

Pollution harms city—even without Hyundai

OUR OPINION: The new factory will join others in attacking the environment

The bad news about the new Hyundai factory is that it will emit 70 tons of pollutants into the air each year. The good news is that it will not emit as many pollutants into the atmosphere as Williams Bakery, Weyerhaeuser Co. or the University — all of which individually pump out more pollutants than Hyundai will.

The recent argument against the new Hyundai factory, currently under construction in West Eugene, is that Eugene simply cannot afford to have the added pollutants in its air. The argument for the factory is that it will be one of the least polluting factories in Eugene.

For a school that is known as being the most politically active and environmentally conscious in the country, we certainly are contributing our fair share of pollutants: 279 tons of emissions each year.

It is not only ironic, but also quite embarrassing that we send methanol, hexane, hydrochloric acid, benzene, toluene and hydrofluoric acid into Lane County's atmosphere more regularly than factories such as Country Coach Inc. and Williams Bakery.

We are pleased with neither the current number of emissions that the local factories release nor the projected number of emissions that the Hyundai factory will contribute because either way, it's a lose-lose situation.

What we have to decide is if we are going to be content

allowing the problem to get worse because "at least it won't be hurting the environment that much more."

But the truth about this new factory is that the first entity it harms might not be the environment, but you.

The toxic pollutants and hazardous chemicals that you will be breathing in 18 months after the Hyundai factory begins production are as follows: arsenic, ammonia, chlorine, and hydrofluoric acid — to name a few. We don't know about you, but to us the idea of breathing arsenic is just not that much fun. The odds of our generation getting cancer are great enough as it is.

The other problem this new factory poses lies within the logistics of the emissions permit: It covers only the first phase of production. The second phase could double the allotted emissions of that permit, and the third phase could double that.

Though this is the modern age and building factories is now an everyday occurrence, we should not accept the threats posed to our health.

The factory's emissions, when combined with Eugene's current emissions, could have damaging effects. The possibility of a chemical spill and the guarantee that winds will carry its pollutants for miles makes the Hyundai factory something that will not benefit Eugene.

Although we cannot halt the construction of this factory, it is important for us to continue protesting and insist on low emission limits; if not for our environment, for our health.



LETTERS

Douglass disgust

This letter is in response to your racism article (ODE, April 5). The article mentions the April Fool's Day letters and an incident which occurred between two halls in the Walton Complex, Adams and Douglass (more specifically the fourth floor).

As a former resident of fourth floor Douglass, I found your article to be grossly inaccurate in its representation of the events that led to the dissolution of that community at the end of winter term.

Michael Eyster, Director of Housing, was quoted as saying that the reason the floor was disbanded was because of a racial slur that was yelled last term during "primal scream."

This is totally false. I am very disappointed that a campus-wide publication would print a story that has such a huge potential for character damage without at least consulting both parties involved.

You falsely imply that the whole floor was responsible or party to the slur, and I find this extremely disturbing. Doug Irving (Emerald reporter) showed unprofessionalism by not talking to anyone from Douglass. Instead, he labeled us all racists. Great angle Doug. He conveniently tied this incident in with our dissolution, implying with his quote of Eyster that everyone on the floor was racist and that that was the reason we were kicked out.

The true reason the fourth floor of Douglass was disbanded was the combination of a large volume of incident reports and damages charged to our floor.

In fact, the final incident that was cited as the deciding factor to disband was a cigarette burn in a "Quiet Hours" sign. The Office of Public Safety was called by Kelly Messick, Resident Director of Walton, who reported that arson had occurred.

We received our notice to vacate the next day; it accused us of "reckless burning." Nothing was mentioned about the incident with Adams Hall and there was no implication that the incident was, in any way, a factor in the decision to disband.

It is outrageous that the former residents of the fourth floor of Douglass were smeared in your article, and I found it very insulting that no one from the Emerald spoke to us before the article ran. It is unfortunate that Doug Irving sacrificed his integrity as a journalist by sensationalizing this incident and defaming the character of the former residents of the fourth floor of Douglass.

As a former resident, I am shocked and angered that the Emerald chose to handle the incident in this manner, thereby misinforming the entire campus about the events leading to the dissolution of my floor and, at the same time, falsely labeling me as a racist.

Matt Hilber
Pre-engineering

EDITORS NOTE: The University is prohibited by Federal law from disclosing the names of students involved in disciplinary actions to the Emerald; therefore, the Emerald was effectively barred from interviewing fourth floor Douglass Hall residents. No Douglass Hall students were named in the article.

Bobby Lee, Ward 3

I am writing to endorse Bobby Lee for Eugene City Council, Ward 3. Since this ward primarily consists of students, it is important we elect someone who will do his best to protect our rights. Bobby was our student body president in 1992 and has since contributed a great deal to the city of Eugene as well as to the state of Oregon.

It is my belief that Bobby is the only serious candidate running for this position. Let Bobby put his experience, education and enthusiasm to work. On May 21, remember the name Bobby Lee. He will work to preserve the beauty of Eugene, provide a safer community, encourage affordable housing and listen to our concerns as students.

And remember, this election we go back to the polls. It is NOT vote by mail. Get out and help better the city we all live in.

Phil Bloomberg
Political Science

Rust for Senate

Recent elections have left young citizens like myself disdainful of the democratic process and apathetic of issues. If we forfeit our right to vote, it only means that special interests and the status quo will determine the political legacy or catastrophe that we must deal with.

Let us support a candidate who truly respects our right to explore the crucial issues that face Oregonians. I invite my fellow students and conscious citizens to vote for Jerry Rust in the May 21 U.S. Senate primary election.

Jerry Rust believes in open discussion that honors the intelligence of Oregonians and serves as a constructive base for positive change. Early in his candidacy, he invited all the Senate candidates to run a clean, issue-oriented, limited spending campaign.

Thus far, Rust is the only candidate who has been honest and practical with voters, plainly stating his position on issues important to Oregonians. Growing up in Douglas County, and owning a tree farm himself, he supports forest plans that are predictable and sustainable. He understands that old economic and social paradigms should evolve, and our economy must be diversified to include workers displaced by the changing system.

Preservation of our natural environment is a quality of life issue. Rust knows from experience that there should be no conflict between a clean environment and a strong economy.

Jerry Rust understands that investments in crime and drug abuse prevention, education, families, and communities are the only way to ensure a prosperous future. The future can be ours to embrace, if we choose to make it so. More than a politician, Rust represents a real choice, a real chance for change. I challenge Oregonians to take the first step by voting.

Isa Lester
Environmental Studies

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 1318 EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the Emerald editorial board; signed columns represent the opinion of the columnist.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor-in-Chief: David Thom
Managing Editor: Marcolene Edwards
Night Editor: David Bartlett

Community: Sherry Rainey, editor; Melissa Lehigh, Dawn Paugh, Brian Womack

Higher Education: Regina Brown, editor; Jean M. Bond, Laura Kapshere, Jennifer Schmitt

Student Activities: Jennifer Carter, editor; Ashley Bach, Kaitlin Bailey, Doug Irving

Sports: Trevor Kearney, editor; Andrea O'Young, assistant editor; Chris Hansen, Pete Schneider

Entertainment/Supplements: Nicole Krueger, editor

Free-lance: Lara Pittman, editor; De-Lise: Joshua Olson, editor

Editorial: David Bartlett, Nicole Krueger, editors; Kelly Anderson, Jesse Bohrer-Clancy, Keith Cunningham, Larry Huff, Kay Krautscheid, Songa Sherwood

Copy Desk: Karl Hastings, copy chief; Paige Bills, Anna Beth Grimes, Tracy Picha, Paul Van Sickle

Photography: Matthew Stiller, editor; Andrew Bracknick, En-Min Chang, Elena Gerber, Shannon Kibuff, Darcie Weisman

Graphics: Dennis Bull, Matt Garlon

General Manager: Judy Riedl

Advertising: Becky Merchant, director; Anne Amador, Lee Yan Beth, Yujin Chi, Marco Ching, Justin Gober, Nikki Harper, Matt Johnson, Heather Johnston, Sarah Mitchell, Trina Shanaman

Production: Michele Ross, manager; Ingrid White, coordinator; Shawna Abele, Rachel Cunningham, Laura Daniel, Nicole Herzmark, Carrie Jones, Tara Knight, Mully McCanta, Carly Schlenker, Allison Storme, Michael Young

Business: Kathy Carbone, supervisor; Judy Connolly

Classified: Tara Gaultney, manager; Jennifer Neel, Joli Seltan

Newsroom: (541) 348-5511

Business Office: (541) 348-5512

Distribution: Jeff Johnson, John Long, Ferenc Rakocz

Display Advertising: (541) 348-3712

Classified Advertising: (541) 348-4343