

# Students shouldn't help buy pavilion

University students and their ASUO leadership should view skeptically any efforts to elicit student contributions for a new basketball pavilion.

While academic areas and employee groups, such as the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, go begging for funds, private interests led by Eugene lumberman Peter Murphy are pressing for construction of a new sports center. Considering the source of support for the facility, we should not be too surprised that wood products might be urged as the basic construction materials if such a facility is built.

University Pres. Boyd, who first hesitated to encourage Murphy's crusade, has since expressed favorable interest in a basketball arena, although he's hedged his bet by admitting it's not his highest priority.

Boyd cites an architecture school addition and more library books as other important needs of the University. We could inject a long list of other critical and more useful items that could well be aided by private funds.

But few of them have the glamor and popular appeal of a new home for

major sports in PAC-10 competition.

The last time students lent a hand in financing a University sports facility — Mac Court — they soon found themselves maneuvered out of effective participation in making policies and protecting student interests.

Sure, a new, privately funded pavilion looks like a windfall. But projections of costly staff salaries and annual maintenance costs would add up to a permanent financial liability that would have to be borne by tuition-paying students and taxpayers.

Those expenditures could retard progress on Title IX compliance (equal opportunity for women in school athletics) and could serve better in re-establishing recent cuts in academic programs. But the boosters of a sports pavilion probably have little desire to help out such mundane student interests.

So, if those private interests believe that their priorities should take precedence over those of students, then they would be well left on their own in paying for them.

# Atiyeh back trades with siting council move

Gov. Victor Atiyeh appears to be arguing both sides of the issue of political appointments in the case of establishing the state's nuclear-power leadership.

On the one hand he's trying to pry his nomination of Kelly Woods as head of the state Department of Energy out of a senate committee by charging partisan obstruction of an executive prerogative by the Democrat-controlled Legislature. The senators, of course, insist they are merely exercising their responsibility to review gubernatorial appointments.

On the other hand, despite a pre-election pledge to the contrary, Oregon's new governor decided Thursday not to reappoint two members of the state's Nuclear Facility Siting Council who disagree with his position on the Pebble Springs nuclear-power plants. In that case, Atiyeh appears to be hewing to a narrow interpretation of eligibility for membership with the important council as a cover for a rather obvious political move on his part.

Those council members, however, have spent considerable time and ef-

fort following the complicated and controversial arguments of both pro- and anti-nuclear advocates on the Pebble Springs construction proposed for eastern Oregon.

To drop these members from the council now will not only further delay a decision in an already prolonged controversy, but may add another element to the legal challenges that undoubtedly will follow whatever decision the council finally makes.

The governor would better serve the people of Oregon and the political

system in which he serves so critical a role by recognizing that diverse opinions and interests exist and deserve to be heard both in the public and governmental realms.

Using specious and self-serving arguments to stifle the expression of those interests and opinions must ultimately harm both his reputation and the long-run quality of decision-making in this state.

Good decisions arise from the competition of ideas, not from their suppression.

yours

## Objects to cartoon

In the spirit of objectivity, we believe that the "Oliphant" cartoon published in the Emerald Feb. 14 goes beyond the limits of acceptable journalism. We admit that we are as ignorant of the truth about Israel's alleged "systematic torture" policies as the rest of the world, but our objections stand nevertheless.

Condemnation of torture anywhere is necessary and appropriate. However, none of the present allegations of torture in Israel have been verified, and the implication of the cartoon is to the contrary. Writers with Oliphant's ability to influence public opinion should show more discretion.

Equating the Israeli state with the Nazi regime is, for obvious reasons, particularly objectionable. It appears to us to be a cheap attempt at historical sensationalism. This lack of sensitivity reflects the artist's refusal to recognize the true weight of his implications.

Nations with far worse proven records of human rights abuse are not subjected to such correlative reminders of their people's grief.

We object to Oliphant's idea, and to the Emerald's decision to print the resulting cartoon. Cooler, more objective analysis should replace it.

Eric Benjaminson  
sophomore, history  
Steven Sechrist  
sophomore, pre-journalism

## 'Lack of sensitivity'

As a journalistic institution The Emerald should assume partial responsibility for articles and illustrations run on your pages. I specifically refer to Feb. 14th's cartoon depicting an Israeli soldier as a Nazi because of alleged Israeli mistreatment of prisoners.

Let me here recount the fact concerning Israeli treatment of prisoners as documented by the International Red Cross.

During 1978 the IRC carried out 1287 visits to security



detainees under interrogation and met with them without the presence of witnesses. The IRC requested investigation into six percent of this number in the wake of allegations made by the detainees with regard to unacceptable treatment.

The results of every single such investigation were relayed to the IRC. As is known, the IRC is also permitted to send a doctor to examine such detainees lodging complaints. At the beginning of the year there was indeed a Swiss doctor, but the post was abolished by the IRC in view of the lack of activity.

Perhaps the Emerald editorial staff should delve a bit more into matters of such vital concern before thoughtlessly reprinting malicious material. Israel is the only completely open democracy in the Middle East today. To be portrayed as a Nazi state in light of past and present realities is disgusting and irresponsible.

In order to maintain any degree of credibility, the

Emerald editors must exercise more discretion concerning wire material.

Keith Berne  
junior, journalism  
Jewish Student Union

## letters policy

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.