

Letters

Proposed tax

Your article in the Emerald (Oct 4,) and its headline ("City income tax sought to expand library") was well-written and interesting. I feel, however, that both were misleading with regard to the purpose of the proposed tax.

Only some of the tax is to be used for the library. Your article and the headline would lead readers to believe that all of the tax is to be dedicated to the library.

Most of the tax will be used for expansion of the city's airport, a far more controversial issue than expansion of the library. Why the airport is being expanded and why only those who live or work in Eugene should pay for it, are but two of the many questions that surround the proposal.

While I personally very much favor an improved library, I am very much opposed to an expanded airport — and I am left wondering why the public cannot vote on each item separately.

Robert Lofft
Eugene

Destruction

Einstein's statement that the discovery of nuclear fission had "changed everything save our mode of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe," was evinced by Jerome Berryhill's letter (ODE, Oct. 3) supporting classified weapons research in the proposed riverfront park. Jerome appears unsatisfied with drifting,

preferring to paddle purposefully toward the precipice.

The argument that arms research is necessary in order to "prepare destruction for those who would destroy us" is not merely archaic; it is suicidal. The existence of instruments of mass destruction demands new thinking, not new weapons. Once-vital concepts such as national sovereignty are now dangerous delusions driving us to destruction.

Nuclear holocaust is the most crucial, but by no means the sole threat which makes transcendence of nationalism the only alternative to annihilation. As the biosphere is menaced by nuclear devices, so are the political and economic worlds threatened by the rapidly expanding power of multinational corporations, whose scale of operation is as out of government control as the arms race.

Given these facts, it is hardly ironic that many scientists oppose further weapons research as a matter of planetary hygiene, just as they would oppose the concoction of new, potentially virulent bacteria.

In a world as overpopulated with outmoded concepts and perilous paradigms as it is with undernourished and overfed people, a university should be a wellspring of new ideas to enhance — and perhaps ultimately preserve — the human condition. It must not become the citadel for a sinister and suicidal psychosis of global proportions.

Larry Taylor
Linguistics/Political Science

Discrimination

I hope that you can clear up a little confusion for me concerning the Et al. section of the Emerald. The guidelines set up for the use of this section state in part, "Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus-oriented events will be given priority."

What causes the confusion for me is when I submit two items to the paper (in advance of the deadline and even typed) that were taking place Oct. 3rd and 4th and neither of these items were printed. Instead there were items printed that are not happening for at least a week.

Could you explain to me when and how this priority system works? One of these items was an announcement of GALA's Open House. By not printing this announcement you have done a disservice to the gay and lesbian community here on campus and to all those individuals that are gay-supportive.

Is this a subtle way of telling the Gay and Lesbian Alliance that if we want any event publicized in the Emerald we are going to have to pay for it? I don't want to cry discrimination, and I don't want to cry homophobia, but...

Jim Shoemaker
GALA Co-director

Editor's note: The Emerald apologizes for having not included a number of announcements last week in the regular Et als column. The announcements were discovered Friday at a drop site the new staff was unaware of. All future eligible Et al announcements will be run. Again, we apologize for the inconvenience this error caused. Please see Et al column on Page 18 for Et al policies.

Ticket sales

I have to respond to the shallow and inaccurate impression given by your Oct. 2 editorial and cartoon regarding spousal equivalency and student ticket sales.

In the past, only married students were able to purchase student tickets for their partners, and even then proof was required. Gay, homosexual and heterosexual students were prohibited from buying student tickets for their partners, and thus were discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation.

The current policy standardizes the procedure for all, allowing married, gay, homosexual or heterosexual students to buy tickets for their partners. The impression given in the cartoon is totally false, as each student with an "SE" (spousal equivalent) stamp can buy only one additional student

ticket for their partner. Even worse, the cartoon promotes the homophobic impression of promiscuity among gay men.

One final shortcoming in your editorial is the argument that the current policy will harm students by reducing the number of available student tickets. Last spring the athletic department tried to reduce the number of tickets reserved for students, claiming they are rarely all sold. This week's Washington game is an exception, but last year, for example, even when the Ducks were 4-0, tickets went unsold.

Your concern about possible abuse of the policy may be warranted. We are maintaining an ongoing review and evaluation. However, your editorial implies that the benefits may not outweigh the costs. In our minds, few things outweigh the elimination of discrimination.

John Dreeszen
ASUO Vice President

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

RESUMES

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