

# Text use decried, defended

By DAN MCGINNIS  
Of the Emerald

"As you may have already noticed, the assigned textbook for this class is my own. Granted, this is corruption, but it's minor corruption." Such were the words of history professor Tom Govan as he spoke about the "The Last Best Hope," that he and two other historians wrote.

Instructors who use their own texts have been accepted in academia for many years. Approximately 20 instructors at the University are using their own books this term.

"Almost every professor who writes a textbook uses it in his or her class," says a woman at the University Bookstore.

"They place their orders with us and we get them the books they want, nothing more. If it happens to be their own book, that's fine."

It seems like a perfectly natural thing for instructors to supplement their lectures with their own books, but the practice offends some people. Doug Olson, a junior in journalism, is one of them.

"I couldn't believe professors actually assigned their own books

to classes when I first came to college. They're obviously out to make some bucks, and they know that students have no choice but to shell out the money for textbooks they can only get at the bookstore. It takes a big ego for a teacher to do that."

Olson had to pay \$19 for a required, 150-page book this term. "The only way I'll ever get my money's worth out of that book," he remarks bitterly, "is if I live to be a hundred years old and sell it as an antique."

Another student who disagrees with the practice is Sharon Cushing, an art major. "The class is exposed to only one point of view when the assigned text has been written by the instructor. That's not really fair or a good way to teach."

Govan says he receives around 3 cents for every copy of his book that is sold. "The book hasn't done well," he says, "and besides, the thing passes through too many hands for me to profit very much from it."

Ed Ebbighausen, a physics professor and author of the two textbooks he uses in his astronomy classes, says 15 per cent of the list price is a pretty standard figure for

the author's share of sales. Ebbighausen's astronomy classes are structured for the non-math student and he wrote his texts with that in mind. Although his first book sold well, the second, more comprehensive text, has not.

"They're perfect for the classes I teach," he says. "The reason the second book has not sold is packaging. Packaging is the key element in a successful book because very often an instructor is teaching a class in which he knows little or nothing about the subject matter. He assigns a book that's pretty and disregards the actual content."

Ebbighausen then pulls a plain-looking book from the shelf. "This, in my opinion, is one of the finest books ever written on astronomy, but it didn't sell because of how it looks," he remarks. He flips through the book, pointing out the dingy paper.

"I wrote my second book as a cheaper alternative to the \$15 astronomy texts. Mine sells for \$8, but it has not been successful because it lacks slickness and color that seems to sell books these days," Ebbighausen added.

## Patty vows captors used force

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A sad-faced Patricia Hearst, breaking months of silence, swore Monday that she was never a terrorist and unblinkingly incriminated a long list of participants in her underground voyage.

In one of the strangest confessions ever given on a witness stand, Hearst admitted—with her jurors absent—that she had robbed a bank but said she was forced to do so by her Symbionese Liberation Army kidnap-

pers, who threatened to execute her if she refused.

"I was told that I would be killed," Hearst said in response to questioning by defense attorney F. Lee Bailey. She appeared to be fighting back tears at that brief moment in her other wise emotionless testimony before U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Carter.

She was threatened with death, she said, "a hundred times...I don't know, I can't count how many times." Harris alone, she said,

gave her a black eye four times.

But on cross-examination by her prosecutor, Hearst admitted she had "sort of" been given the choice she spoke of on a tape—of going home or staying to fight with the SLA.

"A few weeks before, SLA leader Donald DeFreeze told me the war council had been talking about me staying with them," she said, "and I better start thinking about it."

"Later," she continued, "he came in and said I could go home or stay with them, and I didn't believe him."

"You didn't believe him?" prosecutor James Browning asked incredulously.

"No," Hearst replied.

## Communist forces gain capital

By the Associated Press

Communist-backed forces in Angola rolled over Huambo, administrative capital of the Western-supplied National Union Monday, and began menacing Silva Porto, its key military headquarters. Britain acknowledged that many of its citizens, apparently mercenaries, have been

killed in the embattled southwest African state.

U.S. officials in Washington said National Union — UNITA — and National Front — FNLA — troops pulled back to Silva Porto and were fighting "a rear-guard action" against Popular Movement — MPLA — forces after the collapse of Huambo, 90 miles to the west.

## Budget hearings set

Public budget hearings on 17 ASUO-funding programs, governing bodies and contractors will be held today from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Forum Room, EMU.

Sponsored by the ASUO Executive, the hearings are designed to solicit student input for the annual budgeting process. Students are encouraged to attend.

Programs discussed during today's hearings will include governing bodies and informational and service-oriented agencies. Specific agencies on the agenda include: Oregon Daily Emerald, ASUO Executive, Student University Board, Incidental Fee Committee, Student Bar Association, ASUO Legal Services, and the Inter-Fraternity Council.

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