

Science protesters got message across

University and other public officials definitely got more than they bargained for Sunday when they opened the new science buildings.

The ceremony was intended to be a harmless public relations opportunity, attended by University and governmental figures such as former Pres. Paul Olum, U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield and Gov. Neil Goldschmidt.

Hatfield and former Gov. Vic Atiyeh would be praised for their efforts to raise \$33 million in federal funds for the project. Kind speeches about their commitments to higher education and economic development would be given, and pictures would be taken. And the new buildings, which took three years to construct, would be officially opened for classes and research.

It didn't turn out that way.

Members of groups such as Student Campaign for Disarmament, the Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation and Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals filled the main hall where the ceremony was held.

They protested not only the possibility of animal and military research at the new complex, but also Hatfield's stand on old growth issues. GTFs also reminded Goldschmidt of their contract concerns by waving signs and marching during his speech.

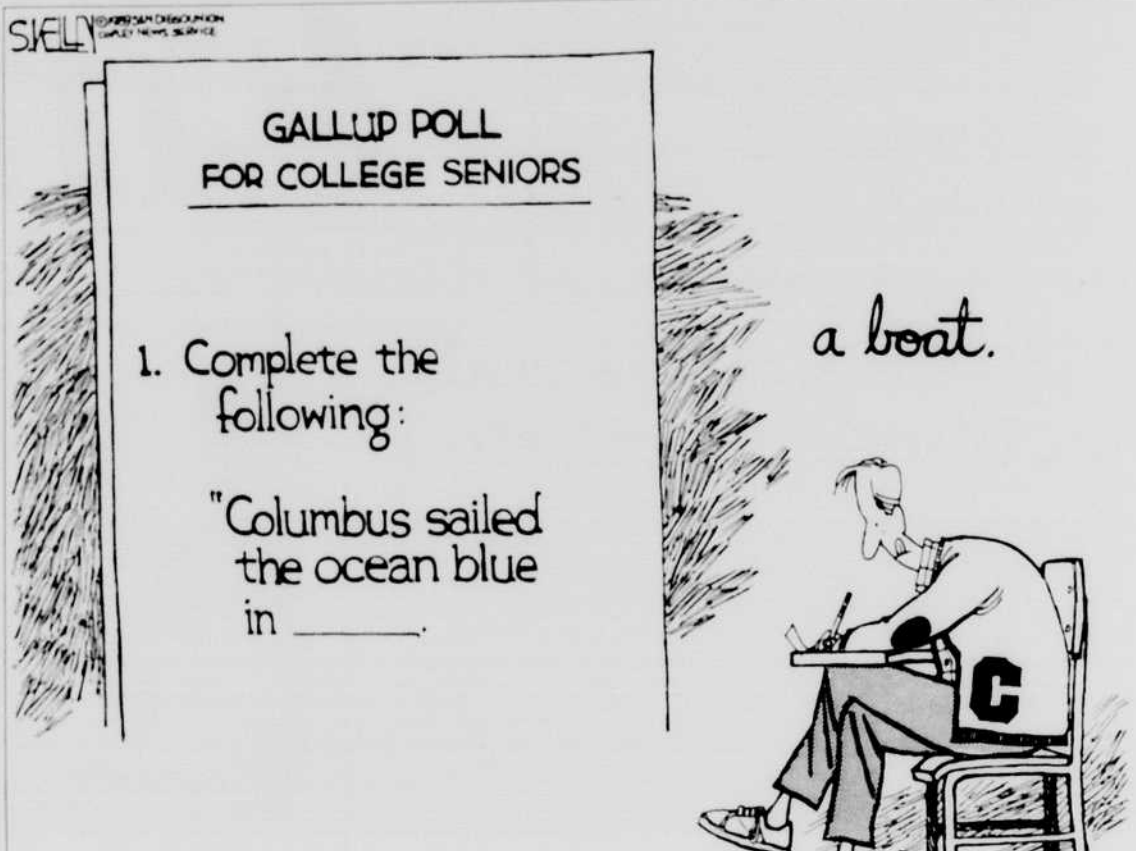
Hatfield and Atiyeh should get kudos for bringing in the bucks to build the new center. The buildings will bring the University's science buildings out of the 1950s and will provide much-needed classroom space. Perhaps even a few more top-notch science professors will be lured to Oregon to partake in the facilities.

But are we in favor of disrupting ceremonies such as these in peaceful protests, even if those involved had done the University a tremendous favor? Hell, yes.

The enticement to do military research, which could lead to grants and recognition of the University, will always be with us, especially with the new buildings and facilities just opening. Equally strong will be the temptation to perform inhumane experiments on animals. Hopefully this temptation will be something University officials and the people in the science department can resist.

However, if University researchers decide to perform experiments on kittens, or if state officials ignore the GTFs yet again, Sunday's protests probably won't make them lose sleep. But viewers of file footage of the speeches by Goldschmidt and Hatfield won't be able to ignore the jeers and boos if they try; photos of the event are dominated not by the speakers themselves but by signs decrying animal research and clearcuts.

The protesters were loud. They were obnoxious. Above all, they were rude. They also made their point. Nice job.



Mock invasion an effective way to protest

Hopefully, it made you stop and think. Hopefully, it made you wonder what your reaction would be. Hopefully, it made you wonder if it could happen here.

What it was was a fictional account of a campus invasion by the Oregon National Guard, and the arrest of ASUO president Andy Clark.

For those who saw the "news release," it was a frightening, shocking, thoroughly effective way to demonstrate against what actually happened this past summer in El Salvador.

Monday's event was part of a nationally coordinated protest against U.S. military aid to El Salvador. The University, connected to El Salvador by the Sister University Project, seemed an ideal location for the mock invasion.

Last summer, Oregon's fiction was El Salvador's reality. The nightmare occurred on July 17, 1989, when the University of El Salvador campus was invaded by government troops, seeking to smash a protest against the abduction of one of the university's student leaders.

The student leader was finally released — earlier this month — but the campus still shows signs of uneasy tension. Before the campus occupation was over, more than 20

students were injured.

Gun-toting soldiers firing on unarmed protesters. Shades of Kent State, Tiananmen Square and Berkley.

As mentioned, University students have strong ties with their El Salvadoran counterparts. Besides the Sister University Project, there exists a national Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador organization, in which several University students are active.

CISPES is mounting a national campaign to halt all U.S. aid to El Salvador — a staggering \$1.5 million a day.

We support CISPES in its effort.

As with U.S. campuses during the 1960s, UES has assumed the mantle of national consciousness. Since when should arguing and fighting for basic human rights constitute a crime?

Currently, 25,000 students attend UES. There are 25,000 people standing up for their rights in the face of government crackdowns. Failure to support their fight would not only be stupid, it would be criminal.

In all likelihood, Monday's mock invasion brought El Salvador's plight home to many University students. To see familiar surroundings turn into a war zone would be shocking.

Letters

Anti-intellectual

James Drew's letter "Archetypes" (ODE, Oct. 5) necessitates response because it illustrates damage to secular education by the anti-intellectual influences of Christian Fundamentalism at the University that go unchallenged in classrooms.

Increasing religious expression by religiously motivated faculty in the liberal arts departments, and, of religious leaders' activities in cult programs, like Campus Crusade for Christ, on public college campuses result in subversion of secular perspectives in curricula.

Drew offends himself, doubly, as careful reading of his letter shows: First, by building his argument on the second sentence of a statement of my letter taken out of context, "The theist concept 'God' is a human fictional construction. 'God' is no more real than 'Superman' or 'Batman' and, simi-

larly, accommodates infantile imaginations."

Psychologists call the helpless developmental period after human birth the neonatal stage. The self-centered child seeks its own solution for its needs in the following infantile stage.

Drew wrote: "For me, I require the existence of some higher force in the universe (which I choose to call 'God') to explain a variety of phenomena (life, light's speed, pi) which fail to coincide with how I feel nature should operate ... Without some guiding force I cannot otherwise rationalize the presence of these things to myself."

Second, Drew forgets the fundamental rule of data processing known as "GIGO" — "gobble-de-gook in, gobble-de-gook out." Information processing is only as good as data fed into the process. Failure to consider quality atheist arguments short-circuits Drew's analytic capabilities. Lacking a full range of data input, his intellect is unable to arrive at val-

id "truth statements."

Bert Tryba
Eugene

Combating fear

The article in the Oct. 16 paper on an altercation and arrest of an alleged harasser on East 13th street is precisely the kind of reporting the *Emerald* should avoid.

The article describes the suspect as a "black man between 20 and 21 years of age." (By the way, how old does that make him?) No decent purpose is served by an ethnic or racial identification in this case. The suspect was arrested; he is not at large, and no identification is needed to locate or apprehend him.

Oddly enough, though the article names four people involved in the altercation, it does not name the suspect. Thus, we are left with a crime story told about an anonymous

black man. The *Emerald* should be combating racial fear and prejudice, not creating it.

Daniel Pope
Associate Professor of History

Drunk duck

This letter is directed to the drunk Duck fan in section 36. You need some serious help. Maybe your friends will read this letter and decide they care enough about you to get you the help you need.

A football game is good, clean fun and can be best enjoyed sober. If you need to bring fake binoculars full of booze, leave during half time to refill them with more booze, drink prior to the game and during half time, you are in no shape to enjoy the game.

When you offered your friends drinks at the game, and your friend declined because he had to drive, you showed the worst judgment possible by

commenting, "You have driven thousands of times. You don't need to be sober."

You now indicated you were willing to drive drunk, willing to kill, willing to maim, willing to leave some children without their parents, etc. As long as there continue to be drunk drivers on the road, the rights of the innocent will continue to be abused.

You brought two young teenagers with you to the game. They paid attention to everything you did. You even showed them the fake booze holder and bragged at your ability to get the booze past the guards. You were encouraging drunk driving. You were showing these youngsters how to grow up to be homicidal men.

Hopefully, the teenagers have more common sense than you and can see that this is a waste of a life, not an example.

Lynn Murphy
Lake Oswego

Tuesday, October 17, 1989