

LETTERS

Trojan horse

The generals' envoy cried "uncle" — we're closing down our operation. The people's trusted information sources (i.e. the gods) assured them that it was so — not to worry.

Assured, the people rested but soon regretted their complacency. For the general's people spoiled the land, took their profits and left the waste behind.

Three points: Oregon voters should remember that the Trojan proposal to the Public Utility Commission is just that and can be withdrawn at any convenient date, say Nov. 4.

Portland General Electric's spokesperson cited economic reasons for the proposal. What he or she did not specify was the real economic reason — the fear that passage of Measure 6 would require PGE to pay for the cleanup. In other words, they cried "bailout," not "uncle."

The potential for a massive earthquake in the region, which was not understood at the time of the plant's commissioning, will not be governed by a 1996 deadline.

The Trojan proposal may be as hollow as the Trojan horse. Vote yes on Measures 5 and 6.

Ernest C. Boyd
Leaburg

Sour milk

Much has been said concerning Ballot Measure 9 lately, and a lot has been said to confuse the issue. For many people, it is difficult to comprehend the implications of this measure. For people not in danger of being discriminated against (at least not yet), it's hard to imagine how Measure 9 will affect them if passed.

In an effort to clarify any misinterpretations of the measure, I would like to share an analogy I heard last weekend that even a child could relate to, and yet in all its simplicity, it captures

the very essence of what we can expect if Measure 9 passes.

Imagine that the majority of people at the office you work at drink two-percent milk, but you happen to prefer one-percent. And so while everyone else in the office is openly enjoying their two-percent milk, you have to wait until you get home to enjoy your one-percent. But that's not all.

The entire time that you're at work, you have to worry about someone getting into your fridge while you're gone and discovering that carton of one-percent. And your life goes on like that until one day you come to work only to learn that someone did find that carton of one-percent in your fridge, and he or she told your boss. Then what happens? You get fired. All because you preferred one-percent milk to the two-percent that everyone else drank.

Please, vote no on Measure 9.

Sara Chinske
Pre-Journalism

Sit down!

In my last few years as a GTF and occasional lecturer in the classroom, I've noticed a dismaying trend in undergraduate courses. Students routinely and rudely leave class before the lecture is completed. It is as if the professor were on trial. When students find the performance insufficiently entertaining, it's time to change channels. In other words, the television "mentality" (as it can be so dignified) is applied to the university classroom. Teachers become images existing to amuse rather than people whose ideas are worthy of consideration and critique.

It is not that students are outraged and are leaving in protest. That might be refreshing if they were acting on deeply held and well-thought-out convictions. But the opposite is true. Having undervalued the classroom and having invested little or nothing in preparing to

interact with the lecture, these passive spectators leave because of boredom.

Granted, some lectures are boring and some material is difficult to teach in a lively way. I also grant that most students do not saunter out mid-lecture. But let me suggest that students apply a simple test based on a well-known principle. If you were teaching your class and had invested time in preparing to communicate the material to your students, how would you respond to students walking out on you at will?

Or ask yourself this question: How would you respond if your professor walked out in mid-lecture because he found you, the student, too boring?

Douglas Groothuis
Graduate student, philosophy

Diversity

M. Reza Benham made some very important points in his letter (ODE, Oct. 16). As a person of Middle Eastern descent, I feel the University has not done a good job of creating a "diverse" educational environment.

Repeatedly, the Middle East has been left out of the curriculum. I have yet to take a film or literature class that has even one Middle Eastern film or author on the syllabus. Certainly this area of the world deserves attention, especially in light of "Desert Storm," not to mention flawed films such as *Protocol* and *Not Without My Daughter*.

Racism is not going to end until we are able to see past negative media images. It is in a system of higher education these issues need to be addressed. Therefore, I would also like to add that it would be detrimental to the University to discourage foreign and out-of-state students by raising tuition.

Learning to associate with those of different cultural backgrounds is also part of an education. This University needs to attract more students and professors from other cultures so we can learn from them firsthand. Oregon is isolated enough.

Christina Komeshian
TCF

Defining Bob

As we're deluged by TV and radio ads for Bob Packwood, we ought to be asking what big-money interests are bankrolling him. He's outspending Les AuCoin by more than 10 to 1.

Packwood backs subsidies for big corporate exporters of raw logs — who thereby export the timber-processing jobs that we should be keeping here. He can find so little to fault in AuCoin's record that he's reduced to accusing him of poor attendance in Congress.

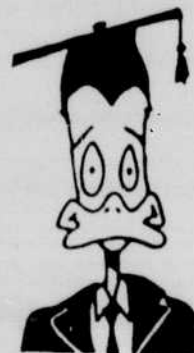
In fact, there's little difference between their attendance: 86 percent for AuCoin, 90 percent for Packwood. The numbers suggest that — unlike big-money Packwood who can pay for lots of TV and radio ads — lately AuCoin has been campaigning by spending more time listening to and talking with his constituents here and less time within the Washington, D.C., beltway.

Incidentally, inside the beltway our junior senator's name has become a byword for two-faced inconsistency. Check it out in the *New New Words Dictionary*, published by Ballantine Books, which lists "to packwood" as a new verb. Their definition: "A word enjoying widespread use in Washington meaning to reverse one's field, legislatively speaking. It has its origins in the propensity of Sen. Bob Packwood, R/OR, for drastically changing his position on issues."

Sylvia Wright
Eugene

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THIS WEEK



OCT. 26-30

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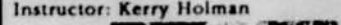
The EMU Child Care and Development Centers still have spaces available. Full-day spaces are open in the Westmoreland Pre-school and EMU Pre-school. Part-time slots are also available in the Toddler Programs. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to apply. Call 346-4384 for more info.

Fix it Person Needed

The Child Care and Development Centers need someone with basic carpentry skills to help keep our kid space in good repair. Work study preferred. Call Dennis at 6-4345 for information.

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U of O, Ground floor, E.M.U. For info: 346-4361

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Thank you, Dusty Miller,
Director Erb Memorial Union

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- Do you read the Eugene Register-Guard?
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- Do you read the Northwest Cable News?
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