

More mail, please

The U.S. Postal Service is so concerned about the decrease in the volume of mail going through the system that it is planning a national advertising campaign to encourage persons to mail more letters.

The service cites a steady decline since 1972 in the number of letters Americans are mailing to each other. It contends that a five per cent increase in personal correspondence nation-wide could net the service an additional \$150 million annually and help alleviate the service's financial problems.

The picture of the postal service urging Americans to do their part to keep the service strong resembles a thinly disguised, emotional appeal to patriotic sentiments.

The postal service is a quasi-private business and as such, it should have a better business sense. The proposed ad campaign attacks the problem backwards. Rather than extolling the virtues of mailing more letters, the service would be better off directing its energy to improving the quality of mail service and holding down the postal rate increases. More people would use the system if it weren't so expensive and if it took less than five days to get a letter from Springfield to Eugene.

Letters

Nothing to show

In perusing recent copies of the *Emerald*, we have been appalled at the lack of writing skills exhibited by some of the letter writers (see, for example, a letter entitled "Fair Play?" which appeared on March 2). That these people should be students at the University is, perhaps, excusable, but that they have been allowed to become upperclassmen is an insult to those of us who have college degrees, as well as to the University itself. An argument can be made for indiscriminate admission to the University, but we must set some standards for advancement and adhere to them strictly if the degree is to continue to be meaningful. It is our firm conviction that the ability to think and to express one's thoughts in a clear, logical and concise manner should be one prerequisite for a college degree. Apparently the University of Oregon does not agree.

In recent years grade inflation has made an "A" somewhat meaningless, but a college degree still remains a symbol of achievement. It is expensive in time, effort and money, but we feel it is worth it. If the University continues to advance illiterates, however, we will soon have nothing to show for it.

I. David Reingold
chemistry
and 15 co-signers

Matter murky

It's about time the *Emerald* printed an article about the Frank Dufay affair, but I think this dirty little secret needs to be aired out a bit more. The biggest question, of course, is why did the IFC vote Dufay \$800 of student money to bring us yet another doozy whitewash of how marvelous everything is in China. Perhaps it was just another example of how the ASUO incessantly tried to play ideological school master of this campus. But to me it smells like a personal favor.

The *Emerald's* part in this matter is also murky. It didn't report the appropriation request once during the four-week budget process described, although it was fairly controversial inside the ASUO. (If I had known about it, I would have applied to last year's, more generous IFC for \$800 to make a movie of Poland and not

have waited to be turned down by this year's committee.) A couple months ago I sent the *Emerald* a letter asking it to investigate the missing movie and was ignored. You also failed to mention that Dufay duped the *Emerald* and others. Aren't you looking for him, or do you censor that information because it "discriminates?"

Now I would like to say some nice things about the ASUO. Last summer, Jim Bernau invited me in to discuss criticism I'd made and to suggest constructive measures I might take. I was surprised at his openness to all points of view. Although he hasn't taken any of my advice, I genuinely admire his intelligence, eloquence and energy. We are lucky to have him.

To my dismay, I must say the same thing about the other ASUO people I've met this year. They are pleasant, fair and anxious to hold down incidental fees. They just have to learn to say no to attractive programs.

The constitutional limit on fee increases and the reversed lettuce policy, which should make student committees more respectable, are examples of concrete improvements that characterize this year's ASUO.

Students should take it more seriously, and I encourage those who have complaints, especially about high fees, to get involved and do something about them. I think they will find a reasonable and receptive atmosphere. This is advice from somebody who's complained a lot.

Mike Sylwester
Russian, grad.

Rechannel funds

In reading over the IFC budget recommendations for 1976-77, I applaud the IFC Committee for its cuts in programs, and by current published accounts, the reasons are justified.

However, there are some proposals that I do not agree with. A question in my mind arises: Why were some affiliations recommended to receive more than they asked for, and why is it that groups that have nothing to do with the University learning processes are asking for funds and receiving them?

The particular group that I am at is the Gay People's Alliance. The fact that two people of the same sex desire to have a relationship together is a matter of



'MOSCOW TO ALMA ATA IN ONE HOUR AND FIFTY FIVE MINUTES, COMRADE — CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THIS MEANS TO WORLD TRAVEL?'

preference, and preference is too broad a classification to be considered minority or ethnic. Minority recognition has been defined as the ratio of certain ethnic groups (ie: Israeli, Arab, Black, Chinese, Indian) to the general population. Ethnic groups are the derivation or the specific classification of the minority faction (ie: Chicanos, Indonesians, Lebanese).

Members of the GPA are also members of all the above groups, therefore, the GPA cannot claim discrimination in that respect. Men and women are members together, thus eliminating sexism. What the Gay People's Alliance is, then, is a sexual preference group, and there are many preference groups on this campus (ie: Christians, atheists, dorm people, independents, etc.)

As a student at this University, I prefer not to have to pay for something I do not favor, and it is unfair to have the University populace support the GPA to the tune of \$2,433.50-\$33.50 above their request. Instead, the student funds could be channeled into University approved schools such as the School of Public Broadcasting, or other general, student-use facilities.

Jon Peterson
bus. adm., jr.

Response hateful

I wish to comment on a letter entitled "Judge Merits" that was written in response to a Christian group's advertisement about TM. I am not familiar with the group that sponsored this ad but realize it to be only one of a series. These ads have been well researched and well written and present controversial viewpoints in a refreshingly sober and unpretentious style. Because these ads deal essentially with the gut issues of existence and because they represent the unpopular Christian perspective, angry and hateful responses are inevitable and expected.

The "Judge Merits" letter is a case in point. In my opinion, the author's cause would have been better served had he remained silent, for his letter was a perfect example of the type of journalism that he claims to abhor. The Christian ad simply presented some unknown and interesting facts about TM and cautioned proponents of some potential risks. This seems to me to be a fair message. On the other hand, the rebuttal was an ill-conceived and ignorant attack on Christianity rather than a well-stated defense of TM's merits. This phenomenon is commonplace but deserves comment.

Too often people associate Christianity with Americanism,

WASPism, self righteousness and elitism. This is unfortunate. Instead, Christianity should only be looked at in terms of Jesus Christ, how he lived, what he said, and why he died. Most people who re-evaluate Christianity or inspect it for the first time are awed by what they discover because they have too long been indoctrinated in its prostituted form.

I applaud the efforts of those who are responsible for the tasteful Christian ads because they foster and stimulate fresh thinking about Christ and the repercussions of his life on human history.

Regarding the TM rebuttal I only have this to add: Most of us are responsive to changed lives, and skeptical of theory. My advice is to observe each "right way" carefully and turn from gross inconsistency wherever it may lie.

Steve Fuetwell
bus. adm. grad

Rights denied

As one of those "people running around campus trying to get" non-UFW, not "non-union" lettuce removed from the EMU cafeterias, I feel compelled to respond to Kelly Baker's recent letter (March 3). It is disheartening, to say the least, to find so little interest on Kelly's part in exploring the issue beyond the superficial. I find it contradictory for anyone to claim they are being threatened with a deprivation of their "freedom of choice" rights while concurrently stating they "really don't care" to exercise those rights.

I sympathize to a limited extent with Kelly's disgust with big unions; at the top level especially they no longer represent their constituents. However, I can only imagine the working conditions we'd still find today in factories if workers hadn't organized and taken control of their rights. Unions haven't cleared up all the problems of working people, and have created some of their own, but overall, things would be a lot worse for the majority of workers without them.

Farmworkers were not a part of the early union organizing that improved some working conditions; consequently, many are today working under conditions reminiscent of those described in John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath." The United Farmworkers is the first farmworkers organization to have some success in bringing these conditions to the public's attention.

Essentially, farmworkers are asking for the same right Kelly stresses, that of "freedom of choice": freedom for farmworkers to elect union representation so that they may gain some bargaining power toward improving their

working and living conditions. Unlike Kelly, who presently has his right to freedom of choice but chooses not to exercise it, farmworkers are presently denied that freedom of choice which they want to exercise.

I am not trying to deprive Kelly of his/her freedom of choice rights; I am merely working for those rights presently denied to farmworkers and feel the University, as a focal center of educational and social change, should actively support those rights.

Nancy Bird
history, senior

Another triumph

Ye Olde Double Standard has triumphed again. At the top corner of the Friday March 5 *Emerald* classifieds is the statement "The *Emerald* will not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or age." Then on the next page in the personals, an ad is printed which states: "Are you an Asian American and looking for a job?"

Obviously, something is amiss. This ad clearly discriminates against blacks, whites, chicanos, etc. Are the *Emerald* editors hypocritical or just negligent? Please, either stop printing racist ads of this sort or leave out your meaningless policy statement.

Mike Manley
business, fr.

Editor's note: Mr. Manley is correct, "something is amiss." The *Emerald's* Advertising Department does try to screen all such ads. Slip-ups do happen, however. If you see an ad that you believe violates the *Emerald's* ad policy, please contact the ODE Advertising Department immediately.

Link opposed

I support the reinstatement of the D grade and do not believe it should be linked to changes in the pass-no pass option. In any course there are students who simply deserve D's. It is not fair to lump them in the C category, as is usually done, because better students suffer from the resulting grade devaluation. If, however, a student elects to take a large number of pass-no pass credits, he devalues only his own transcript, particularly if he wants into medical or graduate school. Since this affects only himself, I think this decision should be left to the individual student.

Robert Jordon
biology, grad