Committee for World Peace

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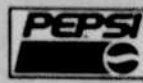
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