

Snubbed FEMA idea was good, gutsy call

Oregon recently declined to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's nuclear war preparedness plan — or "national insecurity exercise." It was a gutsy call and a good one on the part of Gov. Neil Goldschmidt.

The federal government has threatened to withhold \$1.5 million in state emergency planning funds if the state balks at the exercise, but this is blatant bureaucratic arm twisting.

The federal government legally cannot deny emergency planning funds. The annual comprehensive cooperative contract signed by the state and federal government does not stipulate FEMA can withdraw funding if the state refuses to participate in their exercises.

This is the stand the state is prepared to take if the issue ever comes to litigation. But chances are it won't. States that have refused to participate in the past have received their funding despite so-called federal warnings.

FEMA claims the exercise is necessary to ensure preparedness in the unlikely event of a nuclear war. Moreover, it insists some sort of plan is needed to provide services for those unfortunate souls who would survive a nuclear attack. This is absurd. Emergency planning funds are designed to help states deal with naturally occurring disasters, i.e., floods, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, etc., not nuclear holocausts.

An overwhelming majority of Oregonians opposed the FEMA plan from the beginning. It's comforting to see the state follow the wishes of the people and snub FEMA's heavy-handed, coercive tactics. Hopefully, the federal government will realize Oregon is not a playground for superpower politics.

Tri-state coalition plan could net a Super Collider

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt demonstrated sharp initiative last Saturday when he announced Oregon, Washington and Idaho should unite to secure a Northwest site for the federal government's proposed \$4.4 billion Superconducting Super Collider project.

This Super Collider—which would be the largest in the world—would hurdle subatomic particles at one another along a 53-mile-long subterranean "track." This may not sound like much to the layman, but the discoveries this project could yield have been likened to those born from the discovery of electricity.

The more tangible benefits from having the Super Collider in the Northwest would be the estimated 4,500 construction jobs, 2,500 professional positions and the \$200 million annual operating budget the project would bring to the region.

However, there are a lot of "ifs" involved with this project. Questions have been raised whether this project will actually receive congressional funding. But the possibility that it might be funded provides a lucrative carrot at the end of the stick.

Goldschmidt's proposed tri-state coalition would be an inventive way of getting this carrot. A regional voice speaks louder than a single state's plea. The Northwest could use this mega-project, and with our neighbors' cooperation, the region just might get it.



Letters

Euphoria

I can't prove that unicorns, leprechauns, Santa or the Easter Bunny do not exist, whether by logical argument or scientific method. However, belief in their existence is certainly "irrational and unscientific," since the existence of these entities also can't be proved.

No evidence (an outward sign: proof) exists that unicorns, for example, do exist.

Of course, one may choose to believe anything she or he likes based on faith (firm, unquestioning belief in something for which there is no proof), and this may be necessary for some individuals to establish a sense of identity and purpose.

Because of the mind-altering nature of religious experience, religious beliefs create feelings of confidence and euphoria. These same experiences and feelings can be created by using euphoric and hallucinogenic drugs.

But no drug or idea has historically been responsible for, or is presently the cause of, as much human suffering as are religious ideas throughout the world — not the least of which

is Christianity.

Sandra Francisconi
Atheist

Correction

In two recent front-page accounts of IFC budget hearings which addressed the budget of the Office of Student Advocacy, the Emerald incorrectly reported that this office accumulated a \$5,000 deficit during the current fiscal year. The first report described this deficit as having arisen in October and November of 1986, while the second misquoted ASUO President Steve Nelson as referring to an Office of Student Advocacy deficit arising "this year." Actually, the deficit in question involved an overrun of the office's 1985-86 budget. Perhaps the confusion involves the delay in the funding of the 1985-86 deficit until this year.

In any case, on discovering the first erroneous report, I made a written request to the Emerald for the printing of a correction, and, in fact, received assurances that such a correction would be printed. No correction has appeared to date, and the error has been repeated. In order to keep programs supported by students' incidental fees accountable, students must receive accurate information concerning budget management in these programs. One piece of that information is surely the year in which a particular budget overrun occurred, since such information is indispensable to the analysis of whether,

over a period of time, problems are being remedied.

Lucille R. Kaplan
Director, Office of Student
Advocacy

Freedom

I am absolutely appalled by the mindless rubbish presented in the name of entertainment these days. That television contains too much violence is a gross understatement of the facts. Now we are faced with propaganda which would have us believe that the Soviets are nothing but a bunch of thick-skulled bullies whose sole intentions are to bring American values (weep, weep) to their knees. I refer, of course, to that soggy, sentimentally nationalistic mini-series "Amerika." That nonsense was no more than the paranoid masturbation of a few sick, dangerous and uneducated minds, as a quick glance into any recent newspaper will reveal.

Not only did "Amerika" present an extremely slanted and pathetically inaccurate view of Soviet culture, but the makers of this trash also made a tragic mistake by under-estimating the intelligence of the American public. Let me get this straight: We were supposed to consider this entertaining? Perhaps it was in a perverse sort of way, however, it was propaganda in the truest sense of the word. It was designed to influence public thought in support of the policies of our current administration. And much like foreign policy in the past six years, it was the attitude presented in "Amerika" which serves to bring us ever closer to nuclear confrontation.

Let us learn of Soviet culture in other ways than through such propaganda. As American students, we have an obligation to use the freedom to educate ourselves.

LET'S DO IT RESPONSIBLY.

Nina Johnson
Anthropology

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