

Editorial

Closing of Trojan well-advised plan

Ballot Measure 14 would halt production of electricity at Trojan nuclear power plant on Dec. 4, 1986 until the federal government has licensed a high-level radioactive waste repository. We endorse this measure.

The measure is important because it addresses the major flaw with nuclear energy — nuclear waste. Nuclear plants should never have been built without first having a permanent repository site for their waste.

Trojan houses its own high-level radioactive waste and will do so until a federally-licensed site is found. The plant was not designed to be a waste repository, yet Trojan stores 388 spent fuel rods in its spent fuel pool. It is projected to have 1,600 rods stored by 2011.

Adding to the permanence of this "temporary" solution, Pacific General Electric twice has asked the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to expand its fuel pool — re-racking fuel rods closer together in the same pool, increasing the risk of the waste "going critical."

By law the federal government must come up with a high-level waste site by 1998, but debate rages on over where to establish the site.

The search was complicated by the recent disclosure that the Department of Energy distorted a report to make the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington look better than was justified. There is serious doubt whether the technology even exists for a safe disposal repository.

Control of nuclear waste must be the first priority when dealing with nuclear power. Because there are currently no means to dispose of waste, the only way to control it is to stop producing it.

If Ballot Measure 14 passes, Trojan will be shut down indefinitely. By no means will this put a strain on Oregon's power supply, nor does it necessarily mean electrical rates will go up.

Oregon currently enjoys an energy surplus, and the Northwest Power Planning Council projects a regional surplus well into the 1990s — with or without Trojan. Similarly, the Energy Systems Research Group has found that substantial sums would be saved by eliminating future costs in operation, maintenance, waste disposal and security at Trojan.

These substantial sums would be more wisely spent on conservation measures — our cheapest replacement power.

There is, of course, the issue of safety. Trojan's track record on safety is not as pristine as opponents of Measure 14 would like us to believe.

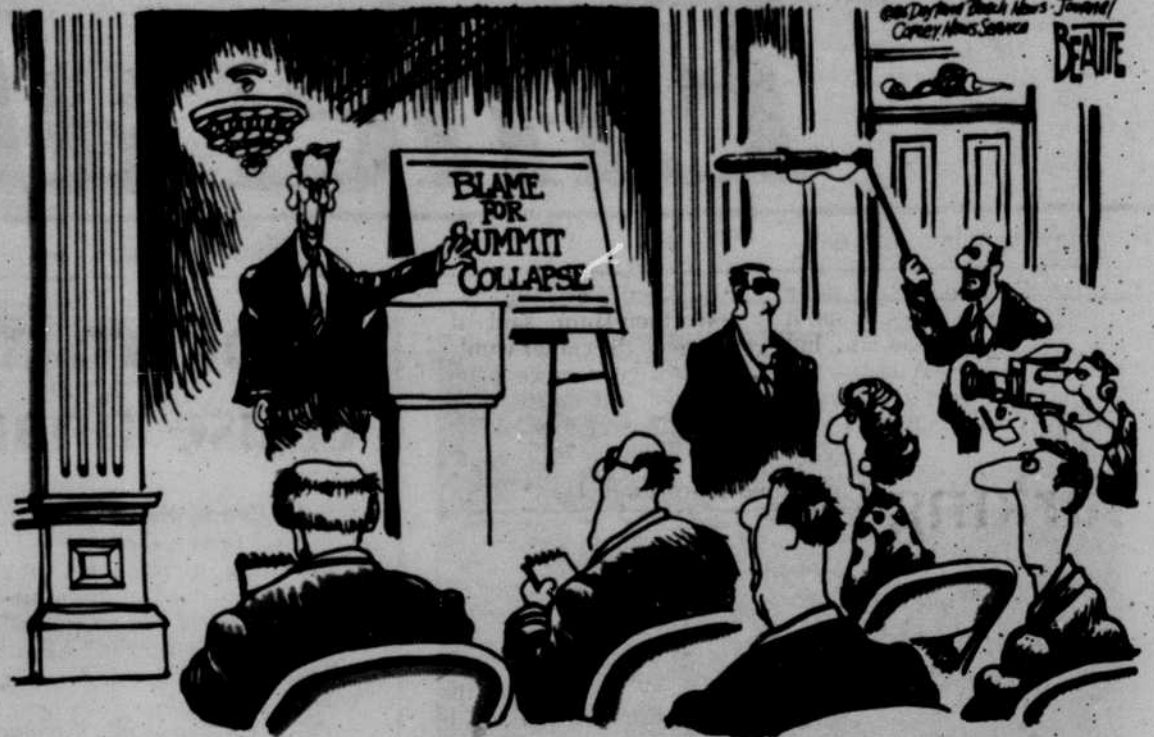
Trojan was closed during most of 1978 because of a safety-related design flaw, and recently PGE was fined \$50,000 for safety violations stemming from the plant staff's misunderstanding of the emergency cooling-system procedures.

The NRC estimates that the chance of a core meltdown in a U.S. reactor within the next 20 years is 45 percent.

Passing Measure 14 also will come as a major symbolic victory; no operating nuclear power plant has ever been decommissioned by voter mandate. The measure has captured national attention, and other states are waiting to follow Oregon's lead, depending on the measure's success.

Measure 14 does not permanently close Trojan. In the unlikely event that an emergency need for power arises, the plant may be brought back on line through a voter referendum.

This is Measure 14's strongest asset; it gives the public authority in deciding nuclear-power policy. We urge your support for Ballot Measure 14.



"Now, in addition to our missiles being aimed at the Russians, our fingers are pointed at them as well."

Letters

Curious

I'm curious to know from where all this "overwhelming support" for Ronnie's latest gaffe is coming from. Of course, I speak of the blown opportunity in Iceland. The media tell us 64 percent of the American people support this nonsense. Additionally, I would like to know where these polls are being conducted and the size of the sample surveys.

I propose the polls are conducted from within the White House, that the "public opinions" we are fed are from the likes of "Nance" and Reagan's personal yes-man Larry Speakes.

I'm sick of hearing how popular our president is when all I ever hear is people grumbling about how he muffed his lines — again. Even 60 Minutes did a piece on him, the message of which he was still on a sound stage in Burbank.

The final irony of this actor who landed the plum role of his life could be looming ahead: If he gets his way with SDI, the Soviets will be justifiably concerned — a confrontation begins that can only end in nuclear warfare. The time capsule at Villard could very well be like spitting into the wind — except there will be no wind, no

nothing to spit into.

Maybe we should all wish Ronnie (or one of his kind) had had a hand in Vietnam. None of us would be here to worry about Star Wars in 1986.

Kristi Svendsen
Pre-journalism

Offended

I was offended and shocked by Philip Mitchell's letter regarding the English department's graduate secretary (ODE, Oct. 14). I was offended by Mr. Mitchell's gratuitous and insulting remarks, and I was shocked that the Emerald would print such remarks.

If Mr. Mitchell had a legitimate complaint, why didn't he lodge it with the proper authorities? He should have written to Mr. Stamm's supervisor, not to the campus newspaper. Obviously, his goal was to humiliate Mr. Stamm, rather than to straighten out the problem between them.

The Emerald's irresponsible journalism has compounded Mr. Mitchell's error. In the 10 years I have worked as a journalist, I have never known any publication's editorial policy to embrace defamatory statements. Where I worked, we called that "libel."

According to Webster's, libel is "a statement... published without cause and tending to expose another to public contempt." Actually, Mr. Mitchell's letter may produce quite the opposite effect. After reading the letter, the public may conclude that if Mr. Stamm was indeed rude, he had good reason to be. Dealing with the

likes of Mr. Mitchell can't be any picnic.

Jordan Barnett
English GTF

Political gain

University minutes dated January 22, 1986 unfortunately reveal that Steve Nelson is being less than candid about his trip to El Salvador. Nelson in the meeting stated that:

a) It would be illegal for aid to the University in El Salvador to involve the transfer of state of Oregon property and that aid to the university would have to be private donations.

b) A motion for accepting the University of El Salvador as a sister university didn't involve a mandate for political change.

Steve has already pushed for political change as a part of his "fact-finding" mission. The general impression this incident leaves is that Nelson makes agreements and breaks them at will due to political expediency.

It is a sad comment in all regards that Nelson did not own up to the inherently political nature of his visit from the very beginning, especially in a situation where up to 1,000 students died in 1980 due to army occupation by the previous government of El Salvador.

It is hoped that Nelson will stop posing for political gain. In any case, a new government headed by right-wing D'Abusson of ARENA might make repeat visits to the university a thing of the past, and might close down the university again, as in 1980.

Andrew Beckwith
Graduate student, physics

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff
Advertising Director: Susan Thelen
Production Manager: Diane Fassler
Classified Advertising: Alyson Simmons
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: John Boiler / Sales Manager
Teresa Acosta, Paul Anderson, Ann Cole, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Peter LaFleur, Catherine Lilja, Joseph Menzel, Joan Wildermuth.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Spectrum Editor
Spectrum Assistant Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Editorial Page Assistant Editor
Sports Editor
Photo Editor
Graphic Design Editor
Night Editor

Associate Editors
Community
Politics
Higher Education / Administration
University Affairs
Student Government
Student Activities
General Assignment

Photographers: Sherilyn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, James Marks, Dan Wheeler, Michael Wilhelm.

Production: Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Sandra Bevens, Manuel Flores, Shannon Gaither, Gloria Goskie, James Kenny, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angelina Muniz, Kara Oberst, Ami Pate, Julie Paul, Jennifer Peterson, Kristin Sanburg, Nils Tjoimn, Michael Wilhelm, X.Kang Xie.

Michelle Brenc
Lucinda Dillon
Michael Rivers
Curtis Condon
Stephen Maher
James Young
Michael Drummond
Capi Lynn
Ross Martin
Lorraine Rath
Chris Norred

Jolayne Houtz
Shawn Wirtz
Chris Norred
Stan Nelson
Sarah Kitchen
Toniie Dakin
Dennis Fernandes

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.