

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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A Final Word

It is with some nostalgia that I now must relinquish the editorship of the Emerald to my successor, as scores of editors have done before me. There is perhaps nothing so final for a journalist as knowing that he is writing his last words for a newspaper which has become part of him, a publication which he has lived and breathed, as the editor of a daily newspaper must. Such is my case.

During the five years I have spent on the University campus some remarkable changes have taken place. The old "party school" reputation has largely faded into oblivion. It has been replaced with a seriousness about the task of educating oneself in a complex society. The campus is no longer an ivy-covered enclave, a pastoral retreat for quiet contemplation while the rest of the world batters its way through life's joys and trials. The campus is now the world. A troubled mankind is looking to higher education for help and encouragement. And, indeed, higher education is looking at mankind as it never has before.

This is the change that has come about at the University, a change that will reap only good. Students still go to proms and throw each other in the Millrace and drink beer on Friday afternoons. But they also sponsor conferences on poverty, they actively campaign for politicians, and they speak out and assert themselves on critical issues such as Viet Nam and civil rights. This spirit of change is reflected best in Steve Goldschmidt, easily the finest stu-

dent body president I have seen at the University. It was he who provided much of the drive that brought life to issues this year that had gathered only passing interest in the past.

The Emerald has been an integral part of this change at the University. Things have not been all rosy, to be sure. I have criticized a good many people this year for what I felt were unjust and short-sighted actions. In turn, I have been both praised and damned. I have insisted on attempting to cover and report on meetings which have never been covered by the press before. In some cases I was victorious; in others I lost. This is the journalist's fate.

The editorship of this newspaper, despite the headaches and pressures, is one of the most rewarding available to a student. In a university as large as this one, communications are vitally important, and the Emerald plays a vital part in those communications. In the end no amount of platitudes, however, will justify the newspaper's performance, or lack thereof. It must speak for itself.

On Monday another editor will move into the office in Allen Hall and assume the responsibility he has chosen to take upon himself. For a year he will live with the Oregon Daily Emerald and with the community that it serves, sacrificing his individuality to that most incisive friend and foe of the newsman, the reader. Then he will likely make his exit, as I do, with some nostalgia, but no regrets.

—CHUCK BEGGS

Letters to the Editor

Do Something

Emerald Editor:

I would like to know what Mr. Sinniger proposed to do about the evils he described in his letter (April 26). It is very easy to sit back and whine about the evils of America; God knows there are many. It is very easy to look at an American who "serenely smiles and plops into a shiny tin car" and make value judgments about him. It is very easy to complain, to criticize, to condemn. But where are your proposals, Mr. Sinniger? America needs your ideas, not your carping. Do something, Mr. Sinniger, but quit crying about your aching guts.

Barbara Truax
Junior, Anthropology

Get Out

Emerald Editor:

Hamlet chiefs and local officials tied up by the thumbs and disembowled; children tied to stakes and every bone in their small bodies methodically broken; pregnant women with their stomachs slit open; barbaric, sadistic terrorists under the guise of a National Liberation Front. Have you failed to notice Viet Cong atrocities, Mr. Sinniger (April 26), or do you believe that their propaganda is the absolute truth?

Freedom of speech is a wonderful privilege, Mr. Sinniger, and I would be the last to deny your right to speak. But how much would your life be worth in North Viet Nam if you were to criticize the actions of the Viet Cong? I would suggest that you recheck your blessings and add up the score. And if your "guts" still ache then get out. And I for one would be interested to know if you have the strength in your convictions to do just that.

Louis Larson
Senior, General Social Science

No Thanks

Emerald Editor:

When you, the editor, decided to turn your paper into a vehicle for threatening the faculty with general riot, all in the name of the undergraduate's right to remain ignorant, I, for one, did not protest.

You are, after all, an undergraduate and may be presumed to speak for some undergraduates, however few. But I fail to see what business you have with the graduate language requirement, unless, perhaps, you are planning to get a graduate degree, and thus feel as a personal affront any intellectual requirements in academia whatever.

You come in with an air of righteous innovation, but you have been anticipated. A meeting of nationally known scholars last year recommended that instead of two languages, badly learned, graduate schools should require a thorough knowledge of one language, plus a strong minor related to or necessary for the graduate study, say French and history or philosophy for the English graduate.

Some graduate students will not approve of this program; it would require real scholarship and might delay entry into the big money. Some graduates will object to learning any languages at all, however poorly, on the grounds that knowledge of a language is not useful, is not practical. These scholars, so-called, will be certain to dislike the new proposal, for it is more difficult to learn one language and a minor field well than to learn two languages poorly.

It was on the grounds of impracticality and uselessness—that is, on the ground of the inconvertibility of one's knowledge into hard cash—that the undergraduate degree became, at many institutions, a formalized fraud, attesting to little more than its owner's ability to maintain respiration during four consecutive years.

Considering your performance this year, it is not surprising to find you joining the attempt to make the graduate de-

gree worthless, too.

But thank you, no thank you. Some of us do not want your kind of aid. We do not want bi-weekly threats of riot. We have no use for tears on the Free Speech Platform from politicians seeking an issue. We do not require the kind of distorted reporting and editorializing that has brought, during your editorship, more complaints of misrepresentation than during the entire preceding four years of the Emerald's publication. The change in the language requirement will come, is coming, without your dubious aid.

When the strong swimmer is nearing shore, for the love of Pete, resist the impulse to throw him your solid lead life preserver.

R. S. Behar
Graduate, English

Editor's Note: The present editor of the Emerald, Chuck Beggs, is a graduate student in journalism.

Big Bare

Emerald Editor:

Controversy over whose feet of what academically inclined foreign group danced on stage at the International Festival has reached the stage of open protest.

It is time, it seems to me, for an agonizing reappraisal by all right minded and humorless members of this academic community. Is it not the God-given right of all people in the Great Society to put our collective feet in our collective mouths upon any and all occasions offering opportunity thereto? Does not an Emerald reporter have the right to inflate an incident in the interests of newspaper popularity? Should we not do as our exemplary State Department does in dealing with peoples abroad, and alienate our overseas brothers and sisters with our own bumbling kindness, fomenting anger, indignation, and revolt because we have tried too hard to please? Nay, it is our right; let us do it.

Now speaking seriously for a moment, it is true that the Emerald reporter did a poor job of reporting. I'm certain she has been castigated, if not publicly lashed with scorn and contumely, and no doubt will be more careful about counting feet and degrees which dance before her eyes in the future.

What arouses my considerable laughter and disgust is the reaction to this piece of poor journalism. One native American demands we should apologize publicly; native African students adopt a pose of suffering martyrdom over Miss Borenstein's innocuous report; and I expect some fine afternoon to find hand printed signs being paraded outside the Emerald offices demanding that we free (bare) feet from feudalism, or some asininity.

My composition class decided the report would have aroused no comment if the wording had been modified: "African students dance on stage barefoot," instead of "Barefoot African students dance on stage." The implication being that the use of both "barefoot" and "African" in such close proximity inevitably conjures up pictures of a past which apparently the Africans would rather deny ever existed.

I submit that the African students and their humorless supporters should try walking around without those large, unsightly chips on their shoulders and see if we aren't all more friendly and tolerant than they at present suppose us to be.

Robert L. Stallman
Inst., English

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