

No more nukes

The serious attention given the Three Mile Island accident continues unabated. With its recent recommendation to close the eight other nuclear plants built by Babcock & Wilcox, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has decided to join the serious-minded.

It is both logical and necessary to close existing reactors *precisely* because they were built and designed by the builder and designer of the TMI plant. It has been found since the accident that eleven months before the chain of mishaps at TMI, the Tennessee Valley Authority (A utility comparable to the BPA) sent a document to B & W regarding a possible problem with all B & W-built reactors. This warning went unheeded. Even after an accident as serious as the one experienced at TMI, it took the NRC over three weeks to request the temporary shut-down of all B & W plants operating in this country.

Nuclear energy may have, as Michael Lacey comments in his letter of May 7th, "the potential to provide abundant energy," although nuclear power plants are known to last only 25 - 30 years and are rising in cost daily. What about the risks to human lives and to our planet earth? No one, and I repeat *no one*, knows the exact damage caused by radiation. Even if we did, it would be extremely difficult to measure it precisely. The fact remains that when leaks occur at nuclear plants and waste disposal sites, it is often not until at least a few hours and sometimes days later that the operators/inspectors become aware of these leaks. It is these "unknowns" which cause people to become concerned (I think "hysterical" is an exaggerated term for this.), and with good reason, we might add.

Most of us were not given a choice in whether or not we wanted these uneconomical nuclear power plants which are also subjected at times to human error — as all things man-made and operated are.

However, now that they are built and operating, and many people even find themselves dependent on them for their electricity, we *must* question our increasing dependence on such potentially dangerous energy. Do we, as responsible citizens to our children, grandchildren, and to our earth, have the right to take the risks involved in perpetuating our over-abundant life style through the use of nuclear power?

Our answer is "No Nukes," or at least "No More Nukes!"

Martha Hoaglund, Japanese Studies
Janet A. Hoaglund

Against the law

On reading your article in the May 2nd issue of the Emerald on the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade's "May Day Rally" which featured the burning of an American flag, several questions came to mind:

As Campus Security, Eugene Police, and Erb Memorial Union officials were reportedly present, why weren't the guilty RYB members immediately placed under arrest? After all, it is against the law to mutilate or destroy our flag.

And again, after their suspension as a "recognized University group" for illegal posting of propaganda materials, as admitted by RYB spokesman Hillary Postman, I wonder why their activities were even allowed to begin in the EMU in the first place?

Obviously, this shameful desecration of our flag did not involve freedom of speech nor the abridgement of any other guaranteed rights, as RYB members so rabidly contend. Individually and collectively they despise the laws which you and I, as citizens, are bound to uphold.

Why is it, then, that our hired regulatory officials are apparently unable, unwilling, or afraid to arrest members of such noisy, irresponsible groups when they openly violate the law? Are they, in common with former President Richard M. Nixon, above that law?

Isn't it time these silly, though potentially dangerous antics were brought to a halt? The totally adverse publicity they engender tends to degrade the University and devalue its degrees. This, in turn, results in ever more reluctant support by justifiably disgruntled and disgusted taxpayers.

Jeanette Simpson
Senior, Geology

The true mission

This is in response to your April 26 article on the Eugene Mission. As a past inhabitant of the Mission there were certain inaccuracies and omissions which need to be clarified.

First as to Director Unger's statement

that "everything is freely given" it was overlooked that in order to get a dinner one must undergo an hour of fervent evangelism by local religious groups seeking to save your soul.

It is true that there are two TV rooms. However they are in staff quarters and not usable by those of us who stay at the Mission.

As to the statement it is the best mission on the West Coast all I can say is that it sounds like you've been spending too much time with the director and not enough time talking to the people who stay there. Personally I like the one up at Seattle better. There you get meat more than once a week.

Dave Isenberg
205½ E. 3rd St.

Opinions welcome

I am writing about the front page article in today's Emerald (May 10) with the headline "Olum: student input not

needed on hiring."

The article itself seemed to me quite reasonable and accurate, but the headline is surely misleading. I tried to make clear in my talk with your reporter that we welcome the judgments and opinions of students, and they are taken seriously, but that we do not believe students should have decision making power with respect to appointments, promotions, etc. The "input" from students, to which you refer, can probably be made most usefully to the departmental faculty, but it would also be welcomed by the dean or the provost.

The issue behind all of this, of course, is that of giving students, in large numbers, significant formal voting participation at the department level. I do not believe that such a policy would be in the best interests of the University, and I am opposed to it.

Paul Olum
Provost

theirs



Senior quack won't duck issue

As one of the original Senior Quacks, I would like to present the Quack's position on several of the statements aimed at our attempt to help future graduating classes have input into the selection of their commencement speaker and to replace Governor Atiyeh as ours.

President Boyd stated that "the majority of the students don't agree with the Quack's petition." Unless the president has direct communication with all the graduating seniors, I don't see how he can make such a statement. The reason we chose a petition drive was to define how broad our support was for replacing the Governor. The President went on to make the statement that the overuse of petitions has "reduced their usefulness". Petitions are one of the few accurate methods for a group of people to voice their collective support for a change in the system. It was a petition drive that placed on last fall's ballot a tax measure, a ban on charging utility ratepayers for construction work in progress and the denturist measure.

The governor's office claims that the petition drive is a "personal trip" for the those persons involved. If so, why have over 200 names been collected so far and 30 people offered to pass petitions in their departments? As someone who has spent time sitting at a table collecting signatures, for every person who

signs we get three or four more people who come by and regret that they aren't graduating.

I would hope students care about more important things in life other than course evaluations and won't base their support for someone solely on that basis. Nuclear power can kill you; so can herbicides. The loss of our last remaining Wilderness is something we should all be fighting against. Atiyeh supports nukes, herbicides and no wilderness. I disagree with President Boyd; Atiyeh is far from the students' friend. Atiyeh only garnished a mere 25 percent of the vote from the University and surrounding precincts.

Regardless of how the student members are chosen, the Assemblies and Lectures committee does not represent the graduating class. Next time a commencement speaker is chosen, put some ads in the Emerald requesting suggestions from the graduating class. Send a notice through the ASUO programs and put up flyers. If we would have had some input into this whole process, this petition drive might not have been necessary.

As for Boyd's comment about not going to commencement... tell that to my parents who are flying 3,000 miles to attend the graduation ceremony.

I hope President Boyd will lay back and wait this out and quit making biting

comments aimed at the Senior Quacks. Calling us "obnoxious" on local television is not becoming of a University President. His actions remind me of the President of Faber College. The more the president says how wrong we are, the more determined we are to prove him wrong. The petition will indicate our support.

Howard Farling
senior, theater

letters policy

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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.