

VIEWPOINTS

EDITORIALS, OPINIONS, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fast food puts student health in the slow lane

■ OUR OPINION: Students need a healthier choice of food on campus

Your stomach rudely reminded you during class that your body needs more fuel. You have one whole hour before your next class, so you head for the EMU's Fishbowl for some lunch.

You find bagels and doughnuts, some bananas, pop and candy. Others are in line at the deli, Taco Time and Little Caesar's. Craving some REAL food, you head for the EMU Main Desk Store. Pre-made sandwiches, more candy, soft drinks, and popcorn are on the menu.

You start to panic. You want something healthy,

something close to the basic food groups. With your belly grumbling, you sprint up to the Skylight Cafe, but most of their food is fried.

You need a wholesome, balanced meal.

But you won't find it in the EMU.

With last year's demise of the Fountain Court Cafe (now home of the EMU Main Desk Store), hungry and health-conscious students no longer have quick access to something as basic as a good salad bar.

The University and EMU should continue looking into options that will provide students with better food choices.

A student's body can't go very far on junk food alone.

Fat substitute approved despite its side effects

■ OUR OPINION: Procter and Gamble wants to make synthetics the fifth food group

"Good evening SuperMart shoppers. Be sure to try our new fat-substitute potato chips, recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration. You will find these 'delicious' delicacies on aisle four, between the Pamprin and the Pepto Bismol."

What Americans won't do to have it all — pleasure without pain, pay without work, health without fitness, life without death, and most important, junk food without fat.

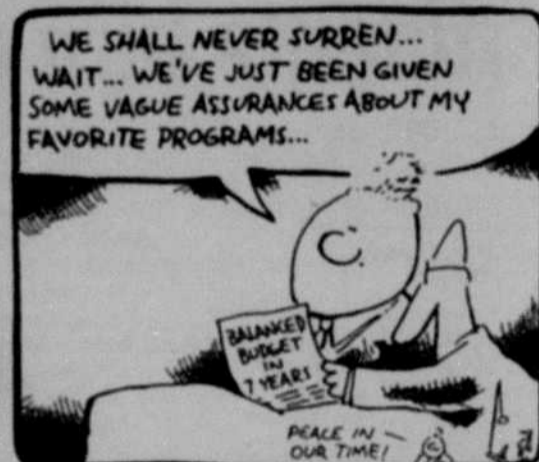
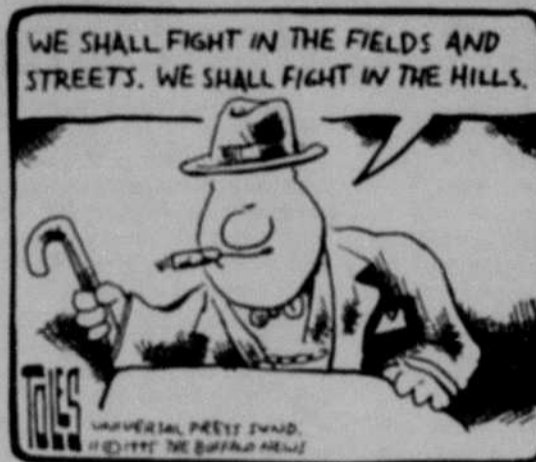
Procter and Gamble Co. and the FDA are more than willing to oblige.

After 25 years of research, P&G has launched Olestra on a nation of waist-

line watchers. The fat-substitute is calorie free and tastes, P&G says, like the old-fashioned fat we've come to love and hate. Of course, it also strips vitamins A, D, E and K from your system and may cause cramping and diarrhea.

Charming. Food industry analysts predict that products made with the substance will create a \$1 billion business. This helps to explain why the FDA may have let the product slip into the market despite the unpleasant side effects. Money is often an effective lubricant.

If the Olestra does take off, it will illustrate two fundamental truths about American life. One, profits are always more important than people. And two, we'll give up bowel control before we'll give up Butterfingers.



'Swoosh:' human rights swept away

As the Oregon Athletic Department tries to make a multimillion-dollar deal with Nike Inc., I'd like to raise some issues surrounding this multinational corporation.

The U.S. government and companies like Nike, Reebok and Levis have been supporting a dictatorial Suharto regime in Indonesia. The military training program (IMET) was suspended, and the flow of small arms was halted after the Santa Cruz massacre by the Indonesian military in East Timor in 1991 despite fierce oppositions from corporations and the Pentagon. In 1995 the Clinton administration resumed the limited IMET and currently pursues the sale of 17 F-16 jet fighters to Indonesia.

Human rights violations in places like East Timor, Irian Jaya and Aceh should indicate the nature of the Suharto regime and working conditions in Indonesia — including Nike factories.

Indeed, working conditions are very bad in Indonesia. Free trade unions are illegal, and organizing and even protesting can be deadly. The minimum wage is also fixed below the poverty line. Companies like Nike have been lured from South Korea and Taiwan (where wages continue to rise), to Indonesia and Thailand where it can exploit cheap labor. Physical attacks on workers, cheating on wages and inadequate training are commonplace. Those who courageously make demands are beaten mercilessly by the local military command and even suspended without pay.

Nike says it adopted a 'voluntary' code of conduct in 1992, and "memorandums of understanding" to ensure that its suppliers in Indonesia comply with the adequate working standard. However, mistreatment of workers

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Shin Yasui

still continues in Indonesia. Labor unrest and strikes, despite the dangers, have taken place.

Dusty Kidd, Nike's head of communications, says, "We can't dictate to governments how they run their laws." However, Nike and other corporations actually have an influence in Indonesia. Shell Oil Co. could have used the same kind of influence to prevent the state murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa, and the tragic exploitation of Ogoni-land and its people in Nigeria. Like Unocal in Myanmar (Burma) and Shell in Nigeria, Nike denies its responsibility over the plight of workers by putting emphasis on necessity for 'economic development' in those developing countries. Workers at the Nike plants, however, think that those companies have enough influence to improve working conditions — if the companies wanted to.

The important question is, why is Nike in a country where a military dictatorship (under the pretense of a democracy) rules? One good reason (for businesses like Nike) is that the repressive regime can do a dirty job by suppressing workers' rights while companies claim to be innocent bystanders as they concentrate on exploiting the cheap labor. It means companies are taking advantage of the political environment.

Before the deal with Nike, there is something that we (as responsible consumers and students) should think about.

Shin Yasui is Sociology major and is on the Student Committee for World Peace

LETTERS

I can't hear you

Why is a major scandal being reported on the Internet and not in our news media? A scandal that includes: "rogue" CIA/NSA computer hackers running around the country with a Cray Supercomputer, downloading files and transferring billions from Swiss bank accounts held by top politicians, and tales of an "avenging angel," who has been visiting holders of these accounts (which accounts for the high rate of congressional retirees.)

This, plus tales of espionage,

murder, treason and links to the major scandals of the last 20 years are being ignored by our national and local media. Why?

It looks as if our media outlets are more beholden to their advertisers and the status quo than the truth. How long does our local media intend to hide from their responsibilities?

I have been told it is not within their "scope." When did national corruption on a massive scale become something not of interest to our community? How long will they allow thugs to hide behind "national security"? How long will they

scuttle true discussion?

I read the papers and hear the media talk about nothing of substance. Why is there a huge exodus of our elected officials from the House and Senate? Could it be that some computer hackers are doing the job of our press? Are these hackers sending plain manila envelopes to our representatives with evidence of their corruption? Could that be why the people are deciding not to run for reelection? What is going on? Why won't our media talk?

Kris Millegan
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