

The politics of altruism

Following a laborious weekend of speculation on what's best for the residents of the Fourth District, independent candidate Tonie Nathan came to the conclusion that incumbent Democrat Jim Weaver must be defeated even if it means her own withdrawal from the race. That's an enormous amount of altruism for a political candidate. She was even prepared to ask independent Jim Howard to join her in the political suicide for the common good.

But wait. Why suicide when murder will serve the same purpose?

Nathan thinks she has found the lethal ammunition in the form of proposed legislation concerning conflict of interest pending in Congress. And she has located the suitable victim: Republican candidate Jerry Lausman.

The legislation, proposed by Common Cause, would disallow anyone with personal or financial interest in a specific area from serving on committees dealing with that topic. Lausman has interest in some topics. Therefore, she feels that since this legislation could pass, Lausman should withdraw from the race, leaving guess who—Tonie Nathan to lead the cause of defeating Weaver.

Without arguing the pros and cons of the Common Cause proposal at present, we would like to take this opportunity to express our wonder and delight that at least in our District, there are still politicians whose priorities place our interests above even their own desire for office—or their opponent's.

Fill those idle hours

So now you've registered, paid your fees and put in your token class appearance. What are you going to do the rest of the term?

Past generations of students have amused themselves by doing such things as seeing how many goldfish will fit in a phone booth or how National Guardsmen respond to rifle fire.

But today's Duck wants new thrills. Here is a sampling of ways active quackers can fill those idle hours between now and finals week.

- Organize a student program, apply for ASUO funding and pay yourself a salary.
- Hijack a jetliner and threaten to blow it up unless everyone in California signs a statement promising to stay there.
- Burn down the EMU and see if anyone notices.
- Find enlightenment and inner peace and be obnoxious about it.
- Go to a U of O football game and enjoy the solitude.
- Start an environmental group that does nothing but use huge quantities of paper.
- Find out why the University's founding fathers hated moles so intensely they chose "Mens Agitat Molem" as the University motto.
- Spread rumors about openings in the plumbers' union among graduating seniors and make a fortune selling pipe wrenches.
- Go to faculty meetings and take part in the voice votes.
- Offer a SEARCH class in Wholistic Algebra of Natural Phenomena and see if anyone ever discovers you're a fraud.

Oregon exploited

Hopefully many young Oregonians are getting hip to the fact that we in the Northwest are in fact an economic and natural resources colony to the corporate structure that runs the United States. If this sounds like nationalistic rhetoric emanating from Africa or South America, the similarities are striking.

Consider these factors: A large percentage of the timber that has been cut here is exported as raw logs to Japan and often re-imported as finished lumber. The lumber companies that do this show no concern for the economic welfare of the people in our area, they are basically concerned with their own profits. Otherwise they would mill the lumber here to provide sustenance for the local economy they so loudly bewail the plight of whenever regulation of timber management practices by Congress threatens their exploitation of the public resources.

Their philosophy is basically to strip mine the timber from the forest and move on, creating a temporary regional economic boom followed by a permanent bust and chronic depression after the resource is depleted.

If we let them continue Oregon will be "Appalachianized," if you know what I mean. That is why the even-flow principle that Congressman Weaver has been fighting to have included in the current national timber legislation is so important. Without it only the courage of



Letters

Holier-than-thou

I find your holier-than-thou attitude towards sexism in the Register-Guard to be especially hypocritical when you publish an obviously sexist cartoon "Duck Soup" on the same page (Tuesday, September 29 issue). This cartoon, which shows the duck being caressed by a woman whose sole purpose in life seems to be to serve her man, points out the sexist attitudes in the Emerald staff. I personally find your hypocrisy much more distasteful than the Register-Guard's mere "clinging to sexual stereotypes" — you don't even have the excuse of ignorance.

Rick Johns
Graduate, Biology

Touche - ed.

Pat on the back

Chris Junkins' article about the Eugene Water & Electric Board in Tuesday's, September 28th, Emerald was an excellent comprehensive and responsible report. Although we, the people of Eugene, own our utility, few of us seem to understand the complexities and scope of the energy problem locally, let alone nationally.

The article gave a good perspective of some of the benefits EWEB customers now enjoy as a result of good planning in the past and pointed out important decisions which must be made in the immediate future relative to the development of alternative sources of energy generation.

I wish that all of EWEB's customers could have an opportunity to read this article. We would all

benefit and hopefully think more about ways of conserving energy in the future.

Chuck Pressman
Candidate for Commissioner
EWEB Wards 2 & 3

Costly structure

Some fiscal responsibility is sorely needed in Lane County Government. They need someone who will try to see how much they can get for a dollar rather than how many dollars they can spend. A good example of fiscal irresponsibility that resulted in waste of tax dollars is the construction of the new parking structure.

The new County parking structure, exclusive of land which the County owns, will cost the Taxpayers approximately \$1,200,000.00. Without building this structure, land is suitable for ground level parking of approximately 190 vehicles, or only 45 vehicles less than the 235 vehicle capacity of the new structure.

By simple mathematics it is clear that by dividing 45 into \$1,200,000 the cost to provide each extra parking space is \$26,666.66. This is almost the cost of a home. How can such extravagance be justified: If, in fact, it was mandatory to provide 45 extra spaces, it could have been done for less than \$2,000.00 a space, by securing land within a block which could have been purchased — a saving of over \$1,100.00 and there would not be the annual expense of maintaining a structure.

It was the same 2 to 1 vote, the Wood, Hayward combination political bloc, wasting another mil-

lion of your Tax dollars.

I, as Lane County Commissioner, will curtail the expenditures of elaborate structures and facilities and Tea Gardens, when it is clear that the expansion as to new buildings, that may be required, can be provided on more business and practical methods and at less expense, particularly on a competitive bidding with a bond, time limit and cost.

Archie Weinstein
1315 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401
Candidate for
County Commissioner
Position No. 1

Carter no liberal

A vote for Carter is a wasted vote.

Carter, since his nomination, has been shrewdly abandoning HIS "old" liberal beliefs. He's an opportunistic politician who's trying his damndest to appease conservative, military-establishment voters.

I'm fed up with him. I'm voting for Eugene McCarthy on November 2nd.

David Richardson
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Eugene, Oregon 97402

Opinion columns

The Emerald welcomes reader submitted opinion columns.

All copy should be typed in 65 character lines and double spaced.

The Emerald asks readers to limit opinion columns to 800 words, or about 75 typewritten 65 character lines.

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individual rangers and the Forest Service will stand between the companies and the strip mining of remaining old-growth timber. I can take you right now and show you thousands of acres in Lane County that have been so mined that the soil has been eroded and Douglas Fir will never grow again. Appalachia?

A second area where our resources have been colonized is the publicly developed and subsidized hydroelectric power of the Bonneville Power Administration, which has been gobbled by the aluminum industry in direct violation of the laws that created it to provide low-cost electric power to the people of the region.

The artificially low rates paid by these aluminum companies ironically subsidize their propaganda campaigns to subvert Oregon's progressive bottle bill and the same sweetheart arrangements create pressure for unwise nuclear power development by creating artificial regional energy shortage projections.

When our Congressmen or other citizen's groups organize opposition to these rip-offs they are basically coming from the same place as any indigenous movement to liberate a region or a nation's resources for the benefit of their people. The difference lies in the fact that we are still operating within a nationally established legal and political structure.

The same analysis could be applied to many other regional resources such as fishing or farm land. The important thing, I think, is that we see the context within which these conflicts are developing.

Despite the rhetoric about unemployment and the national welfare the facts indicate that these resources are being ripped off by what are in effect foreign companies and are not being developed for the welfare of the people in harmony with our other resources on a national scale so that we may all live a balanced and ecological life in an economically stable society.

I urge young people who care about Oregon's future to register and vote for Congressman Jim Weaver who, to me anyway, has become somewhat of a symbol of the resistance by Oregonians to this kind of exploitation. He seems to be the only public official in Oregon of a national or state-wide character who is willing or able to identify the interrelation of these conflicts and has the courage to place his career on the line by standing toe to toe with the big boys of the timber, aluminum and nuclear industries, the BPA and electric utilities.

They are out to get him because they know he is a troublemaker. If we cannot ensure his re-election by organizing our political power and voting, we will be sending forth a clear signal to anyone who dares follow in his footsteps that they do so at their own risk. That is why I urge all of you to get out and vote for Jim, not for his benefit but for your own.

Bob Zagorm
c/o Land of Oz
Box 466
Mapleton, Ore.
Friday, October 1, 1978