

Moratorium on PCB plan is a good idea

In the late 1970s, the production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was banned in the United States. The reason for this decision was that PCBs don't break down in the environment and they have been suspected of causing cancer, liver damage, and numerous other health problems in humans. Oregonians should think carefully about permitting a PCB incinerator to be built in their state. Construction of such a facility in Arlington could begin as early as next month. Chem-Security Systems Inc. is currently awaiting application approval from the state Department of Environmental Quality. Unless political opposition succeeds in putting a two year moratorium on the project, Oregon will become the fourth state in the nation to become an incineration site for highly toxic PCBs.

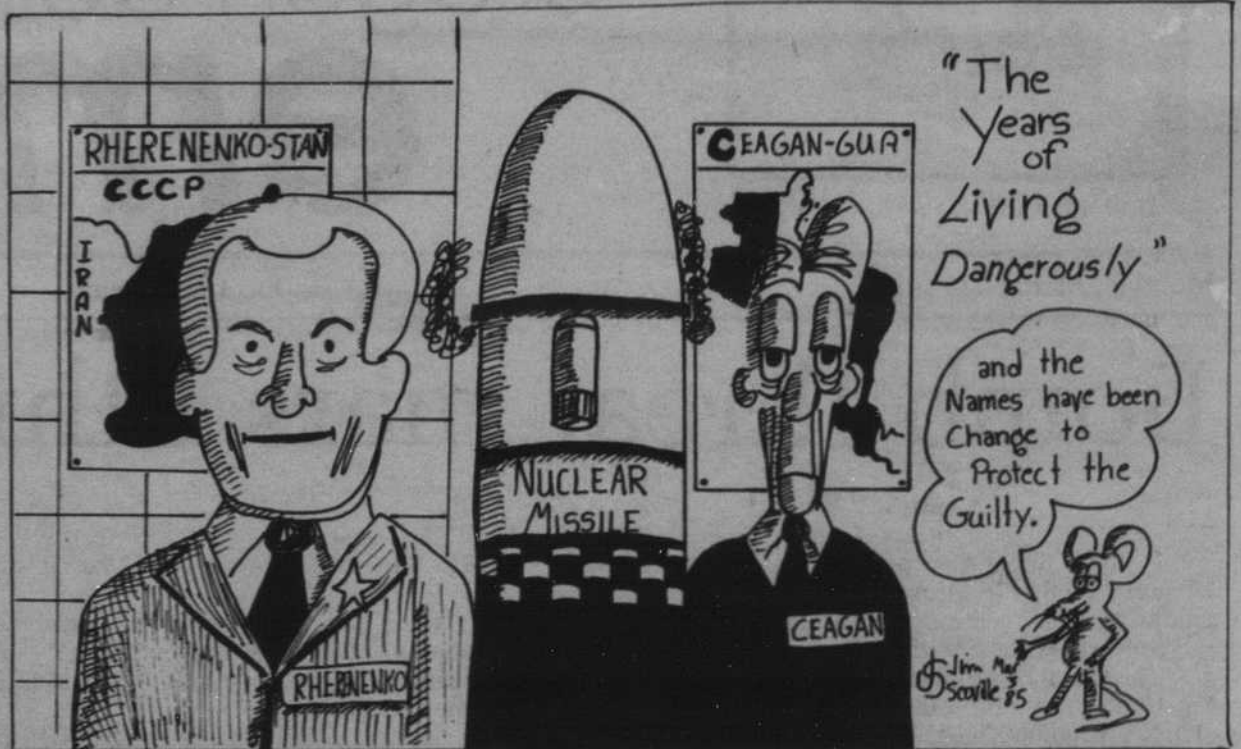
There are many reasons to oppose the PCB incinerator project. First, it will bring into Oregon approximately 20 times the volume of PCBs that now pass through the Arlington hazardous waste landfill. Second, it would increase the amount of toxic chemicals transported on state highways. Trucks carrying PCBs would pass through Klamath Falls, Bend, and Redmond, with alternative routes bringing the toxic chemicals through Eugene and the Willamette Valley. A third reason arises from Chem-Security Systems Inc., which is a subsidiary company of Waste Management Inc. (the largest handler of toxic waste in the country). Waste Management Inc. has been cited for 120 records-keeping violations at 14 toxic waste disposal sites. They were fined \$6.8 million by the Environmental Protection Agency for mishandling PCB oils at an Ohio landfill, and \$1.05 million for unlawfully storing PCBs at an Alabama landfill.

Whether or not to bring more PCBs into Oregon is a very serious issue. House Bill 2841, calling for a two year moratorium on the Arlington PCB incinerator project, deserves public support. The two-year moratorium will give the needed time to investigate alternatives to the PCB incinerator idea. There are too many risks involved to go ahead with the plan for an PCB incinerator before all other alternatives have been explored. These risks include possible transportation accidents resulting in toxic PCB spills on Oregon roadways and possible increased PCB contamination of the environment through incinerator emissions. Also, the parent company of the project, Waste Management Inc., has a less than desirable record of handling toxic wastes. Oregonians should resist this current attempt to build a PCB incinerator in their state, and support a two year moratorium on the project.

Threatening revenge no answer to growing tension

The Rajneeshees have every reason to be angry over remarks made by Rep. Jim Weaver, in which the 4th District congressman seemed to insinuate that the Rajneeshees were responsible for an outbreak of salmonella in The Dalles. Weaver's remarks were hardly responsible. But the Rajneeshees have gone too far with their repeated threats that if any attacks on Rajneeshees lead to bloodshed, they will kill 15 Oregonians for every Rajneeshee killed.

There are, no doubt, some people demented enough to attack or even kill a Rajneeshee out of personal hatred. Any such individual or group, if such violence were to occur, must be promptly brought to justice by the law. But making statements of revenge, like the Rajneeshees have done, only begs the issue of violence. The Rajneeshees have every right to defend themselves. But threatening to kill en masse for revenge reflects a sickness of its own.



letters

Sick of it

Like all college students, I'm frequently stereotyped as being a mild alcoholic. As a non-drinker, I find this extremely frustrating and, frankly, I'm sick of it. My ire was stirred as I read the article, "Do I Ever Wanna Beer" (ODE, Feb. 22), which only adds to this stereotype. It read: "Where should you turn? Come on...it's obvious if you're 21...the Beer Gardens..." Well let me tell you, there are a number of students other than myself who enjoy many relaxing activities which don't involve alcohol (even some who are 21). Why, there's a nice bike ride to a serene park, socializing on the lawn of the EMU, a good run, a walk with a special friend, meditation, the movies...the list goes on and on. Please, from now on, let's try not to stereotype college students, no matter the category, for diversity always exists and stereotyping only leads to the alienation of the minority group.

Bruce Abedon
Eugene

Women's rights

This letter is a response to Paul Rimov and Bill Ketter's comments on the EMU display of hard core pornography.

I don't believe that the display could "discredit their (WRRS) organization in an antagonistic presentation of pornography..."

In fact, it brought up a problem that exists in the world. By showing a display of por-

nography, the Women's Referral and Resource Service suggested finding a solution to the problem by stopping it. It was clear that the display wanted to remind us that there is no such thing as women trying to spread their domination (because they never did). History shows that none of the women's movements are based upon violence, aggression, or trying to dominate. They are fighting to free themselves. They want to be treated equally and right. It is a bitter fact that men would rather put a six-foot erection or a gun in women's mouths to shut them up instead of letting them speak up and ask for their rights. Up until now it has been an effective way of shutting women up.

For those who have missed the boat, WRRS was trying to prove that it is wrong to use or abuse women. I thought that they wanted us to know that women are used for their bodies and sex more than all the other qualities that they have.

I would like to say to Bill Ketter that women never dominated because they couldn't. But, if they do, they are entitled to some power too. I am surprised that you haven't seen much male domination against women because in only three years in America, I have seen a sickening amount of male domination and violence against women.

Ibraheem Wahab
CIS

One bullet

It only takes one bullet to kill a person. I noticed your editorial (ODE, March 5) saying again that "handguns must be tightly controlled." Aside from violating the constitutional freedom against infringement of the right to bear arms, control is also well-nigh impossible in this society.

The assassination of President Lincoln in 1865 illustrates the fallacy of gun control. Lincoln was shot at close range with a single shot Derringer black powder pistol. It was a .41 caliber handgun with a two-inch barrel and it used a lead ball about the size of the end of your little finger. It used about one-half teaspoon of black powder and the whole gun would fit on your open hand and easily in your pocket.

I believe that anyone with 14 cents worth of mechanical aptitude could build such a weapon with a few hours of hard work. Lead and black powder are not very hard to obtain and the powder can be made at home with a little chemical ingenuity.

So, what do we have? One hundred and twenty years ago our president was killed by a handgun that is still easy to make and almost impossible to detect and stop. Can modern technology help stop guns? Or would it take a modern political system, like the extreme rightists and leftists found all over the world?

David Goss
Elementary Ed

Greediness

I am again amazed at the mentality (or greediness) of this University administration. I have been attending this school for four years and have given my share to pay for the light bills, professors, and maintenance of the parking lots. Parking lots which I cannot even use! The evening of March 4, at 7:38 p.m., an Officer Kelley decided to inform me that I was parking in the lot by Old Taylor's without a parking permit. I had no idea that parking there without a permit was not allowed until after 9 p.m. That is ridiculous!

The University administration claims to be concerned with the problem of rape on and around the campus area at night, yet if a female wants to go to the library in the evening she must fight for the measly parking available "to the public" or pay a \$5 fine to park in the parking lot of the school she attends. I cannot justify buying a parking permit when I live close enough to walk to school during the daylight hours. At night I feel better driving to campus, especially when I plan on staying late to study, but it is not particularly safe for me to have to wander around the University area at 11 p.m. (when the library closes) to where I am permitted to park without having to pay a fine. Is this the earnest concern the administration has for its students? I concede that until 6 p.m. would be fine, but 9 p.m.? Come on!

Katie Knight
Health Ed.

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