

Oregon needs tough energy policy

At dedication ceremonies for the new Weyerhaeuser-based power plant, Gov. Bob Straub gave a sneak preview of his soon-to-be-released energy plan. From what we can tell from this preview, Straub is about to launch a conservation campaign reminiscent of Ford's illfated "WIN" effort.

Straub correctly identifies conserved energy as our most readily available, and quite probably our cheapest, energy source. But his idea of encouraging significant conservation through "Governor's Awards" is based on a "good-citizen" consciousness that just isn't there. Straub is convinced that "most of our citizens, given the proper information and the opportunity, will voluntarily participate in an energy conservation program." There is little, if any, reason for Straub to be convinced of this.

According to the Oct. 6 issue of The Oregonian, "Oregon's drivers, through August, have used 19.5 million more gallons of gasoline than during the same period in 1973, before the Arab oil embargo." To claim Oregon's citizens don't have the "proper information and the opportunity" to conserve gasoline would be foolish. Anyone old enough to drive remembers the shortages and the political disadvantages of our dependence on imported oil. The simple fact is people will not conserve until it becomes financially imperative to do so.

Layoffs produce innocent victims

The two classified and eight student employees who face layoffs at the University Physical Plant have a right to feel frustrated. They are the innocent victims of a set of circumstances beyond anyone's control.

Earlier this year Harold Babcock, director of the Physical Plant, looked at his books and saw that unless something was done he would have a \$200,000 deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

Babcock can hardly be blamed for this. There was no way he could have known three years ago, when his current budget was developed, that the price of wood chips, the University's basic fuel, would quadruple.

Nor is Babcock to blame for the fact that the 1975 Legislature approved a pay raise for classified employees without passing the funds to cover the increase. Everyone hoped that enough people would quit or retire so that by not hiring replacements, agencies with classified employees could avoid layoffs. But it just didn't work out that way.

It's not Babcock's fault that the University as a whole is in a financial bind and hasn't got reserves to cover deficits in any department. Nor can the University be criticized for placing a lower priority on its Physical Plant operations than on its academic functions.

The Physical Plant at this University isn't

This applies to industries as well as individuals.

Rather than promising ornate certificates to industries that voluntarily conserve, Straub should be promising higher prices to those that don't.

In addition to spending his time lauding the Weyerhaeuser project, admittedly an example of the steps Oregon and the nation need to take, Straub should be publicly commenting on and attempting to block the impending grab of Bonneville Power Administration power by industry and private utilities.

Straub says his energy plan will be patterned after Roosevelt's World War II industrial "E for Excellence" program. That's got a nice political ring to it, but Oregon's energy problems won't be solved by dredged-up programs from years gone by.

Instead, the answers lie in progressive, maybe even radical, alternatives. Life-line rates, tax penalties for waste and tax rewards for conservation must be part of any comprehensive energy plan.

Simply stated, significant cuts in energy consumption will not become reality until the motivation for conservation becomes economic. No award from the governor, no matter how nice the frame, will carry the impact of a plainly-wrapped bill from the utility company. C'mon Bob, it's 1976 and the answers don't lie with FDR.

the only one in financial trouble. The Physical Plant at Oregon State University was running a projected deficit of over \$500,000 until it began laying people off last spring.

Don Chalmers, head of the Office of Student Advocacy, wants to appeal to the Legislature's Emergency Board for enough money to save the ten Physical Plant employees their jobs. It's a good idea, and it's worth a try, but it's not likely to work.

OSU tried the same thing a few months ago, working through Chancellor Lieuellen's office, and they were turned down. The Emergency Board is not inclined to give any extra money to higher education this fiscal year, no matter how badly it's needed.

But however unavoidable the Physical Plant layoffs are, all the explanations and rationalizations won't get those ten people back on the job. We must work for appropriations from the 1977 Legislature that allow for rising costs so that people aren't laid off at the end of the biennium. We must make an effort to cut back on material costs before considering laying off employees.

The Physical Plant layoffs, though no one's fault in particular, have revealed weaknesses in the appropriations and budgetary system for higher education. It would be a consolation to the ten people who face unemployment if we learned from their misfortune.

Reputation earned

Your sarcastic editorial "Marines show courage" did not go unnoticed in some parts of the University. I would like to point out that the Marine Corps is not on campus to enlist anyone, but rather to provide answers and information concerning employment in the Corps. True, there may not have been a line in front of the Marine Corps desk in the EMU, but then there aren't many people standing in line for employment other than in the state employment office. However, if your reporter would have queried the recruiters as to how many people at the U of O are seeking positions in the Marine Corps, he or she might have been surprised to find that there are a number of students involved in the Platoon Leaders Class and Officer Candidates Class.

Not all of us who grew up during the Vietnam War have an instinctive distrust of the military. Those who do have no reason to single out the Marine Corps over any other service, in fact less. Apparently this distrust is not as rife as your editorial suggests because the Marine Corps as well as other services continue to fill both their officer and enlisted ranks. In addition, I find it improbable that the Marine Corps is on campus to prove how tough they are to the students of this university. Their reputation has already been earned at places like Khe Sanh and Iwo Jima.

Finally, in regard to the confrontation between the Marine Corps and the Revolutionary Student Brigade in the EMU on Nov. 22 and 23, it was at best, entertaining. I don't think the Emerald should have exaggerated the importance or effects of the RSB's inane rhetoric and scurrilous attacks on the Marine Corps recruiters. It was my impression as well as others present during the confrontation, that the RSB once again made fools of themselves and preserved their image as buffoons.

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Symbol destroyed

Witnessing the demolition of the last significant symbol of Eugene's past is a clear indication of our continued wasteful progress into the future. What's most difficult to understand is that it's taking place in a city renowned for an attractive environment and conscience-minded people. Though we have witnessed more than our share of destruction in the past decade we still remain apathetically numb to saving our cultural heritage.

The question of whether or not the Armory was worth saving is ridiculous when you think of the amount of energy, money, material, and time it would take to build its replacement. Passing the building off as ugly was not sensible thinking when common sense can tell you that it could have been rehabilitated for reuse.

Having worked hard with the committee who attempted to save the Armory, I reflect now that the odds against us were truly great. The Armory's death cannot be blamed on the commissioners' mistreatment of Lane citizens, a not-so-confident city council, a timid governor, belated Historical Review Board action, a critical broken promise by Jerry Rust, negligent money-minded Unthank, Seder, Poticha Architecture firm, an uncooperative leading newspaper, or an inexperienced citizens group. The fault is

rooted deep within our level of understanding. Because of the speedy way in which we live we never stop to care about the man-made environment that shapes us and our children. The new, slick, inhuman scale of our future environment lacks the diversity that makes life more interesting and rich.

I can only hope that from the Armory's departure there will come some good. When the parking lot takes its place, maybe then people will look around and realize what little architectural heritage we have left. Maybe then people will push for the establishment of a desperately needed Lane County Historical Review Board.

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Crimes committed

I would like to reply to the letter of Kevin O'Hara entitled "Not Criminals" (ODE, Wed. Dec. 1). O'Hara states that Tom Bornson and Lonnie Davis were given jail sentences. "For what?" is the question he asks the reader. He claims for refusing to starve. Let us, however, retrace history.

In Dec., 1975, the men came to Oregon from Texas. After living here three weeks, and finding no employment, they applied for food stamps and were denied them because they had no permanent address in Oregon. Having received welfare before, Bornson was aware of these procedures and requirements of the program.

Next, Bornson grabbed a Gresham woman and robbed her. Then, he and Davis took over a food stamp office, holding three employees hostage. He was holding them for financial assistance, medical attention for his baby, and press coverage.

Bornson obviously got the press coverage. As for financial aid, Bornson's family was granted emergency aid upon arriving in Oregon and had a \$304 check waiting in January, which was never picked up. Concerning medical attention, there are free clinics that operate to assist the poor.

O'Hara adds to his "For what?": "Tom Bornson and Lonnie Davis are not criminals...." Let me get this straight. You'd have me believe that kidnapping and robbery are not crimes? If indeed Bornson and Davis are not criminals, then neither are the Harris', nor was John Dillinger.

Next, O'Hara says: "While Tom and Lonnie sit in jail, the courts allow ... Patty Hearst and the Watergate criminals ... to be set free on bail. They ... (make) \$\$\$ appearing on Johnny Carson's show and writing articles and books" As to appearing on talk shows, while in jail, it is impossible to appear in Hollywood. In addition, anyone can write an article, or a book, if he can find someone to buy it.

As for bail, the reason given by three judges is: If Bornson were granted bail and not held responsible for his actions, others frustrated with the welfare system, or other agencies, might commit similar crimes. This is the reason they are being held, not because they refused "starvation."

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