editorial

Archie should apologize

Archie Weinstein, Lane County's volatile new County Commissioner, has been acting in a way that raises doubts about his judgment, not to say his stability.

First, Weinstein insulted Lane County employes with an uncalled-for remark: "the county people are too busy taking coffee breaks and naps" to help with the construction of the new county jail, he said.

Then, after the Eugene Register-Guard accurately reported the remark and editorialized against his threats to ask for the resignations of county administrators, Weinstein declared "war" on the Register-Guard. Weinstein said he would not speak to Register-Guard reporters and would answer "no comment" to all their questions.

The union that represents most county employes, the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employes, filed a grievance against Weinstein on the basis that his remark constituted an unfair labor practice. Union representatives have since hinted that a public apology from Weinstein would go a long ways toward patching things up, but Weinstein hasn't backed down.

Weinstein was wrong about county employes. Most of them work pretty hard. Archie must know that by now; he was, after all, elected to watch over them. But right or wrong, by golly, Archie's not a man to apologize for anything.

His refusal to speak to the Register-Guard is potentially more serious. The Guard is the best — and in many cases the only — avenue of communication between public servants and their constituents. Weinstein does not have the right to deprive the citizens of Lane County of news about what he's doing as County Commissioner.

Weinstein claims he's been the victim of slanted news coverage in the Register-Guard. But the Guard has been scrupulously fair to Weinstein, especially because it's common knowledge that there's no love lost between them. Archie's refusal to talk to the Guard's reporters is a paranoid reaction to accurate coverage of his own erratic actions.

Weinstein owes Lane County employes a sincere apology for his ill-considered remark. And he owes his constituents an apology for attempting to restrict information about his performance in the position to which they elected him. It seems reasonable to expect adult behavior from a man in his seventies.

A word from Wass

Nude not crude

By GREG WASSON
Emerald Editor

To University Pres. William Boyd, it was "an unhappy accident." To many, I'm sure it seemed malicious. Whatever one calls it, it aroused more interest than anything we've done this year.

Early last week, the administration called and asked if it could buy 1,000 copies of Friday's Emerald to hand out to visitors. About 1,200 parents and prospective students were on campus this weekend and the Emerald was to be part of the materials given them. The material was designed to expose the would-be scholars to campus life, but it seems Friday's paper exposed more about the University than was prudent.

For those who missed it, an article on nude modeling, complete with pictures, ran in Friday's edition. Even the red banner on the front page welcoming the previewers couldn't offset the damage done by the male frontal nude.

"If I distributed those papers," Admissions Director Vernon Barkhurst told Managing Editor Wally Benson, "Boyd would have grounds for firing me because I used poor judgment." Barkhurst coordinated the preview weekend and decided to substitute the January issue of Oregon Today for the Emeralds he planned to use.

I'd like to think Barkhurst overreacted, but he probably didn't. Maybe six years on a college campus has distorted my morality, but there seems to be little lewd about a picture of something at least half of us see every morning. Nude models are a part of most art training, and it's high time Americans learned to separate nudity from sexuality, something most Europeans and Asians did long ago.

Just for the record, the feature was not an attempt to embarrass (if you'll excuse the term) the University nor was it meant to damage efforts to upgrade the school's sometimes dubious reputation in certain corners of the state. The story had been done for a week and when the pictures finally arrived, we simply ran it as soon as we had the space.

For Boyd's part, he reacted pretty well. During a call designed to reassure him we weren't after his scalp, or job, Boyd shrugged it off "as support for the rule that jelly bread always falls jelly-side down." But, Barkhurst was "disappointed," and is now left with the task of disposing of 1,000 Emeralds. Maybe collector's items at a dollar a piece?

All in all, the incident provided some excitement in what has otherwise been a dull term and in the final analysis, I'm only left with one regret. It just occurs to me that I gave an Emerald subscription to my Grandma Juanita for her birthday last fall.

Letter

Not compatible

In response to Paul Holbo and a UO semester system:

1. The semester system would not be more compatible with the public school schedule, particularly not in District 4J. The Churchill region is already on a three-term schedule, almost identical to that at the University. Talk of a similar schedule is not uncommon in other 4J regions and Lane County districts.

2. Assuming subject areas (such as business advertising and education) keep required courses fixed in number, students will either go to school longer or take fewer electives. Textbook costs for required courses will remain the same no matter what schedule is used. Reducing elective time is in conflict with the University's role in providing a broad general education.

3. Of concern to teachers around the state is the effect of such a change on summer school. Teachers now give up almost all of the summer vacation to attend school. How does the University plan to condense a semester's credit into the existing eight week session?

The University serves the community and not vice versa. Perhaps the needs of the community should hold priority over those of the faculty and administration. We pay your salaries. Let us decide.

Alice Kaseberg Schwandt
Veneta, Oregon 97487

opinion

IFC's potential unrealized

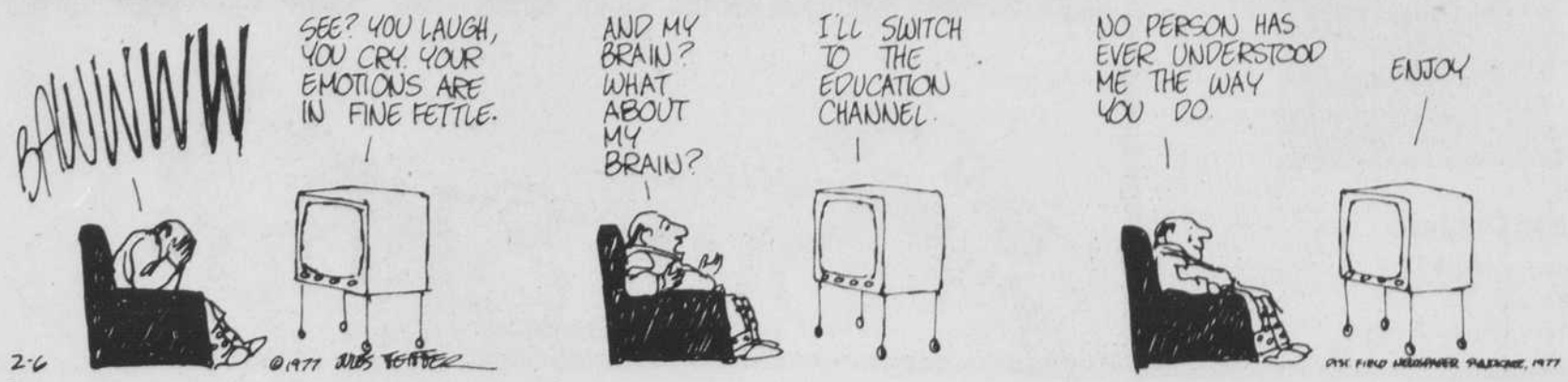
Our IFC needs to work on issues. They need not waste time, effort, and student money by publishing rebuttals of every criticism they encounter. After all, who needs to know if IFC members are 5' 8", have brown hair, and mustaches? Do students need to know about quirks in Feldman/Oliver communication patterns?

These are just examples of what one Incidental Fee Committee member coined "playing student government." The IFC isn't just playing student government, they are, in fact, a fairly powerful group of students elected to allocate $1.5 million yearly. But because of apathy and complacency they sometimes fail to see they can work towards making some very important decisions.

One issue the IFC could consider is the Erb Memorial Union. The EMU is a building providing a variety of food service, areas for social interaction, cultural, and academic learning. The problem is that the area lacks good student input. Many ideas are expressed for improvement. However, because of poor communications between officials, major items are not dealt with.

One small part of the area is the Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream parlor. Should the students on this campus be paying through their incidental fees for a building that is leasing space to a multinational corporation, namely United Brand Foods? This company is into everything from sugar refining to paper packaging. Besides for the lease payment, and a small percentage of profits, students aren't gaining anything from this organization. The IFC should terminate the lease, turn it over to the business department and let them run it on an experimental basis. Business majors could get firsthand experience in marketing, accounting, and get a practical knowledge of labor-management relations. Profits generated could be turned over to the IFC or for redistribution, ultimately lowering tuition.

On a larger scale the IFC could look directly at the EMU. With the help of the EMU Board and IFC investigative resources the entire food service operation might warrant a reassessment. Possibly an accredited University program in restaurant management could get put to use. Students could take food science courses, health majors could employ nutritional methods firsthand. It might be possible to lower the $250,000 now being paid for administrative costs by employing graduate business students in exchange for credit. This area has unlimited potential. However, if the IFC isn't going to work on issues, long range plans and goals students will be tied further and further into the existing operation.

Granted these thoughts are probably idealistic; they might be considered, God forbid, vocational. It is, however, a good type of plan the IFC could concern itself with. If people could see how easily change can take place, apathy could be alleviated. Student input would increase, and generally a better state would result.

William Dickey
SEARCH-former staff member