

Subpoena threat

The idea of a reporter being subpoenaed to testify in court about an event or story that has become a central issue in a legal action may seem on the surface to be a reasonable thing to do. After all, a reporter is subject, with one exception, to the same duties and obligations as any other citizen in our society.

That one exception is when the reporter is functioning as an impartial newsgatherer. To perform effectively, reporters must rely on establishing credibility with their sources. This credibility depends upon the reporter's source believing that reporters will protect the confidentiality of the source.

The importance of this confidentiality is recognized in law by the principle of privilege. While a reporter's privilege is not absolute, its scope is defined in common law and protected in many states by shield laws.

This principle is being threatened by the Eugene city attorney, Dave Logan. The city attorney's office requested the Eugene municipal court to subpoena the *Emerald's* managing editor, Dennis Pfaff, to testify at the trial of the demonstrators arrested at Pres. Boyd's inauguration.

While the basis of the story that Pfaff wrote did not involve pledging confidentiality to a source, the precedent that would be set by compelling Pfaff to testify would dangerously undermine the principle of privilege.

We question the need for the prosecution to subpoena Pfaff. The incident occurred at a public event. The list of alternate witnesses could include everyone else that attended the inauguration. We also question the fact that Pfaff was singled out as a witness. Other media representatives covered the event and yet Pfaff alone was subpoenaed.

To submit to the subpoena would open the door to further erosions of reporters' privilege to protect their sources. Without privilege, reporters could find themselves facing court subpoenas and possible contempt citations every time they report a news story that involves potentially illegal activities.

The *Emerald* draws the line here. We are committed to the principle of privilege and the protection of the confidentiality of our sources. With the aid of our attorney, we are fighting the subpoena. To do less would destroy our credibility with future sources and weaken our effectiveness in gathering news.

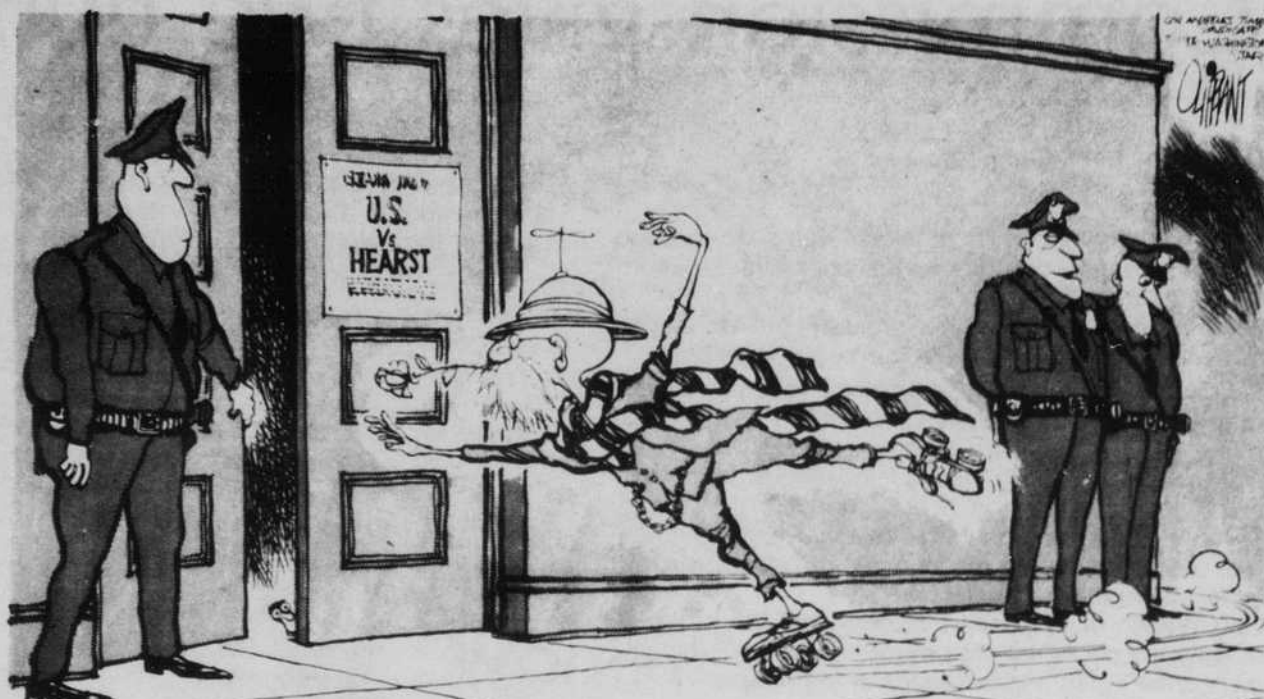
Cheap labor

For two days the State Employment Relations Board (ERB) heard opposing testimony of whether or not the University's Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTF's) should be recognized and represented as a bargaining unit. The testimony concluded Wednesday and the hearings officer plans to release his finding some time late in April.

Throughout the hearing, the University maintained that GTF's are primarily students and are only employed from 15 to 50 per cent of the time. While the University may view them as students, they serve in many cases as instructors, conducting lab sections and grading papers. Often an undergraduate student will have more contact with the graduate teaching assistant than the course instructor.

In addition, when the University contends that the GTF's are only employed part-time and therefore ineligible for unionization, it overlooks the status of undergraduate students who are unionized part-time employees of the University. In at least one case (part-time food service employees) these students are recognized and incorporated into a union.

These are the facts. GTF's work for the University. They are paid with state monies. They function as instructors. The University is getting a lot of good labor cheaply. The GTF's should be recognized as employees and allowed to organize and bargain collectively.



'AND NOW THE DEFENSE CALLS THE PSYCHIATRISTS...'

Letters

Time wasted

Re: Paul Thomas' story on the 'D' grade in the *Emerald*, Thursday, March 4.

I'll grant that the controversy surrounding the 'D' grade proposal is confusing, but the *Emerald's* story Thursday did a disservice to its readers by further confusing the issue.

Thomas states that the ASUO "has already voted an amendment which would delete the restriction on P/NP credits." The ASUO (Executive) is not a legislative body; it is an advocate of student interests in the University Senate and General Faculty Assembly through and in conjunction with the eighteen students who sit as voting members of both of these bodies, the Student University Affairs Board (SUAB).

Here are the facts: the Lamon bill calls for the 'D' grade, a 2.0 GPA graduation requirement and a reduction in the number of P/NP hours allowed from 96 to 36.

Lamon's justifications for the reduced P/NP hours were contrived: he based his argument on a highly questionable 0.2 difference in "effective" GPA's between the 96 hour rule and the 36 hour proposal; he didn't answer accusations that the distinction was meaningless. I and several other Senate members argued against the reduction on the grounds that 1) students should have the right to reject the constraints of the grading system for at least half of their courses, and 2) some students are now receiving up to 50 hours of P/NP credit through

CLEP exams and the reduction would countermand the University's policy of encouraging learning outside of the classroom. The Senate approved the amendment to delete the P/NP limit by a vote of 24 to 9.

Action on the proposal is not complete, however: it must be approved by the General Faculty (including the 18 SUAB members) next Wednesday, March 10. We will have to argue again for the amendment protecting the P/NP right.

On the question of the 'D' grade, the SUAB is in a quandry (sic) two public forums on the subject (advertised in the *Emerald*) have attracted only six people and have generated no clear indication of student opinion. According to Thomas' article, entitled "'D' Reinstatement Strongly Opposed," 163 people surveyed favored its return while only 119 people were opposed. I'd be wasting my time complaining about the *Emerald* headlines; I'd rather urge everyone to talk to us in Suite 4 of the EMU before the vote next Wednesday.

Dave Hercher
SUAB #15

Wrong, but . . .

In regard to Scot Felderman's letter Wednesday on sexist language: Mr. Felderman urges the abolishment of "...every element of our society which promotes an imbalance of privilege and prestige between the sexes." Isn't it ironic that such a strong opponent

of sexist language should be cursed with a sexist name?

We feel that if Mr. Felderman is sincere in his wish to eliminate all "generic male" elements, he should change his name to Scot Felderperson, or better yet, since "son" is sexist (as pointed out in the March 2 *Register-Guard*), Felderperoffspring.

We agree with Scot that sexism is wrong. But if the "hidden persuaders" are as subtle and omnipresent as Mr. Felderman suggests, how does he propose we remove them all without ridiculously mutilating the English language?

Phil Wax
economics

James Miller
pre-journalism

No redemption

Scot Felderman is correct in asserting that the generic use of the word "man" is sexist. So is the use of "he" when the sex of the person referred to is not stated.

The simplest way to eradicate such sexism from our language is to delete "man" from such words as "chairman" and "spokesman" and substitute "it" for "he" in places where the individual's sex is not identified. This yields such elegant sentences as "the chair opened the meeting by pounding on the table with its gavel," and "the spokes asked if it could address the chair."

Unfortunately, the reform of such heavily inflected languages as German may prove impossible. A language which assigns day ("der Tag") to the masculine gender and night ("die Nacht") to the feminine, shows such a strong sexual bias that it may be beyond redemption.

Jim Scott
English, grad.

Letters policy

The *Emerald* will accept and try to print all letters containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Because of space limitations, letters must be no more than 200 words, typed triple-spaced, dated and signed with the person's major. No unsigned letters will be published. Longer opinion columns will be published whenever possible after being submitted to the editorial page editor. The limit on opinion columns is 800 words, using the same format as letters.

Friday, March 5, 1976

THE RECKLESS
EXPOSURE OF
CIA COVERT
OPERATIONS
IN CHILE AND
ANGOLA -



HAS BEEN FOLLOWED
PREDICTABLY, BY
THE RECKLESS
EXPOSURE OF
LOCKHEED'S
COVERT OPER-
ATIONS IN
JAPAN AND
SWEDEN.



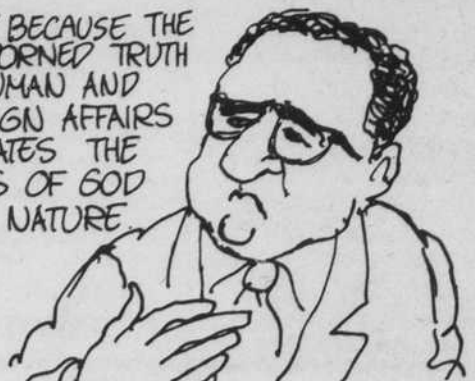
THUS A CAMPAIGN
BEGUN TO LIMIT
GOVERNMENT
INTELLIGENCE
EXCESSES -



HAS MUSHROOMED
INTO A MOVEMENT
TO DESTROY OUR
FREE ENTERPRISE
SYSTEM.



WHY? BECAUSE THE
UNADORNED TRUTH
IN HUMAN AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
VIOLATES THE
LAWS OF GOD
AND NATURE



EXISTENCE IS A
COVERT OPERA-
TION.



POST FIELD NEWSPAPER, 2/20/76, 1/7/76