

# Editorial

## Hayward expansion should move slowly

Few people question the merit of renovating Hayward Field. The track is in sorry shape and needs to be widened; the spectator stands also are in need of a face lift. But the introduction of House Bill 2800, sponsored by state Rep. David Dix, D-Eugene, has raised our eyebrows.

For the past few weeks, Dix has been championing a proposal that would go beyond merely expanding the field. The outline of his project not only includes widening the track, but also calls for the construction of a weight room, trainers' facilities, press boxes, a warm-up track, increased seating and a new scoreboard. To fund this project, Dix has called for the State System of Higher Education to issue revenue bonds to the tune of \$2 million.

Some University officials have questioned how the school would go about paying back the bonds — this question has yet to be answered by Dix, but he insists that the University would not be solely responsible for funding the debt. University administrators are acting wisely to approach this scheme with caution.

Dix's bill is a tall order, and on the surface it sounds like a fantastic idea. Who would be against constructing the finest track and field stadium in the state? But again, the problem lies in how to fund the thing, and this is where the freshman representative may be doing a little political grandstanding. The proposal has a lot of brawn, but it is short on brains.

Last week, city, county and University officials met with Dix and attempted to come up with solutions for funding the bonds. Predictably, no headway was made. The issue of raising ticket prices for athletic events was discussed, and the prevailing wisdom is that it won't work. And it won't.

For example, football and basketball ticket prices are already high, and raising them would undoubtedly discourage some fans from attending, thus making the price increase negligible. Moreover, half of the proceeds from athletic events go to the visiting team, so any gains in ticket revenue would have to be split. Dix himself admitted increasing ticket prices only would raise \$40,000 at the most — nowhere close to the \$3.5 million needed to complete the project he envisions.

Dix has discussed other revenue-raising means, among them would be a tax on major track and field events as well as increasing the city's hotel and motel tax. But Dix has yet to provide any details about how a "track and field tax" would be implemented, and the city has been extremely leery of raising hotel and motel taxes in the past. Chances are that it will be just as leery if the idea of raising taxes comes up again.

However, Dix does not deserve all the criticism; as he has pointed out, House Bill 2800 has received bipartisan support in both houses of the Legislature.

We encourage efforts to expand the track facilities — if it can be done. Problems will no doubt arise if projects that are too big are put forth with too much haste. Dix, his bipartisan supporters, city, county and University officials should work together cautiously and carefully to come up with a feasible plan if the University is to avoid funding a financial Tower of Babel.



## Letters

### Budget cuts

Bonneville Power Administration is experiencing revenue difficulties and an energy surplus due to overzealous planning for future load growth. Oil is cheap, and California utilities find it more economical to run existing oil/gas-fired generating facilities versus buying BPA power.

Additionally, the Northwest's aluminum industry is in a slump, resulting in huge lost sales of BPA power. In an effort to cut costs, BPA has considered raising rates and cutting back the conservation budget. A budget cut could have some serious implications.

While an energy surplus currently exists in the Northwest, this situation could change rapidly. A rise in oil prices, an improvement in the regional economy, or a low-water year could easily change the surplus into an energy deficit. None of the above are unlikely, and BPA should keep these things in mind, especially when considering the conservation budget.

Conservation should be viewed as an energy resource in itself as a way of meeting future load growth. Actually, the Northwest Power Planning Council recommends that conservation be utilized first above all other

resources in meeting future needs.

Unfortunately, conservation is something that cannot be brought "on-line" immediately. Therefore, BPA must realize the lead time involved in these programs and maintain their present structure should the need arise to utilize conservation as a resource.

BPA will take written comments until Feb. 27 (Donna Geiger, PO Box 12999, Portland, OR, 97212).

**Bruce Philbrick**  
Survival Center

### Woman's right

In reading the responses of Mary Sullivan and Barbara Turill to Jeff Hoyt's letter on Feb. 6 (corrected on Feb. 13), it was instructive that both women found it necessary to write, although each claimed Hoyt's letter was somehow "amusing."

The quote by Rosemary Botcher is a powerful one, and I can understand why these women felt the need to respond. A substantial portion of their letters, however, was essentially an attack on Hoyt that appeared to be based solely on his gender and did not deal with the issues he raised.

One often can see people who argue that abortion is a moral alternative to giving birth attempting to disguise the reality that an innocent human life is brutally destroyed each time an abortion takes place. The insistence on the euphemism "pro-choice" by Ms. Sullivan reveals just such an attempt to hide truth with words.

In an address delivered at the University of Manitoba in February 1978, Janet E. Smith made the following comments: "A woman who sets her rights, the supposed right to privacy or right over her own body, above the life of another human being is saying that a woman's rights are superior to human rights. She has put herself above the human race, she has made herself the executor over life

and death. Is that a woman's right?"

**William Moore**  
Music school

### Preferences

This will be my last contribution to the current letters forum on the topic of agnosticism versus religious faith.

Previously I indicated that "psychological compartmentalization" is one undesirable consequence of partitioning off various sectors of human experience as sacred turf — and, therefore, not to be examined with the same quality of rational scrutiny which a university brings to bear on other areas of concern.

Now because religious doctrines like virgin birth, resurrection, immortality, and a God operating in the universe — when carefully examined — are found to be of questionable veracity, religiously inclined people can "accept" them only on non-rational grounds. In this context, "faith" means believing in propositions for which there is insufficient evidence or rational justification.

An agnostic (like myself) argues that no one KNOWS whether a God exists; whereas Nelson Farrier (ODE, Feb. 12) states that he has determined "that there is a God" — and William Moore (ODE, Feb. 12) suggests that I re-examine my motives?

Some years ago, I came across an essay by Leo Rosten titled "The Myths By Which We Live." In it, Rosten identified clearly the motive to those who are genuinely dedicated to the life of the mind, when he explained that the function of the thinker is to challenge what seems irrational in the "search for the truth, no matter where it leads; and to try to find what it is — not what you want it to be, or hope it to be, or prefer it to be."

**Ron Rousseve**  
Counseling psychology professor

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