



Letters to the Editor

Columnist off mark

Do you have an editor who actually allows you to publish such mindless dribble? Vince Medeiros' column (ODE, Feb. 4) displays the point of view that only an uninformed primate could have. Are you so warped by your mom and dad's pampering that you believe everyone has the same opportunities in the world? You probably haven't worked a day of manual labor in your life. Yet, you judge other persons' forms of employment as if everyone in the world has a say in where they end up in the working world. How can you judge people who dig holes in streets? How can you compare all of them to fat slob? Do you honestly believe all these people have given up on life? How about all those people who choose to work 9-5? What the hell kind of job do you expect to get when you graduate? Are you judging all those powerful Fortune 500 CEOs who work hard every day 9-5? Do you honestly believe that just because you spew your random dribblings onto the pages of a mediocre University publication you will

be any better off than the next University graduate? Try writing about something that has base and constructive thought. Don't set a typically low standard for the Oregon Daily Emerald by printing unsubstantiated opinions and overgeneralizations on America's work force, which you obviously have no experience in. Go live on a beach if that's what you want. Learn to live!

Paul Horsell
Journalism

OSPIRG support

As a staff, the ASUO Women's Center is pleased to endorse OSPIRG for the special election. Acknowledgments of OSPIRG's dedication, hard work and the important role OSPIRG plays in making progressive issues heard on campus and across the state, were all factors in our decision to support OSPIRG. We admire OSPIRG's perseverance this year. OSPIRG campaigns for the environment and higher education while at the same time fighting for the very existence of their organization. In addition, OSPIRG is one of the few organizations that make a

conscious effort to reach out into the campus community, offering internships and numerous volunteer opportunities as well as raising awareness of key issues, like the pollution of the Willamette River. OSPIRG's visibility as a voice on the left is invaluable to our campus and our state.

It is our desire that OSPIRG is refunded at the University, and we hope our endorsement helps. Last year OSPIRG was the target of a campaign largely based on rumor and ignorance, and OSPIRG was understandably frustrated. To be repeatedly attacked by those who proclaimed that you could offer no explanation of how you spent your funds, for example, when you had in fact produced a careful analysis of your budget, would impede any campaign.

The Women's Center offers our support and encouragement for re-establishment.

ASUO Women's Center

Bike tips

While Aaron Artman's "Excessive expenditures" column (ODE, Feb. 10) mostly expressed his opinion on the cost and plan-

ning of a multi-use bridge, he also expressed an attitude that is dangerous to anyone who rides a bicycle on the street. He expressed anger and misunderstanding when a person riding a bicycle is positioned in front of him when driving his car. Many people who ride a bike in the street feel intimidated to "take the lane." This is the term used when occupying the lane so as not to let another vehicle overtake you in the same lane. This is the safest technique in certain situations such as when riding a bicycle to the right-most of the street puts them in danger of being squeezed off of the road or being struck by someone opening a parked-car door.

Willamette Street around the downtown mall is an example of a place where someone riding a bicycle should take the lane because of the narrow width. For more information on how to ride your bike safely please feel free to contact me.

David Niles
Bicycle Coordinator
Office of Public Safety

Demolition crews attempt to set grounded ship afire to save beaches

Setting the 639-foot New Carissa ablaze was a desperation move

By Jeff Barnard
The Associated Press

COOS BAY — With a blast of grenades and a plume of black smoke, demolition experts attempted to set fire to a stuck cargo

ship Wednesday in a race to beat a storm that could break it up and cause a massive oil spill.

Smoke billowed up after an initial round of grenade blasts and then the flames appeared to go out. Coast Guard officials had said, like a barbecue grill, it could take several tries to get the heavy, low-grade oil to burn.

Setting the 639-foot New Caris-

sa ablaze in the breakers was a desperation move to save the beaches after authorities concluded they couldn't move the ship before a storm expected to hit late Wednesday with 70 mph gusts.

Already, cracks in the hull have ruptured three fuel tanks containing 140,000 gallons of oil, fouling beaches for six miles. If the other two tanks ruptured, the total

spilled could be nearly 400,000 gallons.

"We're between a rock and a hard spot," said Coast Guard Capt. Mike Hall. "If we don't do something now we would have to stand before you and tell you why we let 400,000 gallons of oil spill on our beaches."

Navy demolitions experts attempted to get the fire going with buckets of gasoline and incendi-

ary grenades detonated by remote control. Huge cargo hatches on the deck were removed and the fuel tanks were blown open to help the fire burn faster.

"It's about what I expected — a small flash, a little smoke and it went out," said Bob Graham, a retired truck driver, part of a crowd of people who waited for hours on the bluffs to see a spectacular blaze.

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