

Too little, but maybe not too late

When Gerald Ford declined to aid the city of New York during his presidency, the New York Times' headline read "Ford to City: Drop Dead." President Carter is now preparing to lay a flower gently on the grave.

Anyone who has ever travelled from Washington D.C. to Boston through the heart of the foulest conurbation in the country realizes that American cities are facing crises which not only put the future of the cities in question, but have ramifications for this nation as a whole.

The haphazard and unplanned growth patterns of the large cities, especially the older cities of the east, have caused the decay of inner cities. New York's South Bronx, where some buildings have collapsed and others are burned intentionally by owners to collect insurance claims, has become the epitome of inner city decay. But the problems are not a peculiarity of New York; they extend to virtually every other large city.

In the younger cities of the west, especially Seattle, Portland and San Francisco, the problems are not as severe as the crises of the larger eastern cities. Portland has recently begun an aggressive program to renew its downtown area, however, to keep it alive and thriving in the future. Eugene has made admirable strides to keep its downtown area vital to guard against typical urban problems.

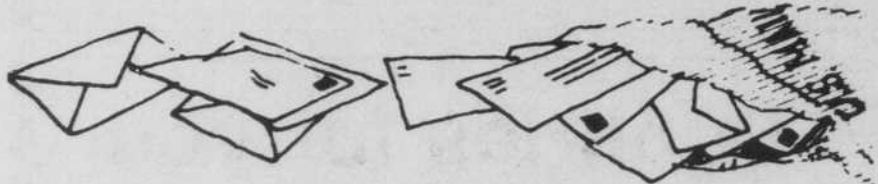
The problems are enormous, and the cost of solving them will also be enormous. Housing, transportation, education and other social services are sadly lacking in the cities, particularly where poor planning in the past hasn't been rectified. When buildings crumble, when a wide disparity separates the education quality of inner city and suburban schools and when growth patterns create a dependency on automobile transportation in the face of an energy crises, it is obvious that planning has been absent.

Also absent, until recently, were programs to bring the inner cities back to life. President Carter has announced that he will propose a city aid program to redirect federal money to troubled cities. The plan is to stimulate economic development in the cities, including neighborhood rehabilitation and the control of growth.

The government has been slow and negligent in recognizing the problems of cities, and Carter's proposal does little to cope with those problems. The life of the large cities is essential not only to the cities, but to the nation. The host of problems not addressed by the Carter administration and prior administrations will worsen unless measures are taken to keep the cities alive.

In light of these problems, Carter's plan — though it may be a good first step — seems a band-aid approach intended to provide short-term jobs to the unemployed. Although that is a worthy goal, it is not a solution to the problems of dying cities. And unless one is developed to solve those problems, this lazy nation will awaken to find them insurmountable.

Letters



Story erred

Your March 10 story on outside employment for faculty quotes me as saying that the proposed rule "gives too much arbitrary power to faculty members." Either I misspoke or the reporter's notes are in error. I obviously meant to say that it gives arbitrary power to administrators.

You correctly cited a portion of the proposed rule, which states: "If the president, division head or designee disapproves, the employee shall reject the outside employment." That sounds like arbitrary power to me.

As an academic community, we need to develop appropriate guidelines to regulate this troublesome area. The guidelines need to be developed through consultation with faculty.

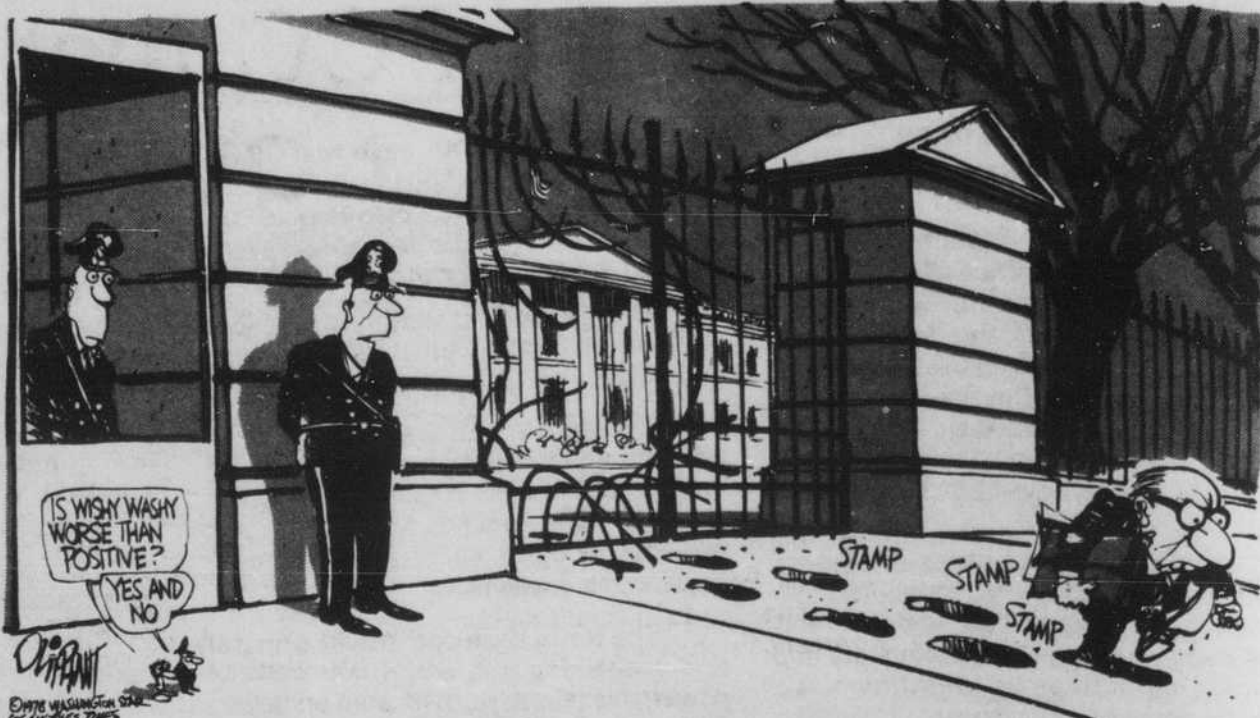
William Boyd
University President

Mock error?

I certainly hope that the article concerning the mock courtmartial put on by representatives of the Marine Corps at the law school by Jock Hatfield (March 9 issue) is not indicative of the quality of reporting contained in the Emerald.

This article contained several significant misstatements of fact. To be specific, Private Schull did not have a reputation for losing things as was stated by your reporter. That tendency belonged to Sergeant Grimes, the victim of the theft. Also, the article claimed the victim of the theft was a private, which was obviously in error as evidenced by the dialogue and the testimony of the sergeant/victim. The defendant, Private Schull, was charged with two crimes, one being unauthorized absence and the other was theft.

He pled guilty to the first charge of unauthorized absence but pled not guilty to the second charge of



theft, which was the charge for which he was tried before a jury. The article misleadingly reported that in the script Private Schull pled guilty, referring only to the charge of theft, which would leave any person possessing even the slightest knowledge of the court process wondering why there was a trial, complete with a jury finding, when supposedly he had already pled guilty to the offense.

I have been under the assumption as I have read the Emerald on a daily basis that the quality of its reporting was, at the very least, factually accurate. I will be the first to admit that the subject matter of this particular article is certainly not of such importance that it would have little if any impact upon members of the university community even while containing these errors. However, if this article is an indicator of the factual accuracy of its reporting, I for one will look with a high degree of suspicion regarding future articles contained in the Emerald.

Grant Lattin
First Year Law

A caution

In the March 28th Emerald an article appeared soliciting volunteers to work with an organization called Crossroads Africa, offering "...unique experiences with Africans, helping to build schools and clinics..." and mentioning possible academic credit. I feel compelled to warn interested people that the "unique experience" might be pretty wretched if you are not careful.

While in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa, I came in contact with three C.A. groups. One was well-led by a C.A. staffer who was very experienced in Africa. They were ambivalent about the value of their work but had had a good time & were enjoying traveling around after their project was finished.

The second group spent six weeks making cement blocks for a museum, the pet project of a young chief who wanted to leave a monument to himself. I consider this a marginally worthwhile project. Their leader was a summer C.A. employee who had been in Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. He still was foolish enough to take all the group's traveler's checks in a briefcase with him on a midnight stroll on the docks of Freetown, where a thief grabbed them, forcing the group to rely on charity and delay their departure.

The third group was led by two people who had never been to Africa. They were ignorant of the customs and laws of Sierra Leone, and no one in the group could speak the local language.

The place where they were to stay and work for two weeks was not ready and no one in the Ministry of Works or the U.S. embassy seemed interested in helping them. I met them when they came to the Peace Corps office in near-panic. Their first week had been one disaster after another and most were ready to turn around and go home. I left Sierra Leone at this point so I don't know what the rest of their stay was like. I hope it was better.

Africa is a wonderful place if you know what you are doing, or your leaders do. If you're considering C.A. for this summer, make sure the project is worthwhile, and make damn sure the leaders of your group have lived in the country where you will work. It will make the difference between a possibly great and a possibly horrible experience.

Ross Carey
Fifth year graduate student,
unclassified

Not for Wood

As the University Campus Chairman for Bob Wood in 1974 when he ran for County Commissioner, I urge voters not to vote for him this year. His last minute switch from the Governor's race to the Congressional race was done at the bidding of special interests with a large bankroll.

I urge unqualified support for the incumbent, Jim Weaver. Weaver is the only congressman in the Northwest who is the least bit willing to stand up to the private utility interests and the profit hungry timber companies. For that alone he deserves our support as the voice of common people who are being victimized by the greed of special interests.

It is really too bad that Jim Weaver did not choose to run for the U.S. Senate where we have been so poorly represented since the departure of the late Sen. Wayne Morse. Weaver is one of the few Oregon politicians who have followed in the Morse tradition of courage and leadership on the controversial issues of the day.

Dave McTeague
765 E. 18th #5
Eugene

Petition tuition

After a hard and confining winter and with spring just around the corner, restless students on

the campuses will be searching for that elusive something that will attract and delight their attention. In the past, they have engaged in such frivolous antics as seeing how many students could fit in a telephone booth, streaking, etc. This year, why not try something that is challenging as well as enjoyable, such as achieving tuition free education through the college level. Students would not only have an outlet for their pent up energies but they would also be able to demonstrate their mastery over the intellectual tools that they have acquired.

This idea could be defended from every point of view: a) It would be easy to show that tuition free education through the college level is a natural extension of the democratic process under the equality of opportunity clause; b) it would reduce unemployment by keeping young people engaged in academic pursuits for longer periods of time instead of flooding the job market with unskilled labor; c) it could be shown that tuition free education through the college level is not only self supporting but that it is the most profitable business that any nation could involve itself in. For example, a college educated person will earn about \$5,000 a year more during his lifetime than a non-college educated person. If this excess earnings is taxed at only 20 percent, and the productive life of the student is 42 years, he will contribute \$42,000 more in taxes than a non college educated person.

Can such a goal be achieved? Well, there are about six million students on the college campuses in the United States. Each student has a mother, father, and at least one aunt and uncle. This would represent 30 million signatures that could be gotten on petitions requesting legislatures to provide tuition free education through the college level. If you could get the high school students to join you in this crusade, you would have another 20 million signatures on your petitions. If you sent these petitions to the legislators in Washington, and bearing in mind that 1978 is an election year in which all of the congressmen and one-third of the senate is up for election, every signature would represent a vote.

The big question is are there enough idealists and activists on the campuses today who would be willing to accept this challenge as being worthy of their leadership and organizational abilities?

Joseph Pasinosky
Special student
West Virginia University

Thursday, March 30, 1978