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Nader criticizes 'corporate America'

By Julie Shippen
Of the Emerald

More than 800 people watched Monday night as an unusually animated Ralph Nader mixed comedy with social criticism in his attacks on everything from the Reagan administration and corporate power to a lack of leadership on America's college campuses.

Nader capped off the first day of Politics '84, a four-day, ASUO-sponsored political symposium, with a keynote address entitled "Environmental Effects of Corporate America" given in the EMU Ballroom.

Nader prefaced his speech with an overview of Ballot Measure 3, a Citizen's Utility Board (CUB) proposal that he has supported for more than 10 years around the country, he said at a press conference held earlier Monday.

He cited the measure, as well as Ballot Measure 9 (concerning the disposal of radioactive waste in Oregon), as being "a silicon chip for the consumer movement," and urged the mostly-student crowd to vote in favor of the measures next month.

Addressing the many areas of conflict between environmental and corporate interests, Nader blamed the "mercantile mind" for confusion created by viewing investments normally considered productive, such as cancer-prevention studies, with those that are not.

"An investment to prevent cancer is not necessarily productive... but investment to produce death-dealing weapons on a mass scale, that's productive," Nader said with obvious sarcasm.

"Yet every year, the mercantile mind spreads like some sort of extraterrestrial ooze further and further over other value systems in our society," he added.

Education is one area affected in recent years by this type of thinking, Nader said. He claimed that degrees in accounting or computer science, for example, are now thought of with more prestige than degrees in literature or history.

"The mercantile value has so narrowed your horizons as students that you look at your University as a high-status vocational school," he said. "There seems to be a greater desire among students to be well-paid cogs in the corporate wheel than to become educated graduates trying to decide what direction to push that wheel."

The "illegitimate violence" of pollution did not go untouched by Nader's deck of witticisms as well. The consumer advocate turned this time to the automobile industry, which was the target of his 1965 book "Unsafe at Any Speed."

"Here is an industry that has steadfastly refused to toilet-train itself for 75 years," Nader said. "Its anal exuda-

tions are lethal. For years it was against the law for an individual to relieve oneself in the Detroit River, but it wasn't at all illegal for corporations to relieve themselves in the Detroit River."

Pres. Ronald Reagan's administration, particularly Reagan himself, received the uncensored reproaches of Nader, who called the president "the mannequin in the Whitehouse" and the "king of style" and pointed to Reagan as the cause of current and future deficits.

Nader said that if Reagan is re-elected, the national deficit could triple from \$930 billion when he took office in 1980 to \$3.1 trillion by the end of his second term. He also said Reagan's deficit is equal to the country's total deficit from George Washington to Jimmy Carter.

Nader urged the current generation of students to take action in consumer and government issues, suggesting they begin by joining or organizing groups like OSPIRG, as well as setting up initiatives like CUB.

"You're being shaped now for your future careers — don't waste the time," he said. "Your's may be the last generation in history that could have achieved so much by giving up so little. The sacrifices in the future are going to be bigger."

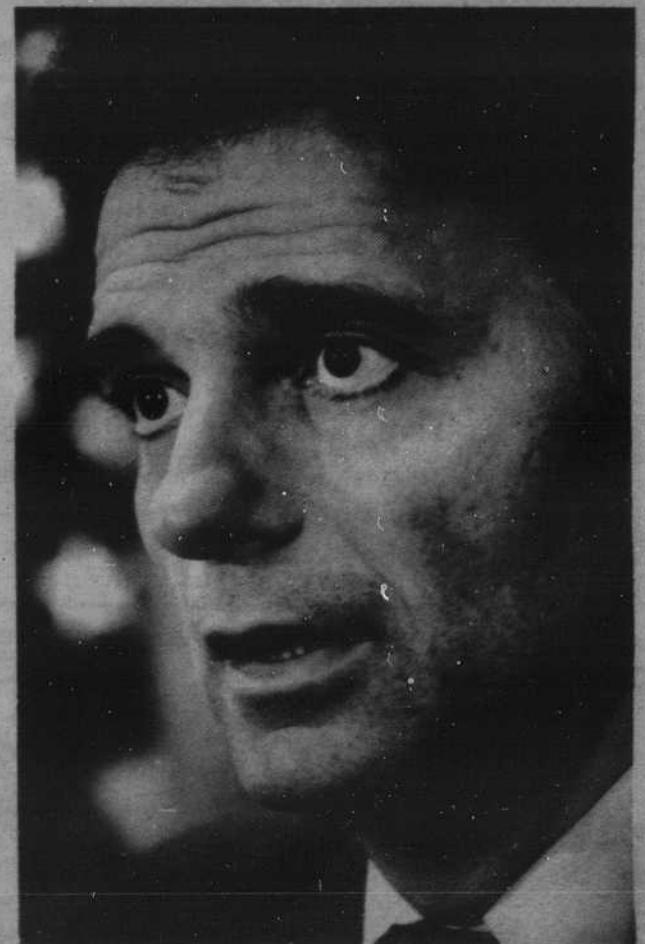


Photo by Michael Clapp

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader speaks to local media representatives before attacking Pres. Ronald Reagan and corporate power on campus Monday.

Measure 9 debate heated

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

The Ballot Measure 9 controversy heated up Monday as a representative of Teledyne Wah Chang and a self-proclaimed anti-nuclear activist accused each other of lying about the hazards of nuclear waste at Teledyne's Albany plant.

About 30 people attended the ASUO-sponsored debate in the EMU Forum Room. James Denham, spokesperson for Teledyne, and Lloyd Marbet, a sponsor of the measure, clashed while discussing the effects of the measure on Oregon's economy and on the health of Oregon citizens.

The measure, which will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot, prohibits disposal of naturally occurring radioactive wastes on sites subject to water erosion, earthquakes, volcanoes or landslides.

The measure also stipulates that possibly safer sites must be considered before sites are approved and that no radioactive release from the waste will be allowed.

Controversy surrounds the Teledyne plant, which produces zirconium, a corrosion-resistant metal used in the nuclear power industry. Waste from the process is stored in sludge ponds near the Willamette River, and this creates a potential health hazard to those who get their drinking water from the river, Marbet said.

Denham cited a study by the Oregon State Health Division's radiation section to support his claim that the site poses no appreciable health hazard.

"If you were to build a house on top of the sludge ponds and lived on it for one year, it would be equivalent to smoking one pack of cigarettes a year," Denham said.

But Marbet countered him, saying that there are no safe levels of radioactive material, despite government-established "safe" levels. The federal government's constant lowering of



Photo by Bill Harpole

James Denham, at podium, and Lloyd Marbet trade accusations at a debate Monday in the Forum Room.

safe levels of exposure is evidence of this, he said.

The radium level of Teledyne's sludge is lower than many common materials, including synthetic rock-wool insulation and mantles for Coleman lanterns, Denham said. But Marbet said the form of the radioactive material is a more important health consideration than the radium level.

If the Teledyne waste were to get into the water supply, the radioactive material would be readily absorbed by the body, Marbet said. Even low levels of radiation can cause genetic

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Speaker visits class by conference phone

By Julie Freeman
Of the Emerald

Though guest speakers are common in classrooms, a University journalism class recently learned that speakers don't always have to be present to give lectures or accept questions from the audience.

In fact, Joe Williamson, managing editor of Sunset magazine, proved that sometimes a guest speaker is only a phone call away. Williamson spoke with and fielded questions from journalism students in one of Prof. Ken Metzler's magazine classes last week.

"I thought it went very well," Metzler says of his recent experiment. Although this is the first time Metzler has used a conference phone in a large class, the idea is not as new as it may seem.

Metzler used the method, which has been available through the EMU since 1971, to call and talk to reporters and sources in the small reporting classes he once taught.

He first got the idea of using telephone lecturers in larger classes when the journalism school became accredited in the magazine field several years ago, he says. The University has emphasized magazine journalism for many years but has had a definite handicap in attracting speakers because of its distance from major centers of the magazine industry.

The telephone is an ideal way of bringing speakers to the classroom if they are unable to visit in person, Metzler says.

Because of the apparent success of the telephone lecture, Metzler plans to have former students and well-known professionals in the industry speak to his classes using this method.

Phone lectures are not restricted to the journalism school, however. The EMU pays all rental costs of the telephone unit needed for the lectures and checks it out free of cost to any department interested in using it. The only expense to the user is the normal cost of the telephone call.

The unit works like a regular telephone amplifier. Two remote microphones enable the audience to talk to the lecturer, while the moderator, who controls the unit, has a separate microphone. A phone jack is the only necessary classroom equipment.

While the advantages of this method seem clear, there is virtually no demand for the machine, says Virginia Anderson, University scheduling officer.

"I think the main problem is that most people don't know we have it (the telephone unit) available," she says.

"I thought it was just as valuable as having the person actually there," says Nancy Nielson, a senior in Metzler's magazine class.