

To no surprise PNRC moves on

The announcement the National Wildlife Federation will relocate the Pacific Northwest Resource Center came so anticlimactically it passed with hardly more than a muttered protest.

The on-campus PNRC, NWF representatives say, will be consolidated with a regional office in Portland.

But one question remains unanswered — when will this relocation take place? In our view, the sooner is not the better.

The PNRC contract with the University is scheduled to expire in December. This December date has been touted as the most convenient for PNRC to pack its bags and move off-campus. That convenience seems to be more in the eyes of the University administration.

A December move for PNRC presents a number of difficulties for the law school and law students — not the least of which is that an important area of study for University law students has been pulled from under their feet.

The University's PNRC was one of only four such environment-oriented higher education law programs in the country. Many University law students expressly came here to participate in the PNRC's Environmental Law Clinic. The loss of the PNRC means a number of those law students will be leaving the University.

The removal of PNRC should be postponed until the close of this academic year. There are law students already signed up for PNRC work next semester. This is a rather late date to force those students to scramble their schedules to fill the gaps.

NWF has offered to negotiate funding with the University to keep PNRC functioning temporarily on-campus. They have been more than conciliatory requesting the University help with PNRC administration costs. The University faculty have added their assent to retaining PNRC on-campus, at least through the academic year. Nearly all the parties concerned with PNRC are in agreement that a December termination is undesirable.

However, the University administration appears less than enthusiastic about having PNRC on-campus a minute more than contracted.

Pres. Paul Olum has been quoted saying if NWF did contribute to PNRC "with no strings attached," then the University administration would "consider" letting them stay on for a time. This is a classic "non-committal" statement — which seems to be the hallmark of the present University administration.

Olum knows NWF cannot fund PNRC in total. The "strings" NWF have in mind are for the University to hire a full-time administrator while they financially back the program. This is a reasonable exchange for funding until the end of the academic year.

If "strings" of this nature are not to Olum's liking, then he'll have to renounce nearly all the grants and endowments given by individuals and groups to this University. There are more than a few money gifts to the University with "strings." It's naive to believe "strings" don't exist in almost every money gift.

Although, for NWF to request any complimentary funding from the University only hastens the demise of the PNRC on-campus. The University's reflex-action is to turn their pockets inside-out.

We don't see the University as destitute as it would have NWF and PNRC-backers believe. There are funds to cooperate with NWF's financial backing of PNRC through to June.

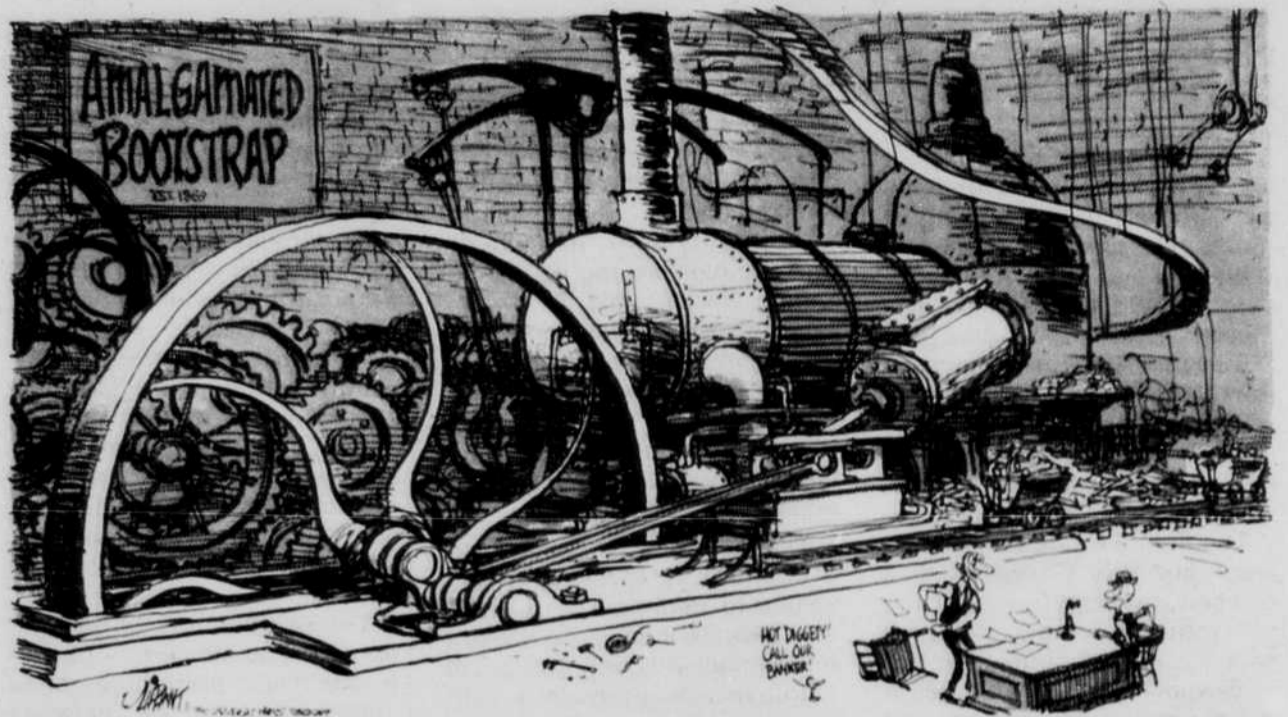
So many powers-that-be must be pleased to hear PNRC has been pushed off-campus. Regardless, the University owes it to the law students presently in the PNRC program, and signed up for next semester, to gradually phase-out the center by June.

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on issues, ideas and topics of interest to the University community.

The letters **must** be limited to 250 words, signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to The Emerald offices, EMU 300.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content. Publication is dependent upon the space available.



'BY NAB, I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL GET SOME LONG-TERM CREDIT, WE'LL UPGRADE THE WHOLE PLANT, WE'LL IMPROVE OUR PRODUCTION SCHEDULES, WE'LL HIRE MORE WORKERS, THEY'LL BUY MORE, WE'LL HAVE THE COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN!'

sally hodgkinson

editor's note

Most days the rain and wind provide a background hum to the bustle of life: nature's muzak.

Newcomers, visitors and those who never feel comfortable with the rain curse the wet, scuttling about under the protection of multi-colored umbrellas that clash with the outdoor carpet of red, yellow and orange leaves. They make snide jokes, send Oregon Ungreeting Cards back home, and often leave for a sunnier, easier climate.

Others listen to the duet of wind and rain, shaking off the wet drops with the unconscious ease of a hound. To them, the rain is a familiar friend tapping a lullaby on the roof and windows.

Some just watch the rain and wind: teasing fallen leaves into dancing on the soggy green ground; disrupting neat piles of carefully-raked colors; spinning and twisting leaves still stuck on trees.

But most days the rain and wind are easy to ignore. Weather is used for small talk and pushed onto Page 2 of the paper with vital statistics and fire runs.

Then one night the wind and rain roar into the forefront of our lives — too loud to be ignored. In a rage, the wind strips leaves off trees, knocking down branches and trees at 90 miles-an-hour. The rain slashes through the night, pounding an angry cantata against roofs and windows.

Electrical lines are flung to the ground like wet spaghetti. People are left without TV, lights and power — helpless bystanders. For two days, nature — not man — dominates the news.

As quickly as it comes, the rage abates. Creation returns to a familiar pattern: the wind shoos leaves over downed branches, the rain settles back into a calm melody. Two men maneuver a spacecraft to a perfect landing in California — Oregonians clean up the clutter left by the nature.

For two days we are reminded: creation is not tame. Squeezed in the grasp of the storm, we remember how little we actually understand; how helpless, how dependent we are.

We soon forget.

letters

Free lunch

I knew that I had truly reached the promised land, the land of milk and honey, when Professor Altru announced his class grading policy. Since some students weren't as good as others, points would be taken from the good and given to the not-so-good, and that way everyone would pass the course. At first it was all right, but then I noticed some people were getting the same grade I was, without even taking the exams. It was at this point that I started to slack-off, and lo and behold, it didn't hurt my grade. But then a terrible thing happened. Professor Altru died, and we got a new professor. Now this new professor didn't see things the same as the old professor; he thought that each person should earn their own grade. When he announced the new policy, a large group stood up and called him evil, and said that some people would fail. I looked around and saw that all

of those that denounced him, were the same ones that would fail.

Nobody has the right to take the fruits of my labor and give it to someone else. The free lunch is over; let each person succeed or fail on their own merits, without government interference.

Terry Plaisted
Mill Street

Bike notes

To all of the bike riders out there who are upset over the problem of campus security cutting bike locks off of bicycles with no permits — please read on.

Every time I parked my bike (which had no permit) on campus, I was afraid I'd get out of class and find it "stolen" by campus security. I finally went and bought a permit and learned that there are a lot of misconceptions being spread on the subject. I was surprised to learn the following:

1) not one lock has actually

been cut due to the absence of a permit.

2) a bike without a permit will receive five written warnings, explaining that the lock will be cut if a permit is not acquired.

3) Bike locks may be cut if a bike is blocking a fire exit or a handicapped access.

4) the \$2 fee for the permit helps pay for bike racks and other services to bicyclists (i.e. cutting your lock for you if you've lost your key and need your bike).

Also, the serial number of your bicycle is recorded on the permit application. This is an excellent way to identify your bike — at least three stolen bicycles have been returned to their owners through this service.

Lastly, if you do see someone in green pants cutting a bike lock (as previous letter expressed fear of), grab them — the campus security officers don't even wear green pants!

Tamara Olcott
RPM Graduate student

Monday, November 16, 1981