

McDonald's to stop use of polystyrene

Ronald McDonald and the folks from the golden arches have decided to stop using polystyrene to "wrap" Big Macs.

It's about time. Polystyrene is a non-biodegradable plastic that will forever sit in landfills. Years from now archaeologists will dig up hamburger-shaped polystyrene boxes, a reminder of a wasteful society.

Discontinuing the use of polystyrene was a long time coming. But McDonald's has listened to customers before.

A few years ago patrons protested McDonald's practice of frying everything on the menu in animal fat. Health reports and nutritional information eventually persuaded McDonald's to switch to vegetable oil for everything except their french fries. However, continued customer pressure forced McDonald's to use vegetable oil even on their beloved fries.

The next step for McDonald's is to adopt guidelines encouraging recycling. They should only use recyclable paper products and, when possible, recycled paper products.

Now that McDonald's will be saving money through improved recycling methods, the costs should be reflected in their prices. McDonald's can show the fast food industry that recycling not only benefits the company, but customers, too.

Children will be able to watch commercials in which Ronald McDonald battles Polystyrene Man instead of the Hamburgler. At a few Eugene outlets McDonald's experimented by setting up separate recycling bins for paper and plastic. While this was a noble gesture, it still left trashcans for the non-recyclable polystyrene.

Now that one fast-food chain has taken a step forward, hopefully other fast-food establishments will follow McDonald's lead and stop using polystyrene.

Whatever else we may think of McDonald's, at least they are reacting to environmental concerns. But the only way to stop the use of polystyrene is to stop the manufacture of polystyrene. If we all stop using it, the chemical companies will stop making it.

Encourage eating establishments that you patronize to stop using polystyrene for coffee cups or doggie bags. Remind your friends to follow recycling guidelines because if McDonald's can do it, we all can do it.



House the homeless, don't arrest them

The arrest of three homeless people Thursday emphasizes the continuing problem concerning single homeless people in the Eugene area.

The three people had been camped in front of the Lane County Courthouse in Eugene for more than a month. It was only after the number of people camping there began to increase that county commissioners decided to have the protesters arrested.

They had been camping there to protest the closing of the Opportunity Shelter. The shelter was closed because commissioners said they wanted to use those resources to find more permanent housing for homeless people. However, the only new shelter that has been opened up is located in Glenwood. It also is open to families only.

This is the second time homeless people have been arrested in connection with protests over the closing of the Opportunity Shelter. This summer as many as 25 people were arrested when the shelter closed.

While city councilors and county commissioners met with protesters at that time, no real progress was made to ease concerns expressed by the protesters.

It is time for city and county government to come up with some concrete solutions to ease the current tensions. There is a need in Eugene for a shelter to meet the needs of single homeless individuals.

Finding permanent housing for these people is good policy. It should be a long-term goal of both city and county governments. But, temporary housing alternatives should not be abandoned before the long-term housing is in place.

Everyone has the right to have a place to sleep. It is not a local government's place to decide that single homeless individuals are not entitled to a bed or meals. And now that the protesters have been arrested they not only have to worry about finding a place to sleep, they have to find a way to pay their \$50 fines.

LETTERS

'Far Side' fan

Print fewer letters and more "Far Side."

Sam Nhem
Student

Seat you later

Thank you Mr. Fred O. Roelling (ODE, Nov. 8) for expressing my opinion so well. Leave the "reserved" seats alone.

By the way, I have reserved all the seats at Autzen Stadium for next year and have hired local soldiers of fortune to insure that rude people like Amy Hope do not steal my seats.

Do not mess with me. Yes, that means greeks, too.

Brian Rivers
Psychology

No G.O.W.

I, like many of you, have been wondering what is happening in the Middle East and why. I've also joined in wondering why nothing has been done to stop this movement toward war.

Our historical attachments to Saudi Arabia are primarily based on interests in oil. The occupation of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein is a historical goal to unite the Arabic nations.

With history in mind, I need your help to form a coalition called no G.O.W. — No Gulf Oil War. It's the people that can truly make a difference if we make a peaceful and logical effort.

You can begin by calling your president at (202) 456-1414 and by coming to an

informational meeting on Thursday, Nov. 15. Call 342-7014 for more information.

Katie McVeigh
Political Science

Pepsi, no Coke

As most students know the University has recently switched from selling Pepsi to selling Coca-Cola products. This was done because Coke had submitted a lower bid than any other company.

However, many students may not know that the reason Coke was able to submit such a low bid is because it has been doing business in South Africa since 1937.

Coke utilizes the black "slave" labor force to manufacture Coke. It makes nearly \$220 million yearly in South Africa by controlling 69 percent of the soft drink market there.

For the University to make a large contract with a company that openly takes advantage of a slave-like system is horrendous. The financial planners may have only been trying to maintain soft drink prices here, but no students were consulted about this change.

I personally would rather buy a more expensive Pepsi product

and we're sure many other students would, too. Until the Coke contract is discontinued, I plan to boycott all University cafes and restaurants and to stop drinking soft drinks at the cafeterias.

Please join me in doing so and let the campus University hierarchy know how you feel about this.

Keep apartheid off our campus.

Alesha Durfee
Student

Nix Nike

I want to thank Operation PUSH and the Black United Front for making clear to the rest of us what sort of operation Phillip Knight and Bill Bowerman are running up in Beaverton.

The fact that Knight purchased the privilege of having

his name attached to the main library does nothing to obscure the fact that the operation he runs is as white as a bedsheet. Henceforth I will refer to that building as "The White Library."

I received a "personal" letter from Bowerman written on Nike letterhead promoting a hate campaign against an able legislator who has supported higher education and lower tuition throughout his career. I refer to David Dix, whose opponent can only be described as a know-nothing, proto-fascist airhead whose campaign literature repeated the most disgusting, shopworn lies of the anti-choice womb enslavement movement.

This alone would give me sufficient reason to boycott Nike.

Ann Tattersall
GTF, Geological Sciences

Oregon DAILY EMERALD

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403 • (503) 346-5511

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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