

In support of civil disobedience

After a peaceful and calm occupation of the Trojan nuclear power plant Friday in Rainier, Oregon, 123 demonstrators were arrested and escorted to jail. It was the second such demonstration at the Trojan plant in recent months. The previous occupation, which occurred in August, landed 82 people in jail.

Not surprisingly, the occupiers were arrested before any thought of closing the Trojan plant entered the minds of the Portland General Electric officials. In spite of the lack of success in forcing the Trojan plant to close, the demonstrators and the TDA will probably keep plugging to stop nuclear power. And so they should.

The issue of nuclear power is one of the most important for Oregon. Energy in the northwest will become scarce in the near future. For years, hydroelectric energy has provided the region with the cheapest power available, but now the demand is increasing to the point where other power sources are needed. The question is what kind of power sources.

In years past, nuclear power was viewed as a panacea for energy shortages. Technology, it was thought by many, would allow for the development of nuclear power. But today, problems with nuclear power generation are overwhelming. Nuclear waste, much of which will be around on the face of the earth for hundreds of thousands of years, cannot be safely stored. Those who support nuclear power promise that technology will find an answer to the storage problem, a promise which sounds vaguely reminiscent of the "light at the end of the tunnel."

At the same time, other power sources, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy, are too easily set aside as impractical or downright impossible. But at the same time, those who support nuclear power discount the possibility that technology may soon make alternative energy sources more competitive and more practical. With the very expensive power generated from nuclear reactors, alternatives may also become more competitive. They are by far the most environmentally sensible way to meet the region's energy needs and yet the development of alternatives has not been adequately funded or explored.

Another argument against nuclear power which must be taken into account is the fact that nuclear fuels may be stolen and used for terrorist activities. With the reports earlier this year of missing nuclear fuels and the rise of worldwide terrorism, this is more than a scare tactic; it is a very real possibility.

In short, the energy producers have put all of their eggs in one basket and it's a basket with plenty of loose straws. Solar and other alternative sources of energy may also be less than panaceas, but with good coordination between all sources of energy coupled with stringent conservation measures, the need for nuclear power may be eliminated.

In calling for the closing of nuclear plants, the TDA is calling for the kinds of energy sources which will make energy available to the public at the lowest possible cost and the least environmental damage. The TDA's civil disobedience serves to bring the issue to the public's attention. That and the TDA's goal of eliminating nuclear power are goals which with we agree completely.

On the Mid East: A rebuttal

Submitted by
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Recently, the Emerald has been publishing various articles relating to the Middle East. The Arab-Israeli issue is indeed a complex one. I have read many proponents on the Arab side of this issue. There are, however, two sides to the substantive issue of peace in that volatile region of the world.

The Jewish struggle for a homeland is much the same as many other worldwide nationalistic movements. Armenians, Kurds, Lithuanians, black Rhodesians, the struggle in Eritrea and even the Palestinian movement can be considered as a struggle by a people, or nation, to gain political and cultural autonomy.

Zionism is the Jewish nationalist movement — far from racism. That is exactly what it is: nothing more, nothing less. To equate this movement with racism is one of the grosser distortions of political reality. To call Moshe Dayan no better than the Nazis and inferring him to be a war-mongering genocidal maniac (as one recent student opinion author did) is such an unsophisticated opinion as to render it not worth rebutting.

The rationale for calling Zionism racism is that Israelis are prejudiced against Palestinians. Proponents managed to pass this through United Nations under the united canopy of third world nations. It is further inferred that because of this "racism" Israel will not allow the Palestinians to return to their homeland, or any basic human right. Israelis are also occupying Palestinian lands on the West Bank. These citizens are forced to live under a military government administration. So the argument goes.

To call Zionists racist would be tantamount to calling Armenians racist because they hate the Turks and Russians, Kurds racist because they hate the Shah and the Iranian establishment, Lithuanians racist because they hate the Soviets, etc. In the same way, Zionism is struggling against Palestinian nationalism; it is also struggling against Arab monarchies and autocratic dictatorships. It is only Jewish militancy in this matter which has enabled Israel to survive.

Only through a militant political view and a strong, highly motivated military has Israel been able to survive in such an inhospitable atmosphere. Without this strength, Israel would be obliterated. The price, unforgivably, has been the Palestinians. Because of this, they perceive each other as blood enemies. However, it must be remembered that to Jews, the establishment of a homeland was necessary to their survival as a people after 2000 years of

persecution, especially after World War II. No matter how cliché that may sound, it was the reason. To the Jews this is survival; to the world, imperialism.

Because of the necessity of maintaining a strong deterrent, Israel struck in Lebanon last week. Israel did not initiate guerilla terrorist actions, which has been the most unfortunate escalation of hostilities in the last ten years. Many Israeli citizens have been massacred in these raids over the years. Such Israeli raids, as occurred last week, can be seen as deterrents, not the eye-for-an-eye revenge syndrome as many have seen them. Regrettably, it has caused civilian casualties in southern Lebanon.

The Palestinians can be seen as struggling for political power with Israel. Where do the Arab nation states come into the picture? My claim is that instead of these nations taking in the refugees (as America has done with Vietnamese, Cuban, WW II displaced persons) they have opportunistically used the Palestinian people. I see no assimilation of the Palestinians to the other Arab countries. Instead, they are herded into camps. What's the reason for this? After all, the Palestinians only want a home. As the Arabic countries provide lip service to the fact that Israel denies the Palestinians a homeland, they at the same time are doing precisely the same thing. The Arabic monarchies and autocracies use the Palestinians as a political wedge to gain concessions from Israel.

Now we come to the issue of the Palestinian state. Jews throughout the world view such a state with anathema. The Jewish state, at its thinnest point, can be crossed by car in about twenty minutes. This portion is adjacent to the so called West Bank. To place a Palestinian state there would be analogous to placing Soviet forces on each coast and letting them push to within twenty minutes of each other somewhere in the midwest. Clearly, then, for Israel, the potential security risk must be avoided.

President Anwar Sadat, in an extremely courageous effort, went to Jerusalem. This event is important because of de facto recognition afforded to Israel by Sadat. This is a major concession and I believe the Israeli government, headed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, will reciprocate. But this does not solve the problem of the Palestinians who are located in Lebanon, Syria and parts of Jordan. For this reason Sadat is under heavy pressure by those states not to negotiate a separate peace. One fact remains. For the Palestinian problem to be solved the way the Arab states would like is an impossibility for Israel. Alternate solutions must be found for a peace to be achieved. Israel will not simply go away. Nor will its basic attitudes change unless significant concessions are made in good faith by both sides.

Letters

Letter neglected

The Emerald has stated its policy of printing letters to the editor "first come first serve." On October 21 a letter regarding the Margaret Simeral issue was turned in. On October 23rd an ar-

ticle was printed that had obviously been submitted on October 22nd and the Margaret Simeral letter was still not printed. After the extremely sexist cartoon of October 22nd, apparently approved of by the editorial staff, one begins to wonder why letters on Margaret Simeral showing a broad base of support are being neglected. Perhaps the editorial staff still

feels it is O.K. to ridicule women and to minimize the importance of women and women's issues.

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Graduate, CEPN

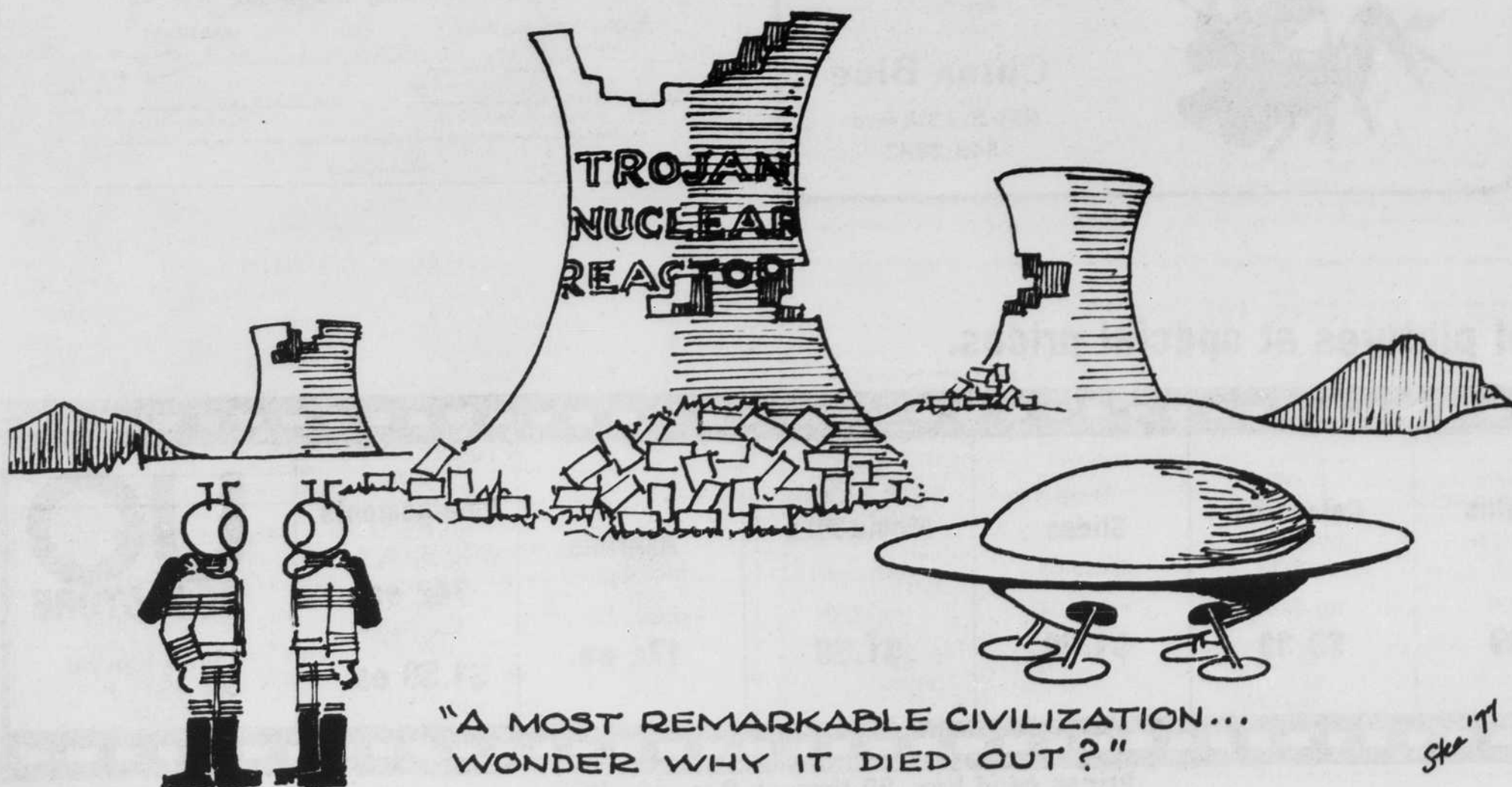
Valuable resource

Being the only woman in the Economics Department, Margaret Simeral provides a role model and support base for women students. She teaches "Women in Economics," which draws students from a variety of disciplines and acquaints them with economics as well as women's issues. Simeral is also a valuable member of the Women's Studies Council.

Alternative views on economics need to be represented on the faculty. Since Simeral is the only Marxist-Feminist in the department, her approach should be considered an asset.

As a local chapter of National Organization for Women, we appreciate the community service and participation of professors such as Simeral. If publishing is over-emphasized to the exclusion of community participation, many organizations and community committees would lose some of their best resources. We hope the Economics department will change its decision.

Mary Simon and
Jenny Rosa of the
Eugene Chapter, National
Organization for Women
Tuesday, November 29, 1977



"A MOST REMARKABLE CIVILIZATION...
WONDER WHY IT DIED OUT?"