

Opinion

Guard training an unwise move

By Dave Holmes

Editor-In-Chief

For some unknown (or, perhaps, well concealed) reason the Oregon National Guard is going to spend some time training in the jungles of Honduras. The military's rational seems to be that our state militia must be prepared to fight in all sorts of conditions. But are there any tropical forests in Oregon?

The National Guard's job seems pretty clear cut: to guard the nation. It was meant to primarily be a defensive force. Their role as domestic protectorate and disaster crew has been played to near perfection. So what's the deal with the Guard getting ready for jungle combat?

Although two of Oregon's top legislators urged Gov. Vic Atiyeh to cancel the Guard excursion on the basis that the exercises would be contrary to the legislatures intent, the maneuvers went on.

The military exercises would seem to be suspect. Does the brass at the Oregon National Guard know something that the public doesn't? This sort of training points to a potential US-involved conflict that, more than likely, would be fought on Nicaraguan soil.

Whether Contras or Sandinistas rule Nicaragua is certainly in US interests, the US military, especially Oregon's National Guard, shouldn't play a part in who's going to be on top of the roost. That decision needs to be left to the Nicaraguan people.

The next time something like this comes up, the governor needs to show some of his character and put a stop to such dangerous ation as National Guard exercises in Central America.

Levy needs attention

By Dave Holmes

Editor-In-Chief

School levy elections usually don't receive a large turnout at the ballot box. People are afraid their taxes will go up, and feel that their vote isn't going to count for much anyway. It's this sort of thinking that defeats levies. And a levy of present concern is the College budget levy whose fate is to be determined on March 25.

The March election will be something new for area voters as it will be a mail-in election. The school's election committee will be doing great amounts of public relations work to try and pass the levy. It is hoped that their efforts will not go without the reward of seeing the levy approved by the public.

Information and understanding are the key elements in a person making any electoral decision. The time to find out about details of the budget levy is now. A rate freeze on assessed property value has been established, and a tuition hike has been adopted. It's up to individual electors to keep themselves informed as to how these differences will affect them.

The *Print* urges those who use the College to take special interest in the election. The outcome of such a decision will undoubtedly affect those people the most.

Letters

to the Editor

The *Print* gladly accepts any letters to the editor. All letters are subject to editing, and should not be libelous, obscene or false. Letters must be typed and double spaced. It must be signed by author, and accompanied by an address and phone number. Drop them by trailer B.

Issues, other 'stuff' noted

By Dave Holmes

Editor-In-Chief

Issues, issues, issues.

You'd think that we were drowning in a sea of issues, what with everything that goes on in this world.

I enjoy the privilege of this column because it gives me a chance to observe things and, well, say stuff. And this week's stuff is about issues.

From my side of the pool

First, global issues. There's starvation, strife, ignorance, and inhumanity going on all the time. And a lot of folks think that there isn't a whole lot they can do about these complex problems. They just sit back and let the issues of the day affect them.

But here's a little food for thought: Your 'over there' is some Israeli's 'here'. Likewise, your 'here' is a South African's 'over there'. If we each do our bit to be a part of a solution in our own places, maybe those complex issues can be unravelled.

OK, enough philosophy.

Meanwhile, we have a farm crisis here in the USA. The more food that is raised the more money the government pays farmers to burn it so prices stay high. 'High' might be a good word for the three-piece-suit in Washington DC that thought of that idea.

Oregon itself has a few issues it must contend with. The legislature is looking at the possibility of limiting the amount of time representatives and senators can meet. At present, they just go on and on until they feel they're done.

Perhaps a deadline would be appropriate for them. A deadline does one important thing: it sees that things get done. Hmmm, not a bad idea for a state government.

Locally, Clackamas County is in a state of economic siege. I've noticed more houses for sale or rent recently than in the twenty years I've lived here. For this hard-hitting issue I haven't an answer.

The College has a levy to worry about. And with that, a decision for the board of directors to make as to what's going to get cut. A lot of times, it seems that the people

who cry the loudest and the longest get their programs, slated for the axe, pardoned for another year. Educational quality is something that deserves serious attention. Perhaps I'd best practice my crying. It just might come in handy.

While all of these things stare us humans in the face, daring us to do something, sometimes personal issues are the most troublesome. "Where will I move to?"

"Where am I going to go to school?" "Does she feel about me the way I do about her?"

All of these are relevant and pressing and need real consideration. My guess is that the answers to these types of dilemmas are in ourselves. After all, who knows better what you want than you yourself?

Of course, if you're at a loss, you can always take my advise: I just don't worry about it.

Seatbelt response

To the Editor

Response from Loretta Carter, staff writer.

Dear Mr. Watkin

In response to your letter to the editor concerning my article on the Childrens Seat-Belt Law. I'm sorry if you were shocked. Maybe this is what it takes to open the eyes of people like you.

The article was not meant to be your so-called Soap Box. I also would like to inform you that I am far from being ignorant about the feelings I have for this law.

You stated that you agreed that the law was ridiculous, and maybe unconstitutional but in the same breath you found it absurd to say Seat-Belts kill people. Mr. Watkin if you would look a little closer at my story you will find that my remark was "Seat-Belts can save lives but I also feel they 'can' take lives as well."

In my article, I was trying to get across two points which you seem to have lost perspective of. Number one that it should be a person's "choice" not the state, to wear a seat-belt or make their children

wear one. Number two, it was to give equal representation to the bad things that happen when wearing seat-belt.

I feel it has been one sided. I made it quite clear that I feel that the seat-belt does do what they were designed to do which is to keep people in their cars.

As far as your statement that my article is grossly inadequate to be printed in a college newspaper you are very misled. I would gladly place my story in a local newspaper.

I would like to say one more thing to you. You said if many people took my view of the law that the medical personnel would be using a lot more body bags and fewer bandages. Now who is getting melodramatic. If everyone thinks the way you do then why has it taken so long for any seat-belt law to pass in the State of Oregon? And what gives you the authority to say that my opinion is outrageously uninformed? My opinion is mine and if I feel what I think is right then it is for me. Thank you for your response.

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