

With Measure 9 safety comes first

If passed, Ballot Measure 9 will firmly define what is considered to be a suitable site for current and future radioactive waste disposal in Oregon. Present state law specifies that a hazardous waste disposal site must be "suitable for disposal," but the term "suitable" remains ill-defined.

The purpose of Measure 9 is to make sure that areas chosen for radioactive waste disposal meet certain environmental guidelines to make sure that public safety is given the highest priority.

In 1975 the Oregon Legislature banned radioactive waste disposal. But the Legislature also declared that exemptions to this ban can be made if the Energy Facility Siting Council can determine a "suitable" site for radioactive waste disposal.

One exemption to this ban has allowed Teledyne Wah Chang Inc., in Albany, Oregon to dump chemical sludge containing radioactive isotopes in two unlined sludge ponds 400 feet from the Willamette River.

How was the Siting Council able to determine that dumping chemical sludge containing radioactive wastes next to the Willamette River was both safe and suitable? What determines suitability for radioactive waste disposal in Oregon?

Unless Oregonians answer these questions, they may find themselves living in a state whose clean and pristine environment is in growing jeopardy. Already, Wah Chang has proved to be a serious problem. The Environmental Protection Agency has declared that the sludge ponds at Wah Chang are an environmental health hazard in need of remedial clean-up.

Measure 9 was established to deal specifically with the question of what is a suitable site for radioactive waste disposal in Oregon. It maintains that specific guidelines must be used to determine suitability.

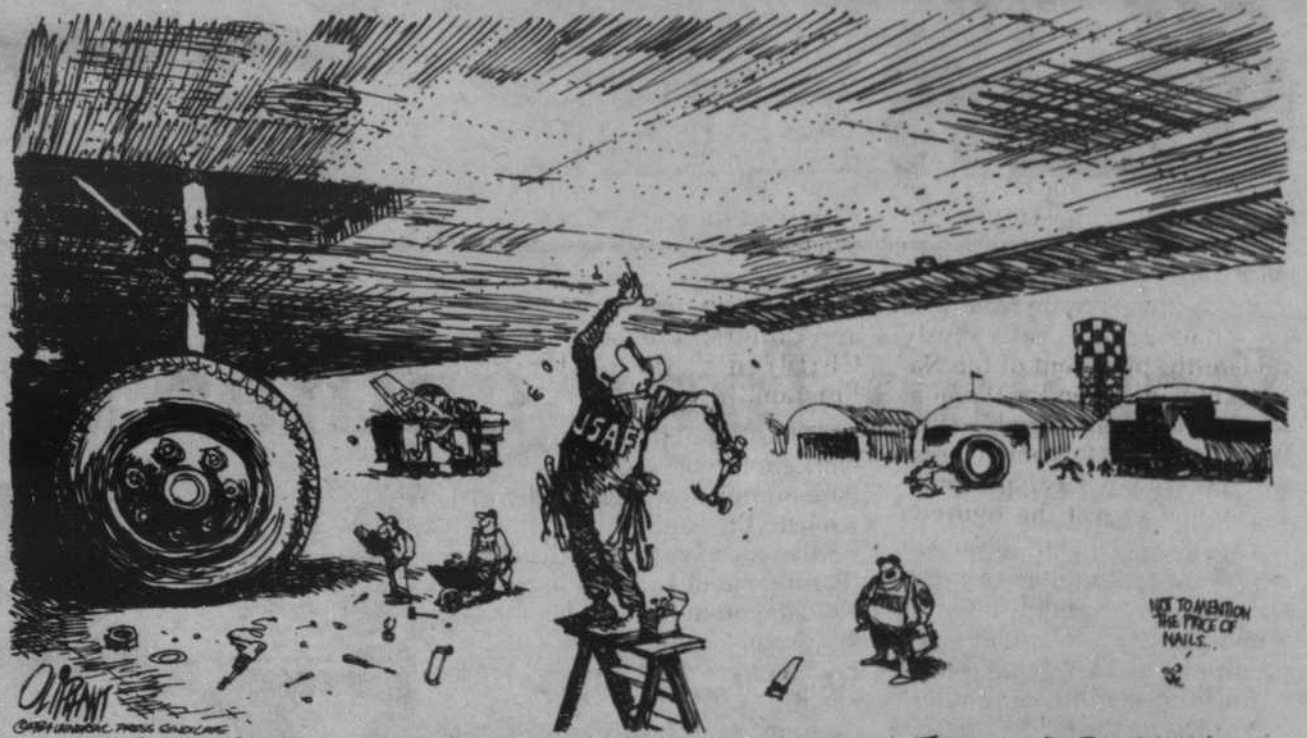
Passage of Measure 9 would prevent the disposal or storage of radioactive waste in areas near rivers, streams or the ocean. It would also prohibit storage near earthquake fault zones and in areas of volcanic activity. A requirement that companies responsible for generating radioactive wastes pay for the clean-up would also be a result of Measure 9. In short, it states that public health and environmental safety must be of primary concern in establishing radioactive waste disposal sites in Oregon.

Opponents claim that the strict guidelines of Measure 9 are an over-reaction to the problem of waste disposal. They argue that current waste disposal guidelines are sufficient to ensure public safety, and that any additional rules will scare away industries which might consider investment in Oregon. Opponents believe that passage of Measure 9 will result in fewer jobs for Oregonians, and economic decline in the state.

While it is true that strict waste disposal laws will keep some companies from investing in Oregon, the public needs to decide where its priorities are. If current standards for radioactive waste were sufficient in Oregon than Wah Chang waste disposal ponds would not be on the EPA's list as a public health hazard.

All across America, careless toxic waste disposal is causing harm to the health of this country and its people. Toxic waste has reached crisis proportions in states like New Jersey and Michigan. Oregonians have a chance to keep their state free of hazardous toxic waste sites if they make public health a priority.

The aim of Measure 9 is not anti-growth or anti-business. Economic growth and jobs do not and should not depend upon industries seeking easy toxic waste disposal laws in order to make bigger profits. Vote yes on 9.



letters

Unwelcome

George Orwell predicted the running of our lives by "Big Brother." Perhaps he was correct. Twice in the past week I was unnecessarily awakened by telephone calls. Each time I grudgingly arose in faith that it must be important for someone to call so early. On both occasions I discovered that the party at the other end of the line was not human, but a computerized voice soliciting sales for some product.

Immediately hanging up, I was so enraged that I could not return to sleep. I pondered over what would so delude an advertising executive into thinking that he could interest people in products by waking them up with a machine.

The question arises: Should organizations be allowed to use such a technique? And if they are, is there any escape from advertisements in this society? It was once thought that "A man's home is his castle," yet even a home is no longer secure from Madison Avenue techniques. Uninvited and unwelcome, they come into a home without using radio or television. Perhaps "Big Brother" does exist, and he has an offer that you just can't pass up.

This intrusion may be tolerated once, even twice, as a mistake, but if the practice is repeated I will joyfully embrace my right as a citizen to contact my legislators demanding advertising restrictions. Unless

of course a government computer decides that I no longer exist and I am forced to report to a liquidation center as a war casualty.

Scott Brandt-Erichsen
Political Science

Hitler's help

On the off-chance that there are any reasonable students on this campus, let us not forget that our space program has done as well as it has because of German scientists. If Adolph Hitler had not commissioned Dr. Porsche to build a car that could withstand the heat and lack of water of the North African desert for Rommel, then we would not have the Volkswagen nor the Porsche. Where would college life be without the VW bus?

The bleeding heart-liberal view of society holds that our degrees should be worthless pieces of sheepskin. When Adolph Hitler came to power, there was 22% inflation in Germany, closed factories, and astounding unemployment. We are not selling out the poor minorities, nor our ideals. We are getting things back on track so that the Karen Rhodes of this world can complain about imaginary injustices and vote for Mondale-Ferraro.

Page McCallum
President Men's Liberation

Stop Bhagwan

An increasingly large number of real Oregonians are becoming scared and angry over the actions of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and the inactions of our elected public officials to put us at ease. The evening news is starting to tell the nation about

this problem. It makes us sound puny and helpless when we can't control this man who claims himself to be an equal of Jesus and yet has no desire to treat his host state with any respect, or his neighbors with any kindness as he rolls along in his fancy cars.

He beat our immigration laws through some fluke, captured the quiet little town of Antelope, and encourages his highest followers to swear at us on our own televisions. Since when is someone allowed to build their own army? We've seen on the news his men, weapons, and helicopters that are at his disposal to threaten us.

Now to rub salt on the wound, they are bringing all these homeless people here, many of whom are ex-fighting vets, to vote against us. They are so bold that they will get on the news and tell us to our face "Today Antelope, tomorrow Oregon" and then cuss and spit in our face.

We are told not to take things into our own hands so we look to our elected officials to take the correct action. If they don't, it would be hard to guess what will happen because people are not going to take this lying down. At the very least, we must stop this influx of undesirable people and not let the ones already here vote on state and local issues.

We need a statewide vote on these issues, as they have become statewide issues. We blew our chance to nip this in the bud years ago, so the sooner it is dealt with the easier for everyone.

Patrick Bryan
Cottage Grove

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

oregon daily emerald

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