

## Letters

### Questionable

The *Emerald* article of Nov. 29 entitled "State Wastes 'minuscule'" was dangerous, misleading and wrong.

There are over 20 toxic waste dump sites in the Eugene-Springfield area. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has confirmed toxic releases at 325 dump sites in the state, many requiring costly cleanup efforts. The DEQ has confirmed that 15 million pounds of toxic chemicals were released into Oregon's air in 1987.

Why did the *Emerald* print this story? There are many groups on campus — OSPIRG, Survival Center, Environmental Studies Library, where the *Emerald* could have checked their facts. This type of mindless reiteration of fluffy pap, spewed out by the feel-good folks isn't journalism: it's science fiction.

Ann Reed  
Geography

### Neglect

At times we face situations we must comment on, hence the following array of commentary to face the plethora of mismanagement, sheltered thought, and overall neglect I have seen in the *Emerald* this last month.

(I won't touch the recent whining in this section by students who need to justify their complacency in apathy, with Don't-Rock-The-Boat log-ic.)

The photograph of a spray-painted Swastika, to draw attention to an article on "The Gangs of Eugene," without reference to where this graffiti appeared — is nothing short of sensationalism, and shows no sensitivity to those who suffered, and still suffer, from Nazi hate.

In covering the protests to stop CIA recruitment at the University, your reporters and editors showed what "incomplete" reporting and editing leads to — covering a press conference instead of a major rally; focusing on Shannon Oliver's grievance the first day of protesting, but neglecting to mention her the second day (both front-page news); not reporting on the violent actions of the recruiter, and his refusal to state the "agency's" objectives; nor realizing the Kingian objective of the protesters — to stop a greater evil.

To really convey the struggle over ancient forests, Chris Blair (*ODE*, Nov. 28), you must present the intricate concepts which form the real crisis. By simply offering up the views of the industry, without peeling away the layers of propaganda, you only mislead, not inform. To convey the environmentalists', conservationists' and preservationists' points of view, I propose a next ancient

forests series: What is really going on, and where we can find out.

Jonah Bookstein  
Philosophy

### Attitude

Recently, the *Emerald* reported that Oregon's toxic waste problem is "minuscule" and that toxic dump sites are "not particularly dangerous to people." (*ODE*, Nov. 29) These statements are inaccurate and create the illusion that Oregon has not been affected by the poisons that have been dumped into our air, land and water.

To date, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has confirmed 325 hazardous dump sites in the state, and it is suspected that there may be as many as 1,000. There are 25 such sites in the Eugene-Springfield area.

In addition, the DEQ has identified 176 instances of groundwater contamination. Many of these contaminants have been linked to cancer, birth defects, disorders of the nervous system, and many other serious illnesses. Clearly, this contradicts the charge that these sites pose no threat to public health.

Another problem that has yet to be addressed is the fact that 22 million pounds of toxic chemicals were dumped into Oregon's air in 1988. OSPIRG has collected this data from the the Oregon State Fire Marshall's office, and has made this information available to the *ODE*, but it has not been utilized.

Clearly, a large number of students are concerned about this issue, and are actively

working to inform the public of the problem and promote solutions. I hope that in the future, the *ODE* will help to report the truth, which is that Oregon faces a dangerous toxic waste problem that will only get worse if we adopt the attitude that all is well.

Dalene Lovie  
OSPIRG

### Civil liberties

Recently I noticed a letter from Jon Wollander (*ODE*, Dec. 1) stating that civil liberties should be taken away, starting with an anti-abortion bill.

The feminists you talk about exist solely to counter your "fair" views of taking women's rights away. They seem to have a reasonable plea; I don't need any government's hand playing around inside me.

I'm sure after your first series of government-required anti-prostate cancer tests, you will change the views you held back in 1989.

Please, mind your own business. I hesitated to write this letter because I know it's not my place to dictate what should happen to any female's body. And it's not your place either.

And, all University students have a right to complain, protest, correct anything they want. They're protesting an issue that affects them equally. Who are you to say they are "dissident university students?"

Finally, don't take your pregnant wife to a potentially dangerous protest. You are "co-responsible" for her.

Steve Epstein  
Finance



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By GARY LARSON



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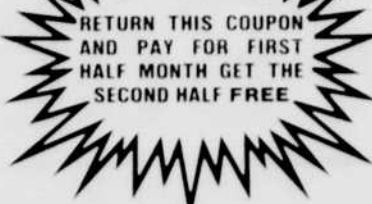
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