

## Zone was not sole reason for decision

The decision last Friday by Rohr Industries Inc. not to open a plant in Eugene has been generally viewed as a victory for the nuclear free zone advocates. However, to make such a bold statement simplifies what actually happened.

Rohr's decision has split city and county officials, with the nuclear ordinance in the middle. Both sides see Rohr leaving as a direct result of the debate over an amendment that would stiffen the nuclear free zone statutes. Depending on what side they're on, either officials are happy Rohr decided not to come, or disappointed because the corporation did not.

While the nuclear ordinance surely played some role in Rohr's decision, it was not the only one. Environmental concerns also contributed to anti-Rohr sentiment. The corporation is reported to have a lousy track record when it comes to environmental issues. Toxic waste produced from high-tech industry turned many people off to Rohr.

Eugene mayor Jeff Miller is disappointed at Rohr's decision. Miller, as a self-described "fiscal conservative," desperately wants to lure new businesses to the area. He feels — rightly — that the Willamette Valley, in addition to the rest of Oregon, needs to develop some kind of economic base, rather than depend on a non-permanent resource such as timber.

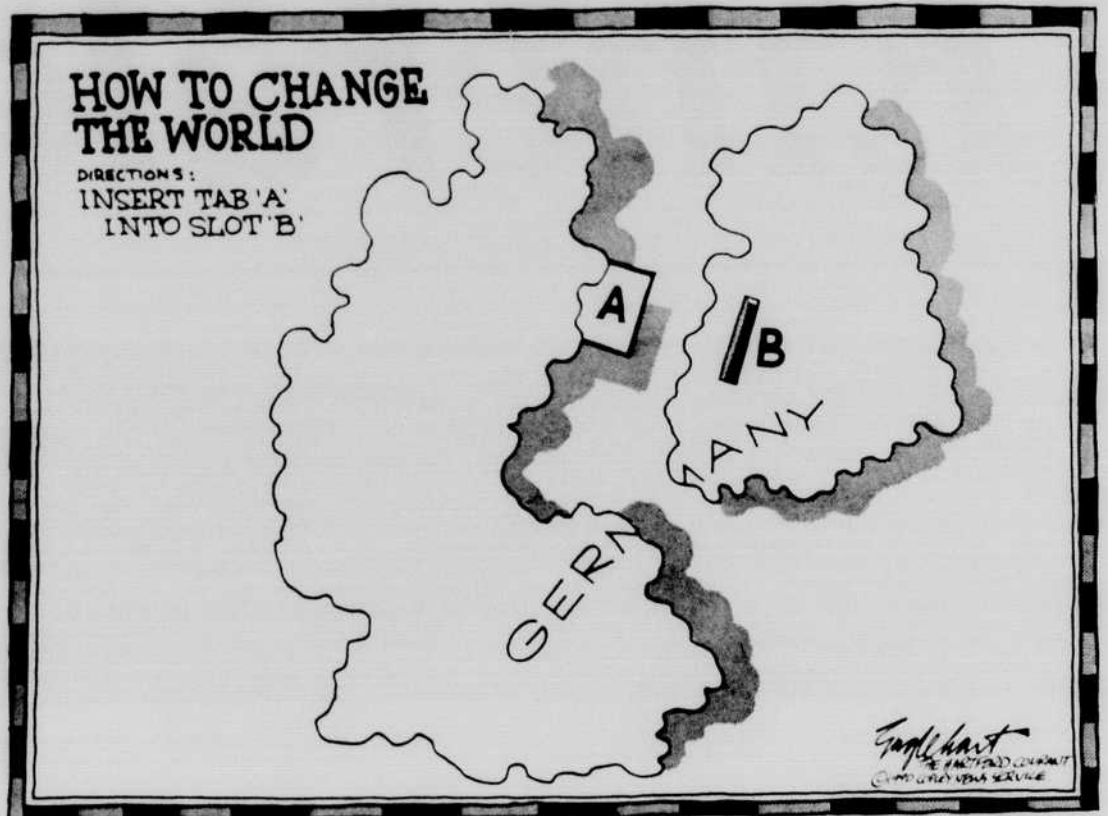
But while Eugene needs more economic diversity, that doesn't open the door to corporations such as Rohr. The nuclear zone issue aside, Rohr's environmental record alone is enough to deny the company a place within the Eugene city limits.

Rohr pulled out, partly because of public backlash, and partly because Eugene citizens will get a chance in the next few months to vote on a tougher nuclear free zone ordinance. Rather than face such a political battle (and suffer much negative P.R.), the company decided not to come.

The corporation is gone, probably never to return. But the controversy it left will not die out anytime soon. The whole validity of the zone is now in question, and debate centers on whether, because of the ordinance, Eugene is getting an anti-business reputation.

More than 200 cities in the United States have some sort of nuclear ordinance, but few cities have as rigid a statute as Eugene. Local business leaders may be justified in their concern over what a stricter ordinance would mean to area industry. However, that does not mean environmental concerns or enforcement of a voter-approved amendment should be swept aside in the name of progress.

It would be a shame to see the nuclear free zone become a scapegoat for Rohr's decision when there were so many other reasons not to let the corporation settle in Eugene.



## Political interest at University exciting

No one will dispute the importance of the University to Eugene. When students, staff and faculty members are lumped together, they form a sizable chunk of the city's population. The University is not only an integral part of Eugene, but of the whole state of Oregon as well.

The University has produced many state and local leaders among its graduates, Gov. Neil Goldschmidt being a recent and notable example. However, a trend is developing in which University-connected people are not only being trained to become future leaders, but present ones as well.

In the last few days, there have been announcements of people with University ties running for public office. One, Bobby Green, is already a Eugene city councilman. He was appointed in February of last year, and was widely hailed as the "University representative" in city government.

Green has announced he will run for another four years as the Ward 6 councilman. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University, and will apply for entrance to the master's degree program.

Charles Cole, a professor in the University's International Business Program, will also enter politics this year when he runs for

the Republican nomination for the District 41 legislative seat.

District 41 serves the immediate University area. House Majority Leader David Dix (D-Eugene) is the current District 41 representative, and has drawn considerable praise for his role in supporting the University's interests on the House floor. It is too early to comment on the race, but it looks as if the University will be well-represented no matter how it turns out.

Educators and students are a large percentage of the Oregon population, and deserve adequate representation at all levels of government. It is good to see so many people running for office would be concerned with not only the University's welfare, but education as a whole. With education taking a backseat to other social programs, any defenders are welcome.

While it is important for education to have representation in government, it is also vital that those representatives remember their constituents. It does no good to have lawmakers, elected partly on their basis of their education backgrounds, leave for either the private sector or higher office before they have a chance to get anything accomplished.

## Letters

### On Pat

In regard to the letter "Misinformation" (ODE, Feb. 16), where Barbara Rodgers was upset about a T-shirt in the ASUO office reading, "See Dick with Jane. See Dick with Pat. See Dick with AIDS. Don't be a Dick." I was very surprised that she interpreted the message on the shirt the way she did.

I assumed the name "Pat" implied a man, and was upset that they implied that homosexual contact was the only cause of AIDS. She saw the name "Pat" as female, and believed the shirt implied that women were the main cause of AIDS.

Maybe we both learned something important from the use of the non-gender specific name Pat. AIDS can affect anyone, and that includes women. It can be passed through heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual activities. Men can give it to women, and women can give

it to men.

You see this shirt as putting the blame on women for passing the disease. No one is to blame except the person who doesn't take precautions.

In this case, you might blame Dick who was the one sleeping around. I think that is the message the shirt wanted to get across. I'm glad you made me think more deeply about a deceptively simple message.

Morgan Fisher  
Student

### Reform

The League of Women Voters of Lane County calls on Congress to debate federal campaign financing in a meaningful way that results in reform. Partisan politics has until now been left the issue of "committee limbo." With 1990 races approaching, we seek *Emerald* readers' help to push for real reform of this vital, urgent matter.

Total spending for successful congressional races in 1988 was in excess of \$450 million; almost four times that spent in 1976. The pattern of escalation will undoubtedly continue if left unchecked. The skyrocketing cost of campaigning sets up prohibitive financial hurdles for qualified candidates and allows undue political influence by special interest groups on elected officials.

These serious problems erode the public's trust in our electoral system and impede participation in the political process. The LWV does not support partisan solutions. The two main political parties in Congress should find areas of agreement that will lead to positive change.

The LWV believes that two elements of any bill should be to:

- curb the undue influence of special interest group contributors and wealthy individuals;
- provide limits on, and full disclosure of, questionable campaign practices.

Members of Congress need to hear from you now so that a bill can be forged and voted on favorably this year. Mention the two provisions listed above if possible. Urge them to sponsor a comprehensive campaign finance reform bill in the current session. Your views can make a difference in your Senator's or Representative's actions.

For more information, call the League office at 343-7917 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays.

Sue Girardeau  
President  
LWV of Lane County

### Channels

I am writing because I think it is imperative for the University community to know that channels of communication with the Institute Animal Care and Use Committee are open for anyone with concerns regarding scientific research in-

volving animals at the University.

In a Feb. 13 *Emerald* article, SETA representative Jill Freidberg cried that communication between her and myself, student IACUC member, had been cut off. Again, in a Feb. 19 letter to the editor, Freidberg stated that I was unwilling to speak with her. This is not so.

Perhaps Freidberg's feeling of estrangement are due to a misunderstanding caused by preconceived expectations of adversity. I am willing to speak with anyone who is concerned about animal research on this campus. As a committee member, I will take matters which address the IACUC to the chair for review by the entire committee. As an individual, I have been and remain open to discussion of the issues and philosophy regarding the use of animals in scientific research.

Lisa Calavetta  
Graduate student  
Biology