

# Letters

## Risky power

In response to Hiawatha's letter ("Resources," Oct. 22) — friend, your facts aren't on straight. The Northwest currently produces surplus electricity, and sells an amount roughly equal to Trojan's output to California. This power is sold for more than Northwest utilities would pay for it, but for far less than it actually costs to produce. Thus, the Northwest ends up subsidizing southern California's energy hunger.

It may be obvious to you that solar energy isn't a viable option in the Willamette Valley, but I'm a B.P.A. certified conservation analyst, have two A.S. degrees in energy management and have designed several solar homes. Passive solar home heating systems and flat-plate hot water collectors gather the same percentage of a home's heating needs in Eugene as in Bend, despite Bend's 300 sunny days a year. These systems capture solar radiation right through the overcast, and with our warmer winters, we need less heat.

We don't need Trojan: Why risk our future to subsidize southern California and PGE?

John O'Renck  
Junior, journalism

## Nuke waste

It's very hard to find any kind of rational discussion on nuclear waste. This mainly stems from the fact that most people know nothing about it in the first place, and this allows others to present outright lies and half-truths about waste and get away with it. This becomes evident in the Emerald's editorial on Oct. 23. Here is what was stated:

1. "Re-racking spent fuel rods close together in the same pool may cause them to 'go critical' and go off in a nuclear explosion." Fact: The only way this could happen is if the plutonium and uranium were extracted from the rods, purified, surrounded by tons of TNT and exploded. The only result of re-racking the rods closer together is that the water in the pool gets warmer, and warmth does not cause the waste to "go critical."

2. "There is serious doubt whether we have the technology to safely dispose of nuclear waste." Fact: The technology already exists! The waste can be solidified, fused with glass and made into rods one foot in diameter and placed in sealed steel cylinders. They are then buried in natural salt

flats, which are known to be stable for many millions of years.

I would encourage anyone who wants a rational discussion on nuclear waste and is really concerned about other nuclear issues to read two articles in Scientific American magazine (Jan., 1976 and June, 1977). They can be found in the science library.

Frederick Leff  
Eugene

## Yes on 14

Measure 14 will shut down the Trojan nuclear plant until there is a federally licensed radioactive waste disposal site. The purpose of this measure is to resolve the waste problem. If there is no permanent site available to safely store the waste, then it shouldn't be produced.

When Trojan began operating in 1976, officials said that the waste would be removed within six months. That was 10 years ago. The fact is that 291 tons of highly radioactive material remain on site in a prefab metal building, located 100 feet from the Columbia River, and there is no federally licensed repository to accept the waste.

In addition to the waste problem, Trojan's energy does little to contribute to Oregon's demand for electricity. Presently, Trojan provides only 3 percent of the regional demand. Last year 82 percent of Trojan's output was sold to California; they got the power and we got the waste.

Bruce Philbrick  
University Survival Center  
Steve Nelson  
ASUO president

## Thanks Bruce

Recently I received a packet in the mail from the "Friends of Bruce Long," which lists among his attributes (?) the fact that he is a native Oregonian (provincial?) and middle-of-the-road (indecisive?) on many major issues.

The packet also thoughtfully includes a side-by-side comparison of his merits versus those of Peter DeFazio. Here we find that Mr. Long opposes a balanced county budget, opposes protection of Oregon wilderness areas, supports backroom abortions for poor women, supports discrimination against homosexuals, and is endorsed almost exclusively by organizations representing large corporate interests.

Thanks to this timely infor-

mation from Bruce Long's friends my vote will be going to Peter DeFazio.

Hiawatha  
Graduate, music

## Stop 52

Ballot Measure 52 asking Eugene voters to approve the West Eugene Parkway has serious environmental impacts. Vote No!

The West Eugene Industrial Area is used for purposes that are "hazardous, offensive, obnoxious or unsightly..." and "...processing usually generates liquid or solid wastes..." (Eugene-Springfield Metro Plan II-E-7).

Generation and transportation of these pollutants can only be expected to increase. The highway would carry 30,000 cars a day adding noxious emissions and litter.

The proposed route lies within the Amazon Flood Plain. Increased run-off from heavy rains will wash more pollutants into the water, posing serious problems for human health and the environment. The route runs only 150 feet from Bertelson Slough.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife described this wetland habitat: "Should the slough be lost, most resident wildlife would perish and the survival of migratory species would be put in jeopardy."

Wetland ecosystems are vital to the hydrologic cycle. We must protect our few remaining urban wetlands.

Neva Hassanein  
Eugene

## Vote green

Oregonians Protecting Our Water (OPOW) is a local political action committee that works toward developing and preserving a cleaner Oregon.

OPOW endorses Norma Paulus for governor, Rick Bauman for U.S. senator, and Peter DeFazio for U.S. representative.

For state senators OPOW endorses Gratten Kerans (District 20), Larry Hill (District 21), and Bill Frye (District 22). For state representatives OPOW endorses John Manley (District 38), Ron Eachus (District 39), Carl Hosticka (District 40), David Dix (District 41), Bill Dwyer (District 42), Karsten Rasmussen (District 43), and Peggy Jolin (District 44).

OPOW endorses Jack Craig for EWEB, and Chuck Ivey for county commissioner (District

1). OPOW supports ballot measures 14, 15, 16, 18 and 51. OPOW vehemently opposes Ballot Measure 52.

Our environment is a delicately balanced ecosystem, which sustains all life. Unless we elect those legislators who work to help protect it, it will vanish altogether. OPOW encourages all Oregonians to vote "green."

Catherine Larson  
Eugene

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