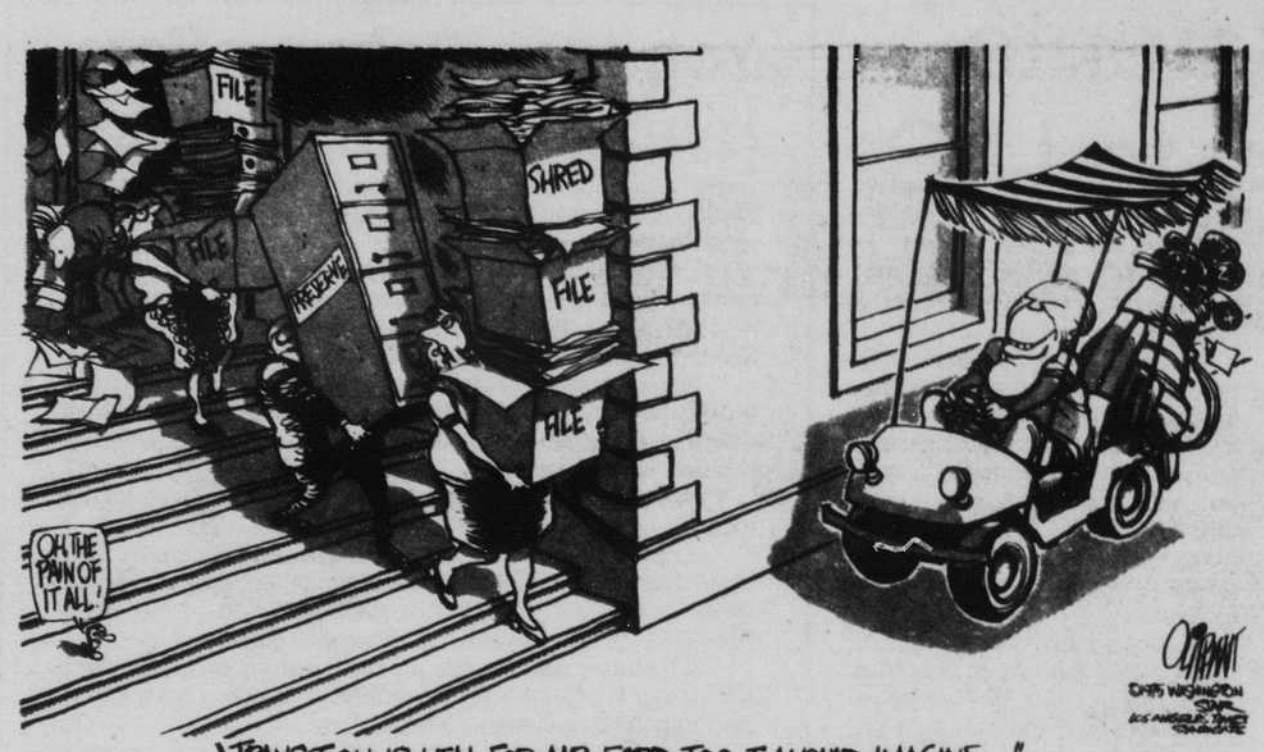

"TRANSITION IS HELL FOR MR. FORD, TOO, I WOULD IMAGINE..."

Letters

Just how violent?

"Violently denouncing the Emerald . . ."

That's how a story on the front page of the Wednesday, Nov. 17, Emerald starts out. The story concerns a certain Mr. Wright who did the denouncing.

What'd he say? What'd the guy say about the Emerald that was so terrible the Emerald wouldn't print it?

Now, a violent denunciation must be really vile for the Emerald not to print it. This is a paper that doesn't pull any punches. Remember, the Emerald was among a relative handful of dailies in the country that had the gumption to print the actual remarks that proved so fateful to our former Secretary of Agriculture.

And fairness. The Emerald is also known for its fairness. Remember, the Emerald's advertising policy is to not discriminate in accepting accounts. That's fair.

So, a fair-minded paper with guts must have come up against a very, very violent remark to cringe away from letting it run on the front page.

Did Mr. Wright say, "May the entire Emerald staff relive My Lai as the Vietnamese!"? (That's what I call a violent denunciation.)

Actually, it has been reported that what Mr. Wright did say was, "Fuck the Emerald."

Violent? Maybe. Objectionable? Yes, especially to those it was directed at. Would the Emerald have hesitated a minute before printing a similar remark directed at, say, the faculty? I wonder.

Let's hear it for Mr. Wright!

Michael Kesten
Senior, Journalism

Correction needed

I am writing to ask your correction of inaccurate reporting in an article in Monday's Emerald. The reporter, Peter Leibik, has seriously misquoted me on two occasions in his front-page story.

1. I am reported to have said: "allowing students to vote on tenure and promotion infringes on the rights of the faculty to govern themselves ("peer review") as provided by the 100-year-old University Charter."

I do not believe any such thing and said nothing of the kind to the reporter. What I said was that the attempt by ASUO (and student groups from other schools) earlier this summer to bypass the faculty and to have the State Board of Higher Education impose student members on the Faculty Personnel Committee — a committee created by and elected by the faculty — represented an infringement of the rights of the faculty, under the 100-year-old University Charter, with the president to govern this school. I said further that the Board's action in retracting its decision imposing student membership, and this faculty's decision in November approving student participation in discussion, protected the faculty's rights under the Charter.

2. I am reported to have said: "a student's time might be better spent 'taking another course, reading a book or going out on a date,' rather than serving on the committee."

This statement was taken out of context and distorted somewhat. The reporter asked me what benefits there might be in student participation. I responded that, so far as the student participants were concerned, the benefits to them of the experience of serving on a committee would have to be measured against other things they might be doing, such as taking another course, reading a book, going to a football game, and so forth. I said further that I could not lightly recommend service on the committee to any student, considering the heavy burden of time required.

I request that the Emerald print the above corrections lest students, faculty, and others who read the paper develop inaccurate impressions from the story printed Monday.

Paul S. Holbo
Professor - History

Mr. Leibik has researched Professor Holbo's position regarding student participation on the Faculty Personnel Committee and has found that Professor Holbo objects to participation being mandated by the State Board of Higher Education rather than the principle of student participation itself. However, Mr. Liebik's story fairly represented Professor Holbo's remarks during an interview.

The Emerald regrets any misunderstanding the story might have caused, but we do not feel Mr. Liebik can be criticized for accurately quoting Professor Holbo. –ed.

Policy separation

In a narrow vote the Oregon Daily Emerald board of directors has decided not to attach any disclaimer to advertising from the E&J Gallo wineries. Earlier, the board had chosen not to ban advertising from Gallo. The board members whose opinions prevailed felt that censoring advertising for political reasons was a dangerous trend, not only abrogating free speech, but also opening the door to removing other advertisors for political reasons.

A proposal to attach a small disclaimer to all Gallo advertising which would state "this product is under boycott by the United Farm Workers" was rejected on the basis of the separation of editorial policy from advertising policy. The Emerald will state its political views on the editorial page; readers will make their own decisions about products after reading advertising. If a disclaimer was to be placed on Gallo advertising, the absence of disclaimers on other advertising might imply Oregon Daily Emerald approval of the advertisors' policies.

Jamie Burns
Chairer of the board
Oregon Daily Emerald
Publishing Company

E & J Emerald

I was disappointed to hear that the Emerald runs ads for makers of Gallo wine. You are doing an injustice to the cause of humanness. By accepting Gallo's advertisement for publication you condone this company's actions and ignorance toward people, toward people's rights. Gallo is not people. Gallo has no concept of peopleness. By giving support to this company in the way of advertising inches, you nonverbally support its existence . . . and give up too easily the power of the press to change. You become like Gallo.

Annette-Ovsanna Gurdjian
341 High St., Eugene

Hypocritical policy

Though the Emerald in their editorial of Nov. 22 claimed support of the UFW and denounced Gallo's exploitive labor practices, we find that the Emerald is going to continue printing Gallo ads. It is all nice and commendable to come out editorally in support of a worthy cause, such as the farmworkers, but once it gets down to doing something about it, where oh where does the support go? As in the case of the Emerald board of directors, they have accomplished their goals: to take an editorial stand and not support it, and to keep their "free marketplace of information."

To many of us, the Emerald's policies seem very hypocritical. For one thing, how can a newspaper support the boycott of a product, and yet carry advertisements for people to buy that product? If the Emerald is so concerned with saving their "free markerplace of information", why aren't they as interested in supporting the human rights of the farmworkers?

I am ashamed to see the newspaper that represents a supposedly "liberal" university actually print ads by such a repressive and vile corporation as Gallo. It is about time that we start fighting for our convictions and not just writing or speaking of them. It is time for the Emerald to say no to Gallo and stand up for the rights of oppressed people. I now, however, question if the Emerald has the courage to do this.

Jim Rose
Sophomore - Sociology

opinion

Vague, facile rhetoric

I read with interest the Emerald editorial concerning a "class war" in Lebanon. It seemed to echo the sentiments if not the words of a letter from several Arab spokesmen appearing several days ago in these same pages.

The judgments presented are, I will argue, wrong in several places and inconsistent in others. The first contention is that the American press always distorts the nature of liberation struggles. Such a generalization is factually weak, since the American press is by no means monolithic or ideolgically unified on most important issues. Moreover, with regard to the specific case of Vietnam, it was precisely the variegated coverage afforded by the American press which eventually led the majority of Americans to reject the means and goals associated with our adventure there. It was the lack of agreement in the conflicting reports on the war in Vietnam which convinced many people that our government had no business taking sides, and which certainly disqualified the single-minded policies of the Johnson and Nixon administrations. Furthermore, your contention is weak since it fails to specify or refer to any realistic social-ideological process which might generate unanimity in the American press. An implied reference to ruling elites opposed to ruled masses is so vague as to be contentless.

The leftist front is defined as "a broad based force of working class Lebanese and peasant Moslems, Jews and Christians," — the Palestinian people being the vanguard. This appears to be incongruous, since a broad based movement should have a broad-based vanguard, if any; otherwise the relation is between an elite and a dominated (or exploited) body of followers. The statement following qualifies that quoted above, reflecting that the Palestinians are the vanguard of an Arab revolution, whose interests "are those of all Arab peopls . . ." Now, to my knowledge, Jews and Christians do not consider themselves Arabs. Moreover, Arabs, as a group, do not constitute one class in any Marxist sense. The contention that the war in Lebanon is a class struggle is inconsistent with the statement that it is simultaneously a struggle of all Arabs.

In order to take care of the Syrians, who do not support the "Arab revolution," you refer to them as "U.S.-backed invaders." Thus, a distinction is interposed between misguided and right-thinking Arabs, as well as between invading Arabs and, presumably, a non-invading yet international body of Arabs who do support the "revolution." Now, one begins to suspect, such distinctions are being drawn on the basis of ideological convenience rather than any reasonably motivated analysis of political factions. How is one to make sense of a class struggle, fought exclusively for the interests of a loose group defined in terms of ethnicity and religion (Arab peoples), which commands support of some but not all of the group so defined (leftist front, Syrians)? To cap this, the war in Lebanon is referred to as "the Palestinian struggle." Hence, from "class war" we proceed to the movement of a "broad based force of working class Lebanese," thence to "Arab revolution" (non-reactionaries only), to "the Palestinian struggle." This semantic magic renders the argument incoherent.

As though an appeal to vague leftist sympathies were enough, no justification is ultimately presented as to why we should support one side rather than the other. This, then, resembles the character of the American government's position in Vietnam, which appealed to vague anti-communist sympathies as a charter for inducing political change. Indeed, the international activities of some of the members of the "vanguard" (PLO, Black September) are as repugnant as the objectionable "pacification program followed by the U.S. in Vietnam, thus giving some of us reasons for not supporting this liberation struggle.

The facile and unmotivated rhetoric of your editorial constitutes a disservice to progressive political views which must, I feel, be founded on realistic social analysis if they are to appeal to non-rabid segments of the political community in this country. Furthermore, unreasoned bias is unbecoming of a University community which must continually justify itself in the face of scepticism and economic adversity in the American polity. Rhetoric is neither a principled nor practical substitute for reason.

Thomas E. Lengyel
Visiting Ass't Prof,
Anthropology

The soul of wit

The length limit on letters to the editor has been abused to such an extent that we are forced to announce that what has been a flexible policy shall heretofore be ironclad.

As of today, no letters over 300 words in length will be printed. Handwritten letters will not be printed. All letters should be double-spaced, with margins set to allow 65 characters per typed line.

Readers who wish to submit longer articles of general interest should call the Emerald (686-5511) or come to the office in person (afternoons are best) and get details on procedures for submitting opinion columns.