

## Letters

### On it goes

Chris Bouneff's Mar. 1 *Oregon Daily Emerald* review of the recent debate between the *Student Insurgent's* Kevin Hornbuckle, representing socialism, and economics professor Henry Goldstein, representing capitalism, was interesting.

Bouneff observed that while in the end "nothing was solved," an open exchange of conflicting ideas about divergent economic systems did occur — "something both debaters said was the primary purpose of the forum." The review concluded with a prediction that this debate will probably "rage on for years."

Indeed it will. For example, on Sept. 27, 1971, the *Emerald* published a commentary of mine entitled "Constitutional Democratic Socialism" — sure enough, it was professor Goldstein who contributed a rebuttal in defense of capitalism.

These periodic exchanges are healthy in the context of the liberal university's obligation to provide opportunities for the critical examination of conflicting ideas on unsettled issues of the day.

Incidentally, almost 20 years after my mini-debate with Goldstein, I remain committed to the goals of social justice and non-violent economic reform in America, and maintain my membership in the "Democratic Socialists of America." DSA is a loose coalition of progressive-minded citizens who dissent from an economic order based on private profit, alienated labor, huge accumulations of wealth and power by a privileged elite, racism and sexism, and arrogant maintenance of the stratified status quo.

We share a vision of a more humane social order characterized by popular control of resources and production, economic planning, full employment, equal opportunity, and an acknowledgement of human interdependence. Michael Harrington, author of *The Other America* (1962) was our champion.

Ron Rousseve  
Professor  
Counseling psychology

### Jail time

"It's about time!" you stated in your editorial of Mar. 2. You apparently felt the imposition of fines as punishment for the criminal behavior leading up to the Exxon Valdez spill is a sufficiently nasty slap on the wrist to make them sorry for their "mistake" as you called it.

Has it occurred to you that because Exxon can write off as tax deductions many of their losses resulting from this crime, we as taxpayers are actually subsidizing Exxon's assault on the ecosystem of Prince William Sound? Has it occurred to you that the absence of cleanup equipment, which if present in the first 48 hours of the spill could have averted much of the damage, was not "a mistake," but a conscious business decision? Has it occurred to you that monetary policies are "just the cost of doing business" to an entity the size of Exxon?

Jail time is what will get Exxon's attention. For instance, 33 U.S.C. Section 1319(c), pro-

vides for imprisonment of "any responsible corporate officer" for up to six years for each count of knowing violation of the Clean Water Act. But evidently our Attorney General does not think it seems to put nice, white, businessmen behind bars; that's only for "real" criminals after all.

Until those in charge of managing the extraction of profits from our earth are forced to realize that "if you can't do the time, you don't do the crime," we are destined to see many more tragic *ODE* editorials praising many more tragically ineffective penalties.

Dave Bahr  
Law

### Baloney

A sad state of affairs has come about. Something, anything must be done to rescue humanity from itself. Separatism and the eventual distrust it generates have taken

hold of even the most benevolent and well-meaning of organizations. Discrimination is rampant. Stop and look at what we all are doing.

Project Saferide will take us home only if our genitals meet the required standards. Our government will help pay for our education if we solemnly promise not to touch drugs. The Salvation Army will feed us only if we act religious. Poor Stephanie Nelson (*ODE*, Mar. 5) is so brainwashed by this society that even after a Woman's Studies class she refers to her sex as a race.

Quit this baloney right now. That person right next to you is not an island. They go to the bathroom, cry, copulate and stink just like you do. Look for problems and I guarantee you will find them. Look for solutions and you just might be surprised.

Gary Malcolm  
Fine arts

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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By GARY LARSON



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