



greg wasson a quorum of one

When opponents of nuclear power scaled the fences at Trojan, apologists for the established order universally condemned the confrontational politics. The argument was that change should come through voting, not trespassing.

Snatching up the gauntlet, those dedicated to rational energy decisions delivered a quick one-two.

In 1978, voters approved a measure barring utilities from charging for plants until they are actually producing power. The change made it more difficult to finance nuclear construction.

Two years later, the electorate delivered the second punch by approving an atomic moratorium.

Now, it looks like the impact of those victories has been diminished, if not completely erased. The Northwest regional power bill allows Oregon consumers to be charged for construction costs of new facilities in other states, even if those plants

will be powered by the atom.

So, Oregonians will likely finance nuclear construction despite two statewide votes saying no. Gov. Vic Atiyeh doesn't see this as violating the spirit, much less the letter, of Oregon law.

"The fact that someone else is going to have a nuclear plant and send that power to the line, I don't see as muting Oregon's intentions."

If you sincerely believe that governor, you haven't paid attention. "Oregon's intentions" are that our money not be used to bail out the utilities and pour additional funds down the nuclear rat-hole. The fact that new plants will be located elsewhere is of little consequence if our money is used to finance the construction.

According to Assistant Public Utility Commissioner Roy Hemmingway, this is how it will happen.

"The regional bill allows the BPA to purchase power and put all kinds of costs into the sale price

for the rest of the region."

So, when Oregon utilities buy power from the feds, ratepayers will be picking up the costs that the state law bars.

Heads they win; tails they win.

But, don't give up, advises Sen. John Powell, D-Halsey.

"From this point forward, Oregonians are going to have to work on the national level to keep as much control over our own energy destiny as possible," says Powell. "But, obviously, we lost some of that control with the passage of the measure.

"Still, questions have to be answered. What are the total costs? Who's going to pay them? How should the money be raised? It's just a new ball-game on a different field."

One wonders if this one, too, has goal lines that keep moving out of reach.

YOURS

Hazing reply

I would like to refer to the recent accident and investigation of hazing involving the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. First of all, I accept the different opinions regarding fraternities and sororities on this liberal campus; the Greek system does not appeal to everyone, and I respect those that choose to avoid the Greek life, and I do not try to subject them to any of the aspects of fraternal living.

However, what I find hard to understand is how some people can attack a group of individuals, and seek pleasure in seeing that group suffer the consequences of an accident. As a live-out member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, I have a deep concern not only for the future of my house, but more so for the two injured students. I also accept the sanctions placed upon us, although what happened in reality was a good time for the pledges that turned sour — an accident that should not have happened, but could have happened to anyone else, at any place. In regards to the unsigned letter to the editor in Friday's Emerald, I cannot understand how someone in their right mind could attempt to place any kind of value upon another's life. And in reference to the last line of the letter that implies that members place no worth in

the life of a pledge in comparison to the life of the fraternity system, if my thinking was as ignorant as that author's, I would also be too ashamed to sign my name and be associated with such bigoted beliefs.

**William Christ
Junior, political science**

Damaging debt

The focus on federal budget "cuts" obscures the overriding problem in the proposed new federal budget.

The federal government is entering a decade of fiscal decadence. President Reagan's budget is out of balance, in the red by \$45 billion dollars.

This will add to a national debt of \$935.1 billion, making it nearly a trillion dollars.

The interest paid this year alone, for each man, woman and child in Oregon and the rest of the nation will be \$626.18 if borrowing rates paid by the federal government remain around 15 percent.

Even assuming the interest rates on federal borrowing drop to an average of 8 percent over the ten years, the amount of interest alone, with nothing added to the federal debt at all, will be \$5,220 for each man, woman and child for the ten years.

To gauge the amount of \$45 billion,

just think of a stack of \$1,000 bills just over two miles high. That is the amount by which the proposed federal one-year budget is in a deficit condition.

This deficit is more important and damaging to the people of Oregon than the specific details of programs cut.

**Edward Fadeley
Senate Chairman,
Ways and Means Committee**

Top-notch rally

In reply to John Sowell's letter of March 11 concerning the University rally, I would like to point out a few things. First of all, our rally has been ranked in the top 20 schools nationally, and has won numerous awards at competition this year. No other Pac-10 school ranks higher. They are obviously an asset to our school.

If Mr. Sowell had taken the time to notice, college rallies very rarely lead cheers during games. The game of college basketball is far too fast-paced for "We've got spirit, yes we do . . ." Please, Mr. Sowell, let us leave that in high school.

As for your suggestion to cut their budget, I commend you for your feel for administration. The rally receives only enough funds to pay for their uniforms.

They raise all their own travel expenses, and help in recruiting along with their long hours of practice.

Our rally does lead the "Go Ducks" yell. They do *not* lead chants of "Bullshit," wave tortillas at referees, or wear silly clothes and blow duck calls. After sitting behind you and your front-row pals for three years, I ask you to let the rally squad dance, the students cheer, and the lunatic fringe like yourself kindly quit embarrassing the rest of us.

**Jim Moore
Junior, journalism**

Bike story

We would like to thank Harry Esteve for the article, "A Pedaler's Paradise," which appeared in the Feb. 27 issue of the Emerald. It is extremely important that students become aware of the bicycle-theft problem on campus and how to deter thefts.

The article was in error, however, regarding University bicycle registration. Mr. Esteve stated, "When a bicycle is registered, its serial number is fed into a nationwide computer system." The serial number is not entered into the nationwide computer system until the bicycle is reported stolen. Since the serial number is required when registering a bicycle with the University, a record of the number will always be on file at OPS in the event that the bike is ever stolen and the number needed. Driver's license numbers can also be stamped onto the bicycle, enabling the property to be immediately traced to the owner. This can be done at the West University Neighborhood, 1458 Ferry, or at the Office of Public Safety, on campus, where bicycles can also be registered.

**Pam Ford
West University Neighborhood
and two co-signers**

