

opinion

Nuclear power: more problems

This week marks the fourth anniversary of the accident at Three Mile Island. Since the near catastrophic melting of the inner core of TMI 2, as the plant is called, the utility responsible for the plant and the nuclear industry in general has worked to improve its image and remain indiscreet at the same time.

This hasn't worked in Oregon. The Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS), the nation's largest issuer of tax-exempt bonds, is dealing with the default on billions of dollars of bonds and law-suits. Two of the five plants have been stopped. One is mothballed and one lies unfinished. Only one of the five is operating.

Since TMI, the industry has worked hard to regulate itself and prove the "safety" of nuclear power. An Institute of Nuclear Power Operators set up after TMI investigates and evaluates all the plants, issuing papers on safety and establishing a network of case reports on "events" at nuclear power plants.

Perhaps the biggest reason nuclear power plants are not on their way out is the amount of energy they presently supply. Currently 12 percent of the nation's energy is nuclear and twice that amount is possible if the 65 plants now under construction were finished.

Three Mile Island was the beginning of a rethinking of national policy on nuclear power. However, the industry has worked and succeeded in countering this, despite the fact that the inherent problems in the nuclear industry have not been met: namely, waste disposal.

Federal deadlines to dispose of low-level waste sites by 1986 will not be met. No permanent dump sites, only temporary ones, like Hanover, have been established.

Human error is the major long-standing problem for operational plants. Little has been done to train operators to deal with crisis situations — even at TMI which rates seven out of 12 of its priority problems to be management related ones.

Rising utility bills may be the best defense against building more nuclear power plants — plants without proper emergency "event" precautions, plants without transportation networks to move radioactive waste, plants without radioactive waste disposal sites.

Meanwhile, though TMI is only one-third through cleaning-up the March 28, 1979 accident they are planning a "Run-By." Zealous pro-nuclear power supporters can pay \$5 to run past the cooling towers and show their support of their plant — improve the image.



letters

Word gender

This letter regards Harry Esteve's column concerning sexist language in yesterday's Emerald.

One who chairs a committee may be a "chairman" or a "chairwoman," however, they are never a "chairer."

The correct, non-sexist term for one who chairs a group is simply "chair."

Because the "chair" presides, the term president is also correct.

As writers in the media, one needs to utilize one's existing non-sexist terms before resorting to one's own grammatical inventions.

C. Bergeron
junior, visual design

Pro Watt

James Watt is one of the best friends our nation can have. In advocating private ownership of government lands rather than the unjust seizures of more private lands, he is attempting to perpetuate the system that has made this the greatest nation on earth — free enterprise.

My grandmother once owned part of a Florida island in the 1950s that was seized by the government to preserve its undisturbed wilderness. Despite the fact that the government had justified seizure of this land to protect its pristine nature, they authorized the building of docks and various structures and began a ferry service to the island.

Public ownership took away any private incentive to keep the land clean. The formerly privately owned wilderness

now resembles a publicly owned garbage dump gaining the name "beer can beach." Government ownership wasn't the cure all after all, actually doing more harm than good.

72 percent of Oregon is government owned, and LCDC squelches development of most of the remaining 28 percent of private land. Oregon thus is destined to remain in economic stagnation unless the government adopts a laissez-faire approach. Oregon public lands should be put up for sale as Watt advocates, and LCDC must be struck down as unconstitutional. This would reduce property taxes and allow our state economy to grow.

It is ridiculous to believe that federal or state governments can preserve land better than local governments and free enterprise. Pseudo-intellectual liberal college professors, Tip O'Neills, Jane Fondas, and Ted Kennedys all fail to realize that, despite over 50 years of their intense socialistic indoctrination of our nation's youth, free enterprise still emerges as the dominant and superior force in America. Private ownership is the only real and fair answer to mismanaged federal lands.

Brandon Shepard

Misconception

Several concerned students have written letters complaining that their Incidental Fee Committee money is funding subversive, political organizations like Students for a Nuclear Free Future. They have expressed some misconceptions that I would like to set straight.

Sterling Coke argues that nearly everything SNUFF has printed advocates "political action that would...take the United States on a path away from nuclear power." Not true. In the past few years SNUFF has focused exclusively on the arms race.

Coke also complains that SNUFF spent this incidental fee on an advertisement supporting the nuclear freeze. Not true. The ad was paid for by the individuals whose names appeared in the ad. SNUFF also did not spend any money to send protestors to Vandenberg. The protestors went on their own account using their own money.

SNUFF is an educational organization with one political belief: Nuclear war is an unthinkable catastrophe, and therefore, we should adamantly work for disarmament. We are committed to educating the campus community about the dangers presented by the nuclear arms race and to discussing possible alternatives to its continuation.

America needs to discuss this issue and SNUFF hopes to help facilitate that discussion. We invite everyone to write an article for our newsletter explaining their beliefs regarding the arms race.

Coke doesn't want to support SNUFF with his incidental fee, but what about the students who don't want to support the athletic department or the Emerald? What about Islamic students who don't want to support a Jewish Student Union and vice versa?

Nobody agrees with every organization that is funded. The incidental fee is designed to fund student organizations based on their needs and how well they represent the student body. SNUFF's \$220 breaks down to roughly a half-cent per student per term. If opponents of SNUFF would form an organization opposing disarmament, I would support their funding based on the number of students involved and their contribution to the campus community. I think such a group could help facilitate a campus-wide discussion of the arms race, and that is what we need, not bickering over pennies.

Bill Hallmark
sophomore, psychology

letters

Who cares

After reading the letter about fashion by Drew O'Rourke, my main thought was "Who the hell cares?"

O'Rourke, Oregonians are a laid back sort of people. We wear what is comfortable. That is not to say we don't wear nice clothes. We are only concerned with making ourselves presentable to the average John Smith. What you suggest is that people spend hundreds of dollars to wear designer clothes.

As far as your comparison to Eugene businessmen with Wall Street businessmen, I have yet to see anyone dressed in a polyester suit! That is a little far-fetched. If individualism includes clashing color combinations and items that were never meant to be worn together, (Bermuda shorts and paisley ties), then leave me out. That sort of dressing doesn't dictate style, it shows bad taste.

If you feel that you can't find the clothes you desire here,

then get out of Oregon, O'Rourke. Go to the places where you can be on top of the trends and be able to feed your vanity until your eyes bug out, like California, New York or France.

O'Rourke, fashion does not make a person kind loving or intelligent. The clothes don't make the man, the man makes the clothes.

Kristen Hybertson
music education

oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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686-4343
686-4381
686-5511

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