

Picture this: oil wells off of Wizard Island

What's next? Oil wells on the banks of Wizard Island? Last weekend, a federal appeals panel rejected an appeal by environmentalists concerning exploratory drilling near Crater Lake National Park.

California Energy began drilling the test holes in Sept. 1986 and reached a depth of 1,354 feet on one and a depth of 485 feet on the other. After finding the results encouraging, California Energy sought permission in 1987 to deepen the test holes — while at the same time allowing the clay and water mixture used to lubricate the drill to seep into the ground.

The ground, of course, is of volcanic origin, and very porous.

The environmentalists, made up of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and the National Park Conservation Association, contend that drilling fluids might harm the clear waters of Crater Lake — which easily could occur with the porous ground structure.

Nevertheless, the Interior Board of Land Appeals decided that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which has jurisdiction over mining and drilling on national forests, could approve drilling without recapturing drilling fluids.

Moreover, last year's Congress added Crater Lake National Park to a list of "sites" with significant geothermal features — although park officials have continually opposed geothermal drilling in the area.

This seems to be another case of the government ignoring the opinions of those concerned about the environment and general well-being of the planet.

At this time, the environmentalists, and specifically the Oregon Natural Resources Council, are investigating further litigation against the BLM decision. However, if they don't notify the BLM of an intention to appeal again within 60 days, the current suspension of the drilling permit will be lifted.

So all is not lost in the battle.

We hope the the environmentalist groups will notify the BLM of further litigation — and at the same time continue their efforts to conserve the natural resources and pastoral beauty of Oregon.

'Who wants to smell like a propane tank anyway?'

To pump or not to pump, that is the question.

Well, like the 500 people who turned out at the Salem capitol building last week to protest a bill that would legalize self-service gas in Oregon, we, too, say no to pumping our own. And we're not the only ones.

The American Automobile Association has also joined the bandwagon in opposition to House Bill 2522, which would repeal Oregon Revised Statute 480.330 prohibiting self-service gas pumping. A recent poll by AAA of more than 6,000 Oregonians showed 77.8 percent were against self-service, 80.9 percent believed self-service gas would not lower prices and 62 percent thought public gas pumping would increase fire hazards.

Moreover, Rep. Bill Dwyer has calculated that an estimated 3,000 of Oregon's 7,031 gas station attendants would lose their jobs within one year of the passage of this law.

An informal survey of service stations in the area tells us that they, too, are against pumping your own. It also was discovered that with self-service gas, "a few jobs could be lost," "it could be a fire hazard," "gas prices would not drop a significant amount," and "who wants to end up smelling like a propane tank anyway?"

These are all very good points — points the Legislature should take into account in deciding the life of this bill.

Something the Legislature also should note is the fact that the law prohibiting self-service gas in Oregon was created in 1951, and has been contested several other times with no result.

Rest assured, the law probably won't be repealed this year either. And rest even more — stay in your car and let a gas station attendant fill the tank for you.

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.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

WHICH IS MORE FRIGHTENING?



AN EX-KLANSMAN
IN THE LOUISIANA STATE
LEGISLATURE



THE FACT THERE
ARE 8,456 PEOPLE OUT
THERE WHO VOTED FOR HIM

Letters

Experience

There are many programs and services offered at the University which students never hear about or take advantage of. For those who wish to do more than do their time, get a degree and get out, programs do exist which can turn education into experience.

An article appeared in the Emerald recently concerning the interdisciplinary spring term at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB). The article described the program, entitled "People and the Oregon Coast" as a "hands-on, experience-oriented program" which allows students the opportunity to take courses from various disciplines and apply these to an independent project involving social and environmental problems in a coastal setting. After spending the fall term at OIMB, I feel that the station and the spring program deserve enthusiastic support and increased exposure. The facility is fantastic, and the setting of ten breathtaking, Cape Arago and numerous beaches are only minutes away, and you are right next to South Slough National Estuarine Reserve. The faculty are excellent, and always willing to talk amid the informal atmosphere which pervades the OIMB community. The time spent at OIMB can easily end up being much too short.

The recent death of Dr. Bob Terwilliger, an invaluable asset to the program, will leave a void which new students may sense. While his energy and boundless enthusiasm will be missed, the program will, as he so desired, take place this spring, and you are invited to come out for it. It will be an experience you will not soon, if ever, forget. Information is available in EMU Suite 1.

Dennis Morgan
Environmental Studies

Be heard

Since the time of the Roe v. Wade abortion decision in 1973, a generation of women have come of age. In the 16 years since then, many of us have taken for granted the decision and the efforts that made it

a reality. Given the present political climate, with the alarming amount of anti-choice propaganda, we feel it is time that an opposing voice be heard.

We represent multiplicitous positions on the abortion issue, yet all share the conviction that freedom to choose is imperative. To be pro-choice is not to be pro-abortion. Many of us would choose not to have an abortion if faced with that decision. The issue, however, is not the propriety of abortion itself. What is clear is that the denial of choice is tantamount to a direct violation of our bodies.

If you feel as we do, join us in making our voices heard. Write to your representatives, both in Oregon and Washington, D.C., to newspapers and publications. There are many organizations, including the National Abortion Rights Action League here in Eugene, that could use your dedication and energy in maintaining this important freedom for American women. The Supreme Court will soon have before it a case that could overturn the Roe v. Wade decision. Now is the time to join the chorus. The choice is, and should remain, ours.

Paige Price
Cindy LaCom
Eugene

Suppression

What do Ayatollah Khomeini and the Incidental Fee Committee have in common? Both attempt to silence opposing opinions. The only difference is that the Ayatollah wants to kill a man and the IFC wants to kill a publication, with the same effect — suppression of free speech.

The IFC's recent decision not to fund the Oregon Commentator laid to rest all pretense by the left wing on this campus to the principle of free speech.

The suppression of press freedom by the IFC is not surprising, and follows a pattern on other campuses — notably Dartmouth.

The IFC hides behind the facade of "cultural diversity," and makes it clear that only doctrinally acceptable opinions will have fair play. It is significant that while communist Angela Davis, whose original fame was to be fired from the

University of California for expressing her political viewpoints, was at the University blasting mainstream society the IFC was sounding a death knell to the only publication offering conservative opinion on this campus.

The Commentator's crime was publishing my article expressing the view that feminism is sexism. In my article no one was slandered, no female was denied equality, and no one was denied the opportunity to respond. But my article did ruffle some feathers. Obviously the power of the purse was skillfully used to quash freedom of the press, and smooth some feathers.

Where is Mario Savio when we really need him?

Jude Vollendorf
Senior

Misguided

High school juniors Kim Dodson and Kevin Ellis are well-intentioned but misguided in proposing that all Oregon high school students be required to do community service in order to graduate.

Community work can be considered a moral obligation but should never be made a civic one. If Dodson and Ellis wish to contribute to their community, they should. But they should not presume to tell other people what their moral responsibility is by making such substantial demands on their time.

John Shenon
Student

Thanks

We appreciate the continual support you have given to Project Saferide. We have not only benefited from your financial backing but also from your strong and personal support of our program's goals and philosophies. Saferide has been able to triple its ridership this year, and hopefully we'll be able to do the same next year.

Meg Wilson
Rhonda Fenrich
Project Saferide