

## Heads down

Boycott the eclipse, now, before its too late!

Refuse to acknowledge its existence by sleeping in on Monday morning. If you're not strong enough to do that, then "eyes to the ground" for you on that day.

We believe that the coming of the eclipse represents poor planning on the part of some unknown political activist against solar energy.

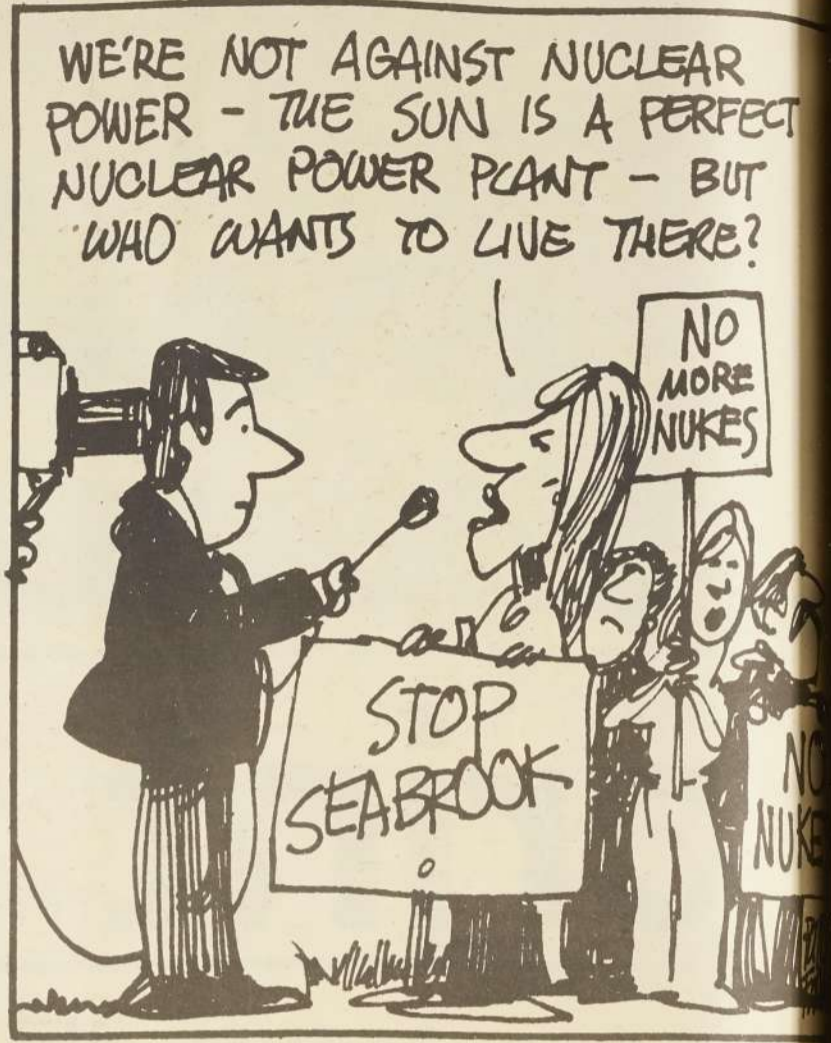
We can't afford an eclipse during our energy crisis. Think of how much money will be spent during that time of darkness on unnecessary, costly energy.

Besides, what good is having an eclipse if you can't even look at it?

"We're really sort of unhappy with all these people trekking over to the Eastern countries," an anonymous environmentalist said. "It's another one of those cultist regimes, dominated by index card carrying eccentrics."

We at The Print think "heads to the ground on Monday" is the slogan.

It's an informal protest to let people know that we will not be led astray because of this extravagant ploy.



## guest shot

**Editor's note:** This editorial was reprinted from the Torch, Lane Community College's weekly student newspaper. by Steve Myers of The Torch

Did you know that one of the laws protecting your basic rights as a consumer is being violated by a state agency here in Oregon?

The law?—The Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

The agency?—The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC).

Some of you may have had run-ins with the OLCC but for those of you who haven't, let me refresh your memory about

the commission and the law being violated.

The Sherman Anti-Trust Act was a constitutional amendment established shortly after the turn of the century. The law guarantees the consumer—you and me—that his/her choices in the market place will not be limited to a product controlled by only one firm. It also forbids the fixing of prices so as to disrupt competition essential to the free market theory.

This anti-monopoly law has been upheld time and time again by the U.S. Supreme court, yet monopolies still do exist—one here in Oregon.

The OLCC is a state-funded agency established shortly after

the prohibition act was repealed in the early 30's. It controls the wholesale and retail liquor sales industry for the entire state of Oregon. It establishes uniform prices for hard liquor throughout the state. The agency also strictly supervises the sale of all alcoholic beverages.

There is a clear conflict between the agency and the law. The agency is a monopoly in the state of Oregon and it does set prices. Yet, the law forbids monopolies and price fixing.

Lets take a closer look at the OLCC violations:

First, the OLCC has a monopoly on the Oregon wholesale/retail liquor stores

even though the store can be privately owned. (Owners are paid on a percentage of gross income.)

Because of this price fixing policy, there can be no competition among liquor outlets. The consumer has to buy hard alcohol from the OLCC at its prices.

The agency also doesn't pass along discounts it receives for volume buying to the public. It limits personal import of hard liquor from cheaper, out-of-state stores to one bottle per person. In fact, Oregon has higher prices and they operate under a similar system.

OLCC policies and its control over the liquor sales in-

dustry are in clear disregard of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act which insures us a choice market place.

I propose that the OLCC be dissolved and the state should enforce drinking age laws, regulate distribution and pricing of liquor, but it doesn't regulate government price fixing.

What can we do about this? Pressure is already being placed on the agency and sure to be a topic in the coming state legislative sessions. So make your feelings known to your representative and don't let an OLCC card—or send back with a nasty note and to it.

## the print

19600 S. Mollalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon 97045  
Offices: Trailer B; telephone: 656-2631, ext. 309 or 310

editor Cyndi Bacon \* news editor Scott Starnes  
arts editor Leanne Lally \* sports editor Mark McNeary  
photo editor Kelly Laughlin \* staff writers Happie Thacker,  
Mike Koller, Elena Vancil, Brenda Nolan,  
Don Ives, Tommy Clark,  
Ramona Isackson, James Rhoades, Brian Rood  
staff photographers Greg Kienzle, Charlie Wagg,  
Pat Carlson \* cartoonist Mary Cuddy  
production manager Janet Vockrodt  
business manager Mark Barnhill \* professional adviser Suzie Boss

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## feedback

### To The Editor:

Since Iran has cut off all exports of oil, the OPEC oil sources have had to increase their output by five million barrels of oil per day.

The sad thing is that America has been plagued with oil shortages for years, many of which could have been created to raise the price of oil in this country. And now we have a real shortage on our hands and with everyone crying wolf for so long, many people will not believe it.

In a few weeks the energy department is going to present

to Congress a set of contingency plans that will range from voluntary conservation to gas rationing.

If all other measures fail, the rationing plan will be put into action and motorists will be issued quarterly ration coupons which will entitle them to buy gas. What people don't know is that millions of the coupons already exist. They were printed by the Nixon Administration.

There also might be forced car pooling. If your license plate number ends in an odd number you could only drive

every other day, and the days with even numbers would be on the days that the odds are not.

In addition, the price of gasoline is going up. It is estimated that by mid-summer gasoline will be almost \$2.00 a gallon. The long-reaching effects of this is that the prices of some goods will go up because the cost of transporting them is going up. So the consumer can only sit and watch as the value of his/her earned money decreases.

Tom C.  
Clackamas Community College

