

No clear answers to old growth timber issue

"Should old growth timber or the timber industry be protected?" This was the topic for student opinions in the May 17 edition of *The Clackamas Print*, which I came up with.

After reading the letter to the editor, in last week's edition of *The Print*, I decided to take the advice of Betty Beaudry and "do a little more study of this issue."

The question of protection of our old growth timber does not have a black or white answer. We all want to protect our environment, but what it all comes down to is money. If we limit the logging of old growth timber, it will cost the government money and a loss of income for loggers and their families. This is a price we might have to pay.

I, being a preservationist, was only looking at the issue from the environmental side. After doing some research, I found that neither side is going to "win". We need to find a way for the timber industry to coexist with the environmentalists.

"Did you know that everyone of us is responsible for the logging of old growth timber? We use over 5000 products that come from trees. If we would start recycling more, think of the number of trees we could save. Almost everyone buys a Sunday Oregonian, but how many of us recycle it? The average weight of a Sunday Oregonian is 2.52 pounds. If we recycled one Sunday Oregonian per resident of Oregon City, population 14,500, we would be recycling 36,540 pounds of paper per week.

In all of Oregon and Southwest Washington the number of Sunday Oregonians distributed each week is 420,000. If these were also recycled we would be recycling 1,058,400 pounds per week. This may be a small step in saving our old growth timber, but it's obvious the "save a tree" campaign

can make a difference.

The statistics tell us that the number of trees being replaced is close to 100 million a year, but it's a known fact that we can't replace them as fast as they're cut down. If we all recycled and conserved on our use of paper products, they wouldn't need to cut down so many trees.

I realize that if we begin reducing the number of trees being logged, we'll be reducing the number of loggers. Betty mentioned that in 1987 the employment data showed that 131,000 jobs were timber dependent. Did you know that the number is declining? This is a good thing, because at the rate we're logging old growth timber, there won't be much left to support many loggers in the future.

We need to protect our old growth timber and our loggers, but at the rate the trees are being logged neither will be around in the future. There is no perfect solution to the problem, but if we all took the time to care, we could "save a tree."

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Campus should be open to religious, political views

Submitted by Marc Essig
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Allow the Gideons on campus

It appears that we are in for certain demise as a free nation when our educational system wants to restrict, eliminate or abolish the rights of religious or political organizations the opportunity, to present their views or issues. I cannot believe that the students and faculty have raised such a stink over the Gideon Society providing free bibles to those receptive of religious thoughts.

Being a teacher at this school for 20 years, I have yet to see a member of the Gideon Society be aggressive or force their issue on anyone. One should research into the success stories of the worldwide Gideon purpose. Let us not forget that our nation was founded on religious freedom.

Timber versus Owl Controversy

It is astonishing the number of Oregonians (native and implant) that do not know the facts about our timber industry and the wildlife therein. With modern cultural practices there is room for both sustainable timber harvest and wild life.

If we choose to halt timber harvest as the environmentalists propose, we should then tax the marijuana production on our Federal lands to offset the revenue lost from current timber sales. A recent article

published in the Capitol Press estimates the total marijuana growth value, and it exceeds both the combined annual production value of timber and agriculture production in the State of Oregon. What a reputation we have!

Smoking Ban on Campus

I, too, am an ex-smoker (6 years without a cigarette), and have discussed this issue at faculty meetings being tossed and turned between the rights of smokers and nonsmokers.

What is so mind-boggling to this instructor is that we strive to eliminate smoking in public places while on the other hand attempt to legalize marijuana use without punishment.

Provide quality education

Public Education is our future and is a multi-faceted responsibility. First, the citizens of this State must recognize the cost of providing quality education. It is time the legislature stopped ducking the issue and shouldered the burden of decision. Secondly, education must be given the freedom to demonstrate and instill high moral values and personal responsibility. Thirdly, students have to assume the responsibility of learning.

Combine these attitudes with a good American work ethic and the United States will continue to be a world leader and superpower.

Compared to China, U.S. an apathetic nation

Today all over the People's Republic of China students are protesting for democratic reforms in their communist government. Though all of the world is hoping that the students will succeed in their struggle, let us not misinterpret what they want to do. The students are communists and do not pretend to be anything but. The students want to retain their communist government but with more socialist overtones and less corruption at the top.

However in the United States students here get up and wonder what would be better "My acid washed Levi's or my butt hugging Guess jeans?" Does it take students in China to point the way to reform for U.S. kids? What do we need? A decent banner to rally behind? How about these for example?

Every day in U.S. cities kids are being killed in drug related crimes, yet whenever voters are asked to give more money to build more prisons, they say no. Every day in Brazil thousands of acres of rain forests are being destroyed to make room for cattle, cattle that we buy to make our hamburgers with. Everyday another congressman takes a legal bribe under the guise of honorariums. Right now in the U.S. our health care system is in disarray, yet nothing is done. Each election Oregon voters decline funding for Oregon's school systems. Every day Oregon congressmen do nothing to reform our school system.

In a recent movie about automotive entrepreneur Preston Tucker, he explains in his court transcript, that the little guy will be crushed from above by big business

and the government. In the 1940's and 1950's this may have been true but today, big business doesn't have to stop anyone from the top. We will stop ourselves.

We have become an apathetic nation. What else would describe a country that would elect a man as Vice President who thinks that people in Latin America speak Latin. What else would describe a President who tries to make us believe that this Vice President can do a good job? America is filled with a bunch of apathetic sheep, and the students and young kids today are some of the most apathetic. For an example, if you were to ask any ten students here at CCC to describe the school they would most likely say "It is a High School with asterisks." But what most of these self same students do not realize is that a school is what YOU make of it. If you want to take bonhead classes then you can take bonhead classes. However, if you want to take the classes that will allow you to graduate with honors from any college, be it Harvard or OSU, then these classes are there for you also.

Maybe we as a nation should take the hint from the Chinese students and begin to stand up for our rights and privileges. If we don't question authority at every corner, it will overwhelm us. If we want changes WE have to make them. We did it with the congressional pay raises--we can do it with anything. Get involved, or not only will you fail but so will your country; Japan's growing lead in trade with us is but a hint of how far we will fall behind.

Editorial Policy

The *Clackamas Print* welcomes Letters to the Editor. Such letters must be signed or will not be printed. Letters must not exceed 250 words and should be typewritten or neatly printed. Letters can be turned into *The Clackamas Print* offices in Trailer B North of Randall Hall. The *Clackamas Print* reserves the right to edit Letters to the Editor for grammar, obscenities and libelous material. Letters to the Editor must be turned in Friday in order to be printed in the following Wednesday's edition.

The Clackamas Print

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