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Photo by Vince Ramirez

Protesters gathered last week outside The Register-Guard offices to demonstrate against a perceived bias in the paper's coverage of the spotted owl controversy.

Groups protest *Guard* coverage

Paper accused of bias in reporting of spotted owl

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Associate Editor

Members of local activist groups staged a protest Friday outside the office of *The Register-Guard*, claiming that the newspaper's coverage of environmental issues, especially the spotted owl controversy, is biased and misleading.

The Register-Guard "is ignoring the community on their coverage of the spotted owl," said Tony Stumbo, who said he was not a member of any group sponsoring the protest. "They have pitted workers against the environment."

"Their headlines are geared toward creating more controversy, not stating what's really going on," said Marty Bergoffen, a member of Earth First!

Protesters at the rally, which was sponsored by Earth First!, Peaceworks and Clearinghouse on Human Rights and Psychiatry, awarded *The Register-Guard* a "yellow ribbon award for yellow journalism," and taped yellow bows to the building's first-floor windows. Yellow ribbons have been adopted by timber proponents as a pro-industry symbol.

Coverage of environmental issues in *The Register-Guard* is more slanted than in papers in Port-

land and Grants Pass, said Barry Martin, Earth First! member. "They really are on the upper edge of yellow journalism," he said.

Protesters at the rally waved signs reading "Cash Register-Guard" and "Newspapers lie, forests die" at motorists passing the building at 975 High Street.

Register-Guard Managing Editor Patrick Yack met with several protesters after the rally to discuss their concerns.

"I think we always ought to look for ways to improve our coverage of complicated issues," Yack said. "But I think our coverage has been balanced and fair."

Yack said *The Register-Guard* has been criticized by some readers on all sides of the spotted owl controversy.

Martin said he was encouraged by one idea that came up in the meeting with Yack, which is to allow private citizens to meet informally with newspaper editors to discuss *Register-Guard* coverage of local issues.

Martin said the citizen meetings would be a good idea, if it was actually carried out. "My attitude toward *The Register-Guard* is: Don't tell me, show me," he said.

However, Martin said he was pleased that *The Register-Guard* ran a story about the protest in Saturday's paper. "It's to their credit that they did cover the story; they didn't ignore it," he said. "Of course they were compelled to cover something that was happening right outside."



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Parking meter stolen from campus

The following is a list of campus-area crimes taken from Eugene Police Department and Office of Public Safety reports from June 26 to July 1:

Police Beat

The removal and theft of a parking meter at 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street was reported to EPD June 26. The officer who responded found it in

some nearby bushes.

- A purse containing \$3 in cash was stolen from a locker at the School of Music on June 28.

- An unidentified suspect stole a purse from a vehicle parked at 14th Avenue and Kincaid Street on the afternoon of June 29, while the driver of the car was asleep in the front seat. Inside the purse was \$45 in cash and several credit cards.

- One man was taken to jail and another cited and released for delivery and possession of a controlled substance June 29. An EPD officer observed the transaction of less than an ounce of marijuana at the corner of 15th Avenue and Kincaid Street.

- In addition, OPS reports three bikes stolen, and none recovered.

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