

# Letters

## Implications

As an elected director of the Eugene Water and Electric Board, I feel compelled to respond to an article discussing the University and EWEB steam plants that appeared in the Emerald on Oct. 29. This article contains several erroneous and inflammatory statements concerning discussions between EWEB and the University on future service options.

The article tended to imply that EWEB was engaged in an unfriendly takeover move against the University steam plant. Nothing could be farther from the truth. EWEB does not view the University steam plant as competition; further, EWEB has no desire to "get their hands in the state coffers."

To the contrary, EWEB believes that the University could save significant amounts of money by combining the two steam operations. At the same time, EWEB steam customers would realize similar benefit in the form of reduced rates.

This double benefit is possible because most steam plant operational costs are fixed; little more than the additional cost of hogging fuel is incurred when expanding steam plant production.

Currently, a jointly funded study by Gregor Professional Corporation is examining the production costs of our respective steam plants. This study will be followed by another to review alternatives to the present operations of both plants as a means of creating increased efficiencies.

James E. Reinmuth  
Dean, College of Business  
Administration

## Weather report

I was quoted in two weather-related articles in the Tuesday, Oct. 27 issue of the Emerald. Unfortunately, I was either misquoted, or misunderstood in remarks I made concerning the El Nino phenomena. Let me just state the facts as I understand them.

1. An El Nino is currently taking place. The most easily noticed sign of El Nino is a warm up (about 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in this case) of the ocean waters near the equator.

2. About two-thirds of the time the Pacific Northwest records below-average winter rainfall near the equator.

3. The El Nino of 1982-83 was a notable exception to this pattern. During that winter the recorded rainfall well above average.

The drought article stated that we normally have a wet winter during El Nino — the exact opposite is true.

The article stated that 1983 had a very wet summer. It was the winter of 1982-83 that was wet.

Finally, I said that a forecast of a wet winter two-thirds of the time is quite an exact figure. It is for a long range of forecast where many forecasts are little better than a coin flip.

It is, of course, nowhere near as accurate as a forecast for tomorrow. All forecasts should be put in perspective.

John Fischer  
Meteorologist, KEZI-TV

## Misguided

When the Supreme Court made its landmark decision in the Roe vs. Wade case, it did so because it was clear to the court that a woman cannot be given her constitutional right to be treated equally with non-pregnant members of our society if she is forced to give up the decision of when she will have a child.

This historic case was not only a legal battle over when life starts (at conception or birth), but also a battle of power for the control of women. But was power over women the initial motivating factor of the anti-choice people, or was it just the age-old instinctive human desire for power?

In his letter "Opposing Goals" (ODE, Nov. 2), William Moore once again reveals how the pursuit of power over others can misguide one's intellect to the point of public embarrass-

ment. Unfortunately, he can't see himself as he appears in the true light of his convictions.

Mr. Moore is wrong to attempt to show United Way as undeserving of our financial help. He is completely misguided in his description of Planned Parenthood and its acceptance by our community.

I urge anyone that may be inclined to take Mr. Moore's word to first stop by Planned Parenthood and find out for themselves how vital this organization is to the young of our community who would be much worse off without it.

Patrick Clancy  
Eugene

## Solidarity

Over the past two weeks I have been reading with growing consternation the biased articles being published by the Emerald regarding a statement made by ASUO Minorities Coordinator Harry Hintsala.

I fail to see how Mr. Hintsala's comment "you choose to be gay or lesbian" implies gays should remain invisible. In fact, I think Mr. Contreras' acute paranoia is indicative of the kind of inuendos he's made. Implications that Mr. Hintsala has ever called anyone faggot, or that he is a bigot, are ludicrous (ODE, Nov. 5).

I feel Mr. Hintsala's comment was taken out of context to begin with and has provided GALA the long awaited vehicle to further its own political agenda. This continued character assassination of Mr. Hintsala is an offensive political assault.

## Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

I think GALA should realize that Native Americans, too, can be offended by rhetoric. Homophobic and bigot are not words to be taken lightly.

It also concerns me that the Emerald has taken such an advocate role in this matter. I think the student advisor, if there is such a thing, should exercise his authority and demand partiality from Emerald

journalists.

I do hope GALA members will bring an end to their insatiable harassment soon. We are all engaged in a struggle for equality that cannot survive without solidarity and can only crumble with division and chaos within.

Regina Hovet  
Student, Shoshone

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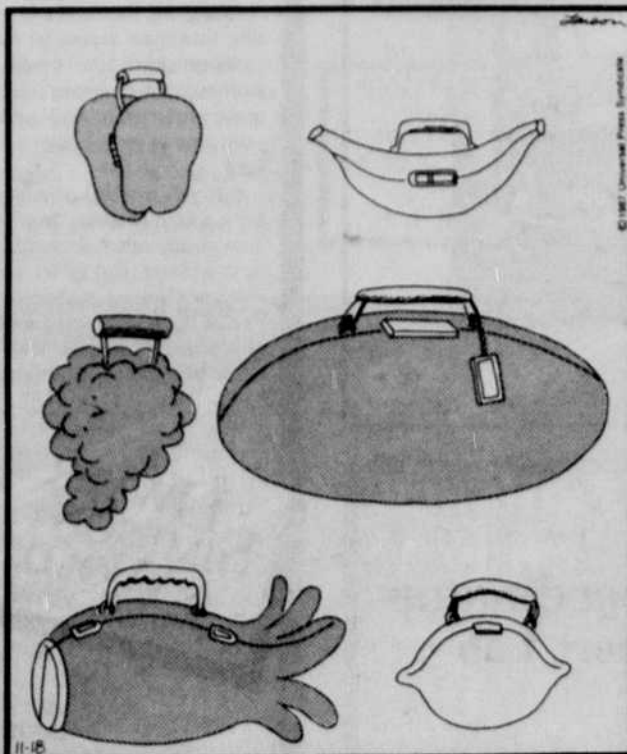
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