

Letters

Resources

In the eight years I have lived here two rather incongruous facts have struck me: Oregonians are among the most ecologically conscious people in the country; they are also among its biggest personal wasters of electricity. I have also seen Oregonians reject several "alternative" electricity generation plans: coastal "windmills" would be too unsightly; geothermal plants would mean giving up some recreational hot springs, etc. Solar power is not a viable option in the Willamette Valley for obvious reasons.

It's about time we faced the fact that nothing is free. As long as there is a demand for a certain amount of electricity the utilities companies will attempt to supply that demand by whatever means available. If the Trojan nuclear power plant is shut down the only real option left is increased reliance on fossil fuels, or cutting down whole forests for sawdust. Since "containment standards" for the waste from these types of power generation are virtually non-existent compared to those for nuclear plants, greatly increased amounts of carcinogens, mutagens, and radioactivity would be released into the environment.

Until and unless we are willing to reduce our demand for electricity the closing of nuclear plants will only insure increased pollution, rapid depletion of non-renewable resources, and increased power costs.

Hiawatha
Graduate, music

Rescheduling

Anyone who has ever been given morphine (often used to treat postoperative pain) knows what its effects are like: drowsiness, mild euphoria, and relief of pain. Because morphine use can become habit-forming, physicians are careful with it.

Diacetylmorphine is a morphine derivative with very similar properties. But for many people, especially those suffering the terrible pain of advanced cancer, diacetylmorphine is much more effective in fighting pain than plain morphine. It is also less likely to produce the undesirable side-effects of nausea and sharp drops in blood pressure often associated with plain morphine.

Diacetylmorphine can be legally prescribed in Britain, but not in the United States. Although plain morphine is a Schedule II controlled substance (legally prescribable), diacetylmorphine is classed as Schedule I (physicians cannot legally prescribe it).

I support rescheduling diacetylmorphine to Schedule II, so that American physicians could legally prescribe it for those who could benefit from it and be helped with the agonizing pain for which it is often the only effective remedy. Yet both of my opponents in the Representative District 40 race oppose this rational and humane proposal.

Instead of giving in to uninformed hysteria, let us make calm and rational decisions about our drug laws.

Richard Sharvy
Libertarian candidate for
Representative District 40

Oregon Daily Emerald

Journalism

It has been a sad experience to watch the Emerald slowly degenerate into the USA Today of this campus over the last three years. Sad indeed. What's worse, this year it seems that you have totally forsaken thoughtful journalism altogether.

By way of example of your willingness to dive into the slime-pool of hair-brained, ahistorical, right-wing, reductionist red-baiting, I cite two pieces of your swill spewed in the past week.

First, there was the headline for your simplistic review of a panel discussion on the Iceland summit collapse (ODE, Oct. 15). You bannered that the panel was "unconcerned" about the summit collapse. Who in their right mind could be "unconcerned" about nuclear weapons reductions? Your twisted little brand of journalism turns "unsurprised" into "unconcerned" and calls itself "objective." Neat trick.

Now, as an attempt to out-do yourselves, you presented the world with your crapola editorial on the Sister University Project (ODE, Oct. 20). Instead of broad-siding the efforts of those who have worked to see the truth finally exposed (i.e., Steve Nelson, etc.), why don't you explain to us all how we can separate U.S. support of a government bombing its own people from the events at the national university? While you're at it, also do us a favor — tell us how it is possible to represent "all students' interest" outside of your Nazi-like little world.

Michael Dawson
Senior, sociology

Shortage

Far be it for me, a new-comer to the University of Oregon, to distract the student government from their mission to help the oppressed peoples of the world with a mundane subject like bicycle racks, but has anyone noticed the lack of bicycle racks around here? No matter where I go on campus there always seem to be twice as many bicycles as bicycle racks.

Mr. President, I know that you must be extremely busy, but would you consider a fact-finding mission concerning the shortage of bicycle parking at the U of O campus? A solution to the problem would be appreciated by a lot of students.

Bill Hampton
MBA

Pleading

In response to Don Bishoff's, Palestinians find advocate... (Register-Guard, Oct. 17). I found myself in Lawrence Hall Wednesday night where guilt and tears were the reponse of many of us as we watched stunned by the footage of devastating, bomb-ridden Palestinian refugee camps.

Reflective of the indignity and helplessness of any people who have been stripped of their God-given right to a home, a life, and a future, these people wait imprisoned without hope.

The film left me with a sense of urgency and responsibility to do something now to help, and the questions to Tom Hayes

from the audience left no doubt that an awareness had taken place in that hour for many of us.

The tragedy is not a political issue... it is a humanitarian issue that pleads for our concern. Forty years is a long time to wait for anything... it is an eternity to wait to go home.

Gayle Rankin
Eugene

Sister project

Regarding the Sister University Project editorial (ODE, Oct. 20), just what do you consider "a responsible presentation of what is happening in El Salvador?" Or, for that matter, "responsible representation of students?" The ultimate responsibility is not to echo emotional sentiments of uninformed individuals, but rather to seek out

and faithfully disseminate the facts surrounding the situation in El Salvador.

The Sister University Project has my full support in its effort to familiarize us with the condition of the University of El Salvador. And Steve Nelson has my full support when he acknowledges "the reality that it is our own government that is financing the oppressors" of the Salvadoran people.

Has it occurred to the editorial writer that a "sincere effort to help students at the sister university" might of necessity "include an attack on U.S. foreign policy?" That U.S. foreign policy might possibly underlie the oppression that continues to take place in El Salvador?

A critical examination of a problem and its underlying cause is an essential precursor to affecting a solution — to stifle

either in the name of a "responsible presentation" is the epitome of irresponsibility.

Joshua Hamill
International studies

Endorsements

Because of the large number of letters the Emerald receives around election time, letters endorsing a candidate or position on a ballot measure must be limited to 150 words. Endorsement letters exceeding this limit will be edited for length.

Letters to the Editor should be turned in to the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.



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