

Transport perils demand N-waste control

Readers may remember the grim tanker-truck accident earlier this summer that killed a driver, closed northbound traffic on I-5 for nearly a day and contaminated an adjacent waterway with toxic chemicals.

Imagine how much more serious that tragic occurrence would have been if, instead of chemicals, the tanker-truck had contained radioactive, nuclear wastes. Yet, that latter horror remains an increasing possibility with at least four trucks a day passing through Lane County en route to Hanford, Wash., with loads of nuclear waste.

Next Wednesday, the Lane County Board of Commissioners will consider a proposal that would impose controls on such shipments and thereby de-

crease the danger of a nuclear catastrophe.

The desirability of a county ordinance regulating this hazardous traffic will increase if Hanford becomes a major nuclear-waste repository, as appears likely. In that case, most of the waste from power plants and other nuclear facilities in California and the Southwest would be routed along I-5.

New York City and a growing number of East Coast jurisdictions have already passed regulatory legislation similar to that before the county commissioners.

The proposed ordinance would require permits for all shipments of radioactive materials (except those used for medical or research purposes) by truck or rail through Lane

County. These would be granted by the county health officer only for reasons of national security or emergency.

Agencies granted such a permit would be required to post a bond to cover costs of cleanup, decontaminations and immediate and residual health costs arising from radiation exposure in the case of an accident.

New York City and a growing number of East Coast jurisdictions have already passed similar legislation.

Lane County needs the ordinance because of the continued regional proliferation of nuclear facilities lacking suitable disposal sites for material that remains dangerously radioactive for thousands of years. In fact, a suitable

disposal technology has yet to be demonstrated in practical terms by construction of adequate facilities at a permanent dump.

Nuclear power has failed to live up to its early promise. Lane County residents should demand protection from the ill-advised operations of those groups whose financial stake in nuclear power leads them to continue to impose its dangers on others.

The Emerald urges its readers to let Commissioners Bob Wood, Jerry Rust and Archie Weinstein know of your support for this proposed ordinance.

Letters may be addressed to any or all commissioners at the Public Service Building, 125 E. 8th Ave., Eugene, 97401. (Students contacting Weinstein might best avoid reference to their University status).

'Clothes-minded' officials stalling

And while you're writing to the Lane County commissioners, include a word about designating sites in the county where nude bathing would be permitted.

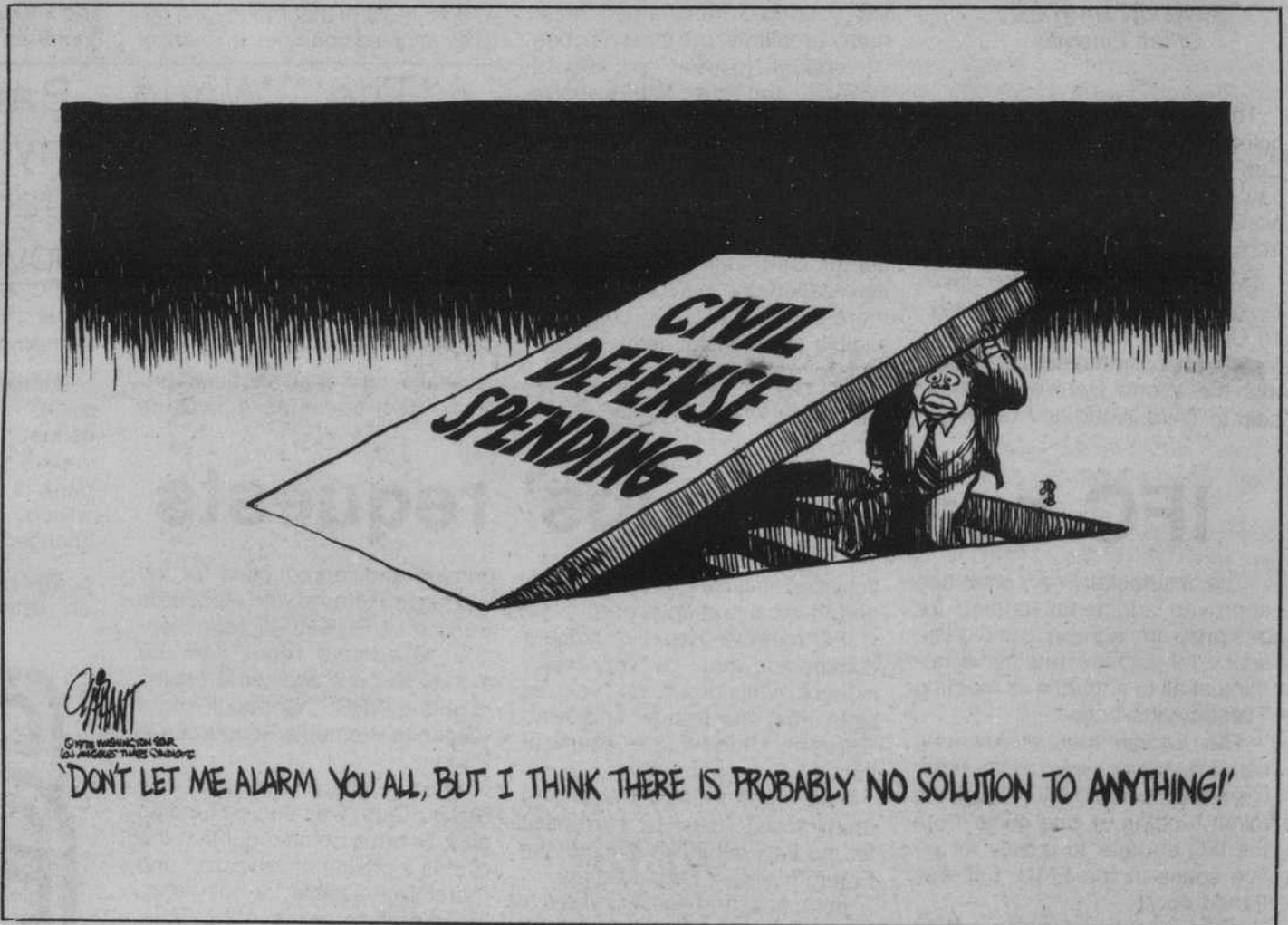
Eugene's recent freezing weather makes such an admonition seem rather untimely. But the upcoming trial of 11 persons — including some University students — charged with violating the county's nudity ordinance reminded us that the commissioners have failed to complete action on these "au naturel" sites, permitted by the ordinance.

That would be an appropriate first step toward improving conditions for the numerous swimmers and sun-bathers who find the human body more beautiful than embarrassing. The second step — albeit an unlikely one — would be repeal of the repressively puritanical ordinance.

Actually, the whole affair of skin, sin and sun has taken on the qualities of comic opera, complete with a "heavy": County Counsel Larry Shaw, who has said he will recommend jail sentences for defendants having the temerity to request a jury trial. Shaw's efforts to scare defendants out of exercising a legal right (for those pleading guilty, Shaw would recommend only a fine) reflects, unfortunately, a heavy-handedness all too common among critics of nontraditional lifestyles.

So, before the goose pimples turn back into head-to-toe tans, the commissioners should remove the opportunity for any more of these absurd confrontations by setting aside some discreet swimming preserves that suit the suitless.

theirs



YOURS

Story needs clarity

I was unhappy with the recent article in the November 10th issue of the Oregon Daily Emerald about the Community Corrections Volunteer Program. I feel the article did not adequately represent the program as I described it to the reporter. The following information is provided in hopes of clarifying certain points about the program.

The term "convicts" inaccurately depicts the type of person who will receive volunteer services in our program. The majority of our clients will not be persons who have actually been in prison, but rather will be persons on probation. A term we prefer to use for our corrections clients is "offenders."

I feel the article painted the of-

fender as a person to be pitied. The offenders who will be participating in our program may have special needs that we will try to address, but we do not regard them as pathetic characters. It should be emphasized that offenders are members of our community with problems not unlike our own.

I would also like to mention that the program will focus on broader services than just job development, support counseling, tutoring and job skills training. The kinds of services provided will vary depending on the individual needs of the clients.

One final word. When the article mentions "the volunteer is a valuable asset to the program" that infers that the volunteer is merely an appendage to the program. The volunteer is the

program and the volunteer is a "valuable asset" to community corrections.

It is important to me to have the Community Corrections Volunteer Program represented accurately, which is why I am taking the time to write this.

Carolyn Lustbader
Program Manager
Community Corrections Volunteer Program

No 'disagreements'

Since Emerald reporter Kogut chose to focus his article (ODE Nov. 14) "Black faculty verifies laxity in recruitment" on my comments, I feel compelled to respond.

I am disappointed in some of

the inaccuracies, distorted facts, and out-of-context comments which were embarrassing.

Above all, I vigorously resent the manner in which my colleagues (Rousseve and Carter) and I were pitted against each other. Obviously contrived, this method of reporting was an overt attempt to show Black professors arguing philosophical differences. Even if we did have sharp disagreements on the subject, we would never air them in the press, especially in the Emerald, in this manner.

As for future interviews: No, Non, I-ye, Do-da, Ne, Nein, Nix, Nyet, Uh-uh, Negative, and never will be too soon!

Edwin Coleman, II
associate professor, English

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinion columns must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted.