

UP FRONT

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LETTERS

White Train

Dear Eugene Community:

I had to go meet the White Train because it is a focus of evil. It carries 200 hydrogen bombs. Such a collection of prepared atrocities must be stood against with our entire beings, yet in nonviolence and love.

We knelt or sat on the tracks. Some of us prayed, some sang, and some cried at the horror of this train's meaning.

Because there were only 175 people out to meet the train, does it mean that most of society condones it? We stopped the train for three hours, but eventually there were more police than protesters, and those on the tracks were removed and arrested.

"This train contains 1000 Hiroshimas!" one of the tracksitters was heard to cry. The authorities appeared unmoved. Is most of our community unmoved, unthinking, denying that our government prepares holocausts far worse than any-

thing we've known in all of history?

In Nazi Germany, trains carried millions of people to death, and people looked the other way. In our time, this train carries death to a billion people; are we willing to see it for what it is, and respond accordingly? The parallels are profound: a highly intelligent, technologized society, full of "good people just doing their jobs," failing to face the terrible meaning of their combined efforts and complicity. How long can we avert our gaze? Do we fail to learn anything from the struggles and pain of the past?

To understand this train with our minds is impossible, because as theologian Jim Douglass reminds us, "to understand Hiroshima alone would take a lifetime." The nuclear sword will be lowered and broken in two only by a change of hearts.

Sincerely,
Vip Short

Letters to the Editor must be typewritten and of no more than 250 words. Send to: What's Happening Letters, P.O. Box 259, Eugene, OR 97440.

Citizens Utility Board

The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) statewide initiative petition cleared a major hurdle as the Oregon Supreme Court ruled against a challenge to the CUB petition's ballot title. The court ruling clears the way for the CUB supporters to gather signatures to put the CUB proposal on the November 1984 ballot.

CUB is a statewide consumer-controlled organization which will represent the interests of electric, telephone, and gas utility customers before the Public Utility Commissioner, the legislature, or other branches of government who make decisions about the cost or quality of utility service. CUB will be funded through voluntary contributions of \$5 per year.

"The utilities say that CUB won't work and it isn't necessary to protect ratepayers' interests. Yet they made defeat of CUB their highest priority in the last legislature. Most recently they mounted a specious challenge to our ballot title as a further delaying tactic. Oregon's ratepayers are not that easily deterred. We've got a ballot by initiative," said Peter Defazio, a Lane County Commissioner and one of CUB's chief petitioners.

Supporters need 62,000 signatures of registered Oregon voters by July 6 to put the measure on the November ballot.

Summer Enrichment

The U of O's annual summer enrichment program for talented and gifted middle-school aged children will offer computer programming, foreign languages and the performing arts—among other courses. The program focuses on areas of study not normally emphasized in the regular school curriculum, and is open to 6th-9th graders referred by teachers or parents. Call 686-5523 for more information.

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Published Each Thursday

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For women immigrating to America, some things never change.

Millions of women seeking a home in America found work as well — long hours of work at heart-breaking wages. That was an immigrant woman's lot at the turn of the century. And it's often her lot today. Now you can hear the stories of these women, past and present, as National Public Radio presents a series on their struggles to arrive, and their struggles to survive.

The Golden Cradle:
Immigrant Women in the United States



Blue Plate Special,
Noon, March 5

Women's Night Out, 6:00 pm
March 4, 11, 18, 25

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Funded by a major grant from The National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency. ©1984 NPR

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