

# Price supports surpluses create waste

Line up... the "Great American Cheese Giveaway" has come to Lane County, though it makes us wonder what other perishable food-stuffs the government has in huge surplus. What other dairy goods, besides cheese, are slowly rotting away by the ton in anonymous government warehouses because of the milk price support program?

The government's cheese embarrassment points out a couple of inadequacies of its handling of surplus farm goods and the milk price support program.

Milk price supports are intended to maintain a specific price level for dairy products to smooth the occasional fluctuations of prices. It wasn't too long ago that farmers were dumping their surplus dairy goods rather than flood the market and drive prices down. The milk price supports program has the government purchasing surplus dairy goods to maintain a set price standard for the market.

Isn't it true the government also purchases surplus grains and other agricultural products?

The cheese surplus points out the government's inability to handle one of its own programs. That enormous amount of cheese would've continued to mold away if a news story hadn't broke nationwide. The story revealed an incredible tonnage of cheese simply being warehoused by the government. The news story and resulting media attention embarrassed the government enough to divest itself of the surplus cheese, if only to save face.

Hence, the "Great American Cheese Giveaway" was born, benefitting the nation's poor and low-income families. Such an altruistic response is commendable. Yet, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that the cheese would have remained mouldering in a warehouse without the culpability of the government implied in the news story, and the "good" publicity that resulted from the announced giveaway.

Distribution has been sporadic and not successfully organized. Some cities have received and distributed their cheese allotment weeks ago.

Lane County only received its 67,200 pound allotment last week. Distribution will — perhaps — be managed this week.

County officials and workers have been disgruntled by the cheese giveaway. They echo the sentiments of people nationwide who criticized the government, saying the program was like Marie Antoinette meting out cake to the starving French peasants. And the program has not been all that free — considering the costs of transportation to the cities and the costs of temporary storage. When expenses are tabulated, the free cheese will cost Lane County nearly \$1,000.

Nonetheless, despite the ill-managed distribution and initial reluctance, the cheese

giveaway is an action by the government to be praised. Not only does the giveaway provide a measure of financial relief for poor and low-income families, "the truly needy" — it demonstrates the government's capacity to gather and return surpluses to the people.

Though, aspects of the cheese giveaway provoke the curiosity as to what other food surpluses the government has warehoused and siloed in other parts of the country? Perhaps another journalistic inquiry, such as that which goaded the government to give away the surplus cheese, will discover other food surpluses rotting away.



"I THOUGHT IT WAS QUITE A BRILLIANT SPEECH, WELL-PACED AND MOST MASTERFULLY DELIVERED, WITH A DELIGHTFUL MINGLING OF PATHOS AND PATRIOTISM. NOW I WISH HE'D SHUT UP AND BALE."

## letters

### Ad seduced

Regarding a letter printed in the Emerald Jan. 22...

Thank you, Mary Campbell, for exposing Campus Crusade's presentation "Subliminal Advertising: Are You Being Seduced by those Ads?" I also attended Gene Moniz's symposium and was dismayed to hear his opinions presented as facts. I wonder where Moniz learned that "50 percent of individuals in mental institutions and persons receiving psychiatric counseling resulted from the impact of mass media on their lives" anyway.

Furthermore, Campus Crusade used a selling tactic for their presentation that even advertisers don't use anymore: bait and switch. Campus Crusade "baited" their prospective audience by announcing only a presentation on advertising.

Those attending, however, got "switched" to an extra presentation, "Christianity in my life." My idea of Christianity does not include such deception and dishonesty.

In the future, Gene Moniz and Campus Crusade might consider changing the title of their presentation to "Opinions about advertising presented as facts, followed by Campus Crusade's recruiting campaign." At least, then, their advertising would be more truthful.

Marie Dodds  
telecommunications

### Filth is fun

In letters to the Emerald (Jan. 21) and to the Register-Guard (Jan. 23), David M. Wood, as a student of the University, stands up for his "right to buy, possess, and read" pornography. He is "outraged" at the legal system

and "furious" with an otherwise undefined "Christian community," because they threaten to cut off his local supply of prurient materials.

Unlike most who defend pornography and censor those who seek to restrict it, Wood is at least forthright; he simply wants unlimited access to smut through his friendly neighborhood dealer. None of this lofty American Civil Liberties Union — American Library Association nonsense about threats to "intellectual" freedom. For certain people filth is fun.

Ah, the elevating effects of a university education.

Guido Palandri

### Needs mention

My, how times have changed! Almost exactly two years ago, on Jan. 19, 1980, the Emerald headlined "Class proposal tar-

gets hit-and-miss advising." Last week's Emerald didn't even mention Professor Overley's motion on advising; after all, it merely dealt with the single most frequently stated reason for students dropping out of the university: lack of (sympathetic) contact with individual professors.

Perhaps in the future the Emerald could at least mention all motions on the University Assembly's monthly agenda.

Helmut R. Plant  
Associate Professor

### New Federalism

Federalize (n). To subject to the authority of a federal government; put under federal control.

Fascism (n). A philosophy or system of government that advocates or exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right,

typically through the merging of state and business leadership, together with an ideology of belligerent nationalism. (American Heritage Dictionary, 1980)

Ronnie Reagan's "New Federalism" pronounces that Neo Fascism is both a cruel joke and an affront to all persons believing in democracy.

We are supposed to believe that when the great bastion of the Mormons (Utah) is given the sole power to allocate monies to indigent women that said women will continue to be given the opportunity to choose for themselves whether or not to have an abortion in a safe, albeit expensive, hospital?

But wait... Ronnie is going to help the states by turning over federal excise tax dollars. Sure he is, and I'm a little speckled frog too.

Bradley Passenger  
Junior, psychology

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