

opinion

Write now

We can't emphasize enough the importance of contacting legislators, urging them to appropriate funds for a new College science complex.

Associated Student Government is promoting a letter writing campaign, is planning a visible show of support at legislative hearings, and will be submitting a statement outlining the necessity of a science building at the College. But actions of a few student officers won't be enough to turn the tables in our direction.

We have to prepare accurate information showing the necessity of the science facility. We have little time before our case goes to the stand. And when our turn does come, we have to speak loud and clear and show a united front in Salem.

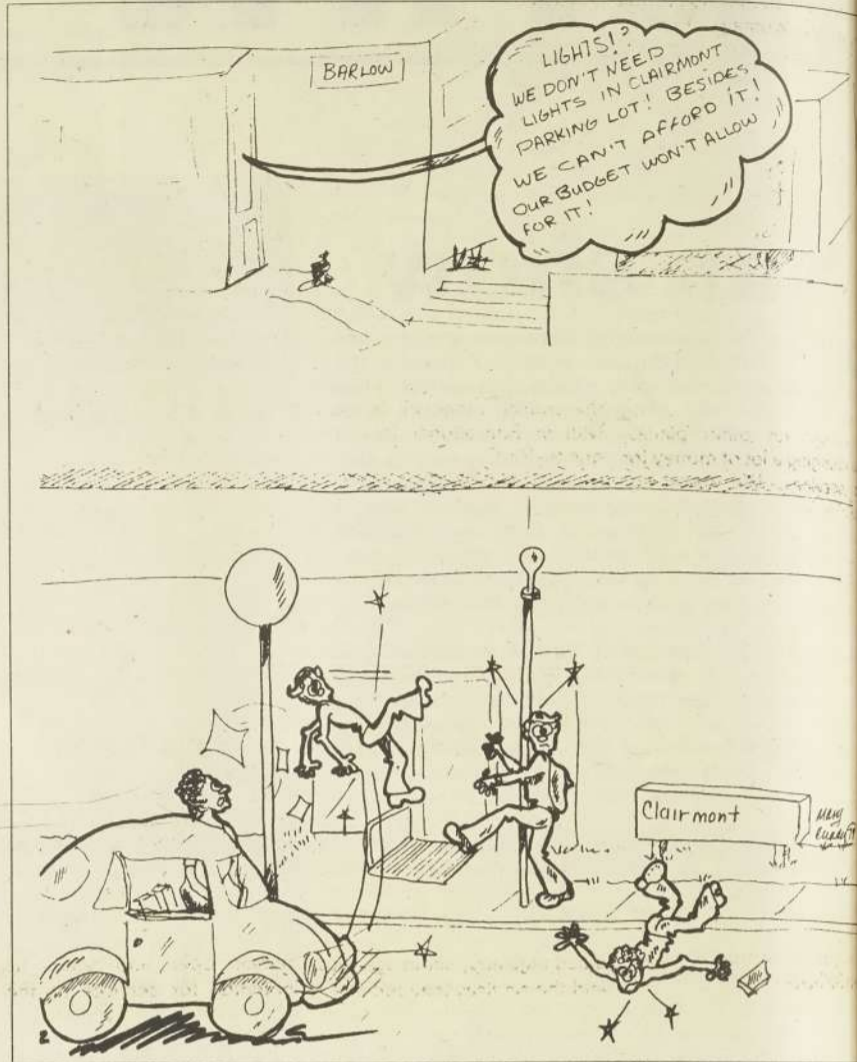
We must act quickly and efficiently before the appropriations for the science complex reach the Ways and Means committee. They will evaluate its importance and make a final decision. Without that committee's approval, the money won't be there to build our science facility. It's that simple.

We again stress the need for letter writing and personal contact to legislators. Call any of the following legislators at the State Capitol Building in Salem at 1-800-452-7813, or look up their home phone numbers in the directories. Tell them how important the appropriation for a new science complex is to you.

Rep. Ed Linnquist, ext. 8823; Sen. Richard Groener, ext. 8814; Rep. Glen Wahlon, ext. 8798; Rep. T.C. Achilles, Jr., ext. 8814; or Sen. Walter Brown, ext. 8845.

Other legislators to contact through the toll-free number are: Rep. Howard Cherry; Sen. Ed Fadeley; Sen. Tony Meeker; Sen. Jack Ripper; Sen. Fred Heard; and Sen. Keith Burbidge.

If you would rather write a letter, write to any of these legislators at: State Capitol Building, Salem, OR 97310. If you are unsure what to say, or how to say it, contact Happie Thacker or other ASG members at ext. 245.



guest shot

By Joe Woods
For The Print

The staggering velocity of world events in the last few weeks has left most Americans with a feeling of awe and helplessness. Every day we are being confronted with a new headline which could spell out the collapse of that very tenuous state of affairs called world peace.

"Viet Nam invades Cambodia." "The Shah of Iran falls to the forces of Islam." "China hurls troops into Vietnam." Over and over we are seeing the status quo being turned

head over heels while we are reduced to viewing these events from the outside looking in.

While 85,000 Chinese troops poise for attack, while hundreds of thousands of Russians mobilize on the Chinese border, while an obscure religious leader kindles a massive revolt, we sit silently in front of our television sets and ask the question: should we just be sitting here doing nothing?

Before we answer that question, let us take a look behind the headlines, back in time. For only in light of past events can present events be

judged, and only in light of present events, can the significance of past events be judged.

Ten years ago today, our country was enmeshed in the most tragic and undermining war of our modern history. Our citizenry and our congress were divided. This was a war whose wounds have not yet been fully healed, whose legacy lives on in the motto, "no more Vietnams." The Vietnam legacy is that of finding non-military solutions to world problems, a legacy of non-involvement in the internal affairs of other countries, legacy which effectively binds our arms behind our backs and makes us appear to be the Pontius Pilots of the nuclear age, washing our hands of the whole international mess.

Massive demonstrations, evoking the will of the American people, turned our military industrial complex upside down. Our politicians no longer found it to be expedient to carry that big stick to foreign shores. America was weary, tired of being the policeman of the world. We retreated behind a barricade of face-saving non-actions.

As America hung out its dirty laundry at Watergate, other eyes were watching us. As the

tides of multi-national condemnation swept over the pride that was once America, other eyes were watching us.

Now the people behind those eyes have decided to act. As we sat feeling sorry for ourselves, licking our wounds, the halls of conspiracy echoed with pronouncements of "take what you can now, while the United States is helpless to intervene." Our failure to lodge anything more substantial than a formal denunciation against Cuban excursions in Africa signalled a green light to those who wished to embark on similar adventures—which are culminating at this moment in Indo-China.

It is easy for us to ridicule President Carter's restraint and indecisiveness in matters of foreign affairs and policy, yet if Carter would have acted differently and had let slip the dogs of war, would we not be condemning him for acting too hastily and failing to exhaust the avenues of negotiation?

I am afraid Carter has been reduced to playing the role of one who throws a deck of cards in the air and stands back, hoping the aces will fall on his side of the line. Knowing the American people would not stand for another military adventure, Carter chose, wisely,

to align himself with the non-aligned people of the world. While supporting the Shah in Iran, he also preached self-determination. While aiding various despotic regimes, he proselytized the values of human rights. He has played China against Russia and Vietnam, while reiterating the mandate for non-involvement.

There are signs that his "back and watch" brand of foreign policy is actually working. The Ayatollah Khomeini is already making friendly gestures toward the U.S., thanking the administration for not becoming involved in the internal affairs of Iran. The third world countries are now viewing America as an impartial mediator who cares about human rights (thanks to our break with South Africa), and the Soviets are being condemned worldwide for their imperialistic designs.

Yes, America has finally put away its big stick. Through the pain and disillusionment which accompanied our experience in Vietnam, we have learned a good lesson.

And when the dust settles overseas, we can all be thankful we didn't get involved again, because we're kind of like the older brother who has "been there before."

Clackamas Community College

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