

This page: Easy-to-assemble instructions

Sometimes it's hard to find the newspaper. All the news gets in the way. But if you were to seek the motives and character distinctly belonging to a newspaper, its opinion page probably contains much of the answer to your search.

And sometimes — behind all that news — it's hard to figure out who owns the newspaper. Most persons believe a newspaper belongs to an individual, family or corporation, and financially that is the case.

But functionally, a newspaper is owned by the personalities, ideas and events — the compost of contemporary history which we call news — that it records. This reliance on current events makes for a profoundly public ownership.

In the middle of being "owned" by the news, however, a publication still retains a measure of self-possession. And this, too, may be detected in its opinion page. Here it is that we apply values to the common property of public facts and — via this analysis — transform them into distinctly private "truths."

But even this page is not the private turf of a small coterie of editors. Rather we see the

opinion page the way John Milton perceived publications several centuries ago: A battlefield where separate "truths" struggle to demonstrate moral supremacy through a sort of ideological refining process that burns away the false and incomplete elements.

But without the heat generated by contrasting views, this refinement of ideas cannot occur. To reflect the joint ownership of the opinion page necessary to achieve this beneficial result, the Emerald will be using the designations Ours, Yours and Theirs.

"Ours" refers to the editorials and columns generated by the Emerald staff and columnists. Generally, these editorials will be written by our Editorial Page Editor Glen Gibbons, usually after consultation with Editor Tom Wolfe and reporters who have followed the news development of the editorial topic.

In these pieces, we will place a priority on local, though not necessarily campus-oriented, issues that are timely and have a demonstrable impact on our readers. But that doesn't mean all developments worthy of editorial comment must wear a strait-

jacket of time and place. The Emerald also will strive to propose solutions instead of merely naming a need or shaking an editorial finger.

Augmenting our perspective will be a column by Greg Wasson called "tabled indefinitely." Wasson, a former Emerald editor, will focus on the Oregon legislature when the 1979 session opens, but will take up other topics as events and his own inclination move him.

Another column will be offered in the Emerald every two weeks. This one, authored by Tom Thompson of the

ours

University's political science department, will emphasize international affairs and will be delivered in both explanatory and interpretive articles.

The Emerald believes that its editorial purpose is served as well, if not better, by provoking thought rather than merely winning adherents. We hope to see this principle enhanced by the contributions of

Emerald readers, which will be presented under the rubric "Yours." These include Letters to the Editor and longer opinion essays.

These items will be printed generally on a first-received basis, with public issues given a priority over discussions of purely private concerns. Libelous statements will be edited out as well as expressions of irredeemably poor taste lacking — in the U.S. Supreme Court's hoary phraseology — any social value. Some opinion essays may be edited for length.

The third corner of the opinion page triangle will be given over to "Theirs." Here you will find social satirist Jules Feiffer and the editorial cartoonist Pat Oliphant. In the "Theirs" category will also fall from time to time editorial comments from other publications that seem pertinent to our readers' interests and news analyses by the Associated Press.

Persons wishing to express signed opinions should send their comments, typed and triple-spaced, to the Oregon Daily Emerald, 300 EMU via campus mail, or to P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR, 97403.

yours

Report brings GTFF impasse

The facts are in. The neutral factfinder's proposed compromise, which came out on September 12, would provide the basis for a fair contract, and the GTFF has accepted it. The University, by rejecting the compromise, has shown that it does not care what is fair or justified.

GTFs are not asking for the moon. Our pay has been cut in half since 1969, due to inflation, and the factfinder's recommendation would still leave us some 35% behind our 1969 salary. The University's offer, which is only 1% over what they had planned to give us before bargaining, would leave us more than 40% behind by next year.

The University has also rejected the factfinder's recommendations on workload and appointment-reappointment. Workload guarantees that GTFs won't have to work more than 12 hours per week for a .30 FTE appointment. Appointment-reappointment would have the University give us written criteria for how we are reappointed.

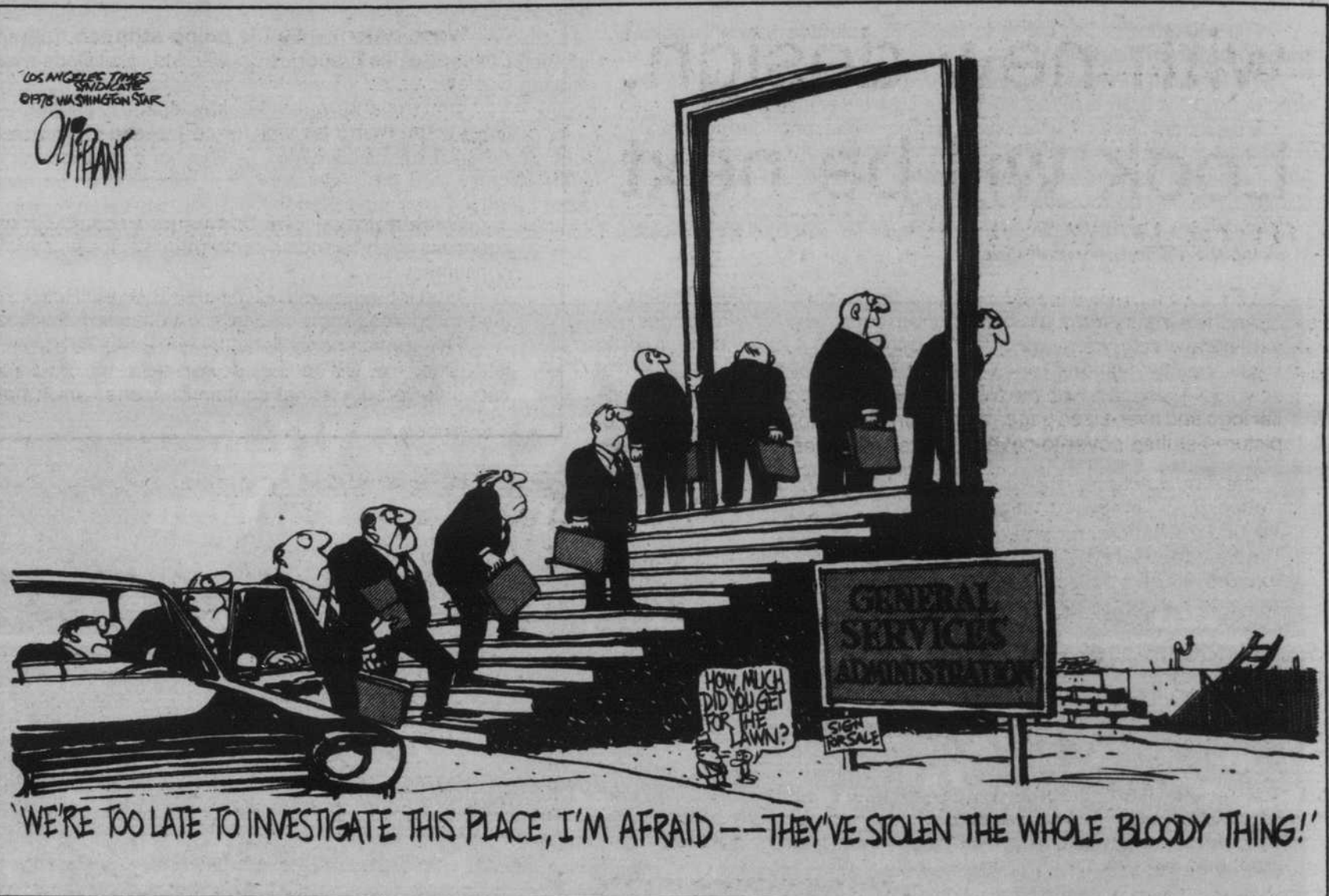
The factfinder felt that this "simply reflects good personnel practices." The University, however, wants to keep its arbitrary and unfair practices.

We have been negotiating since October, 1977, and the GTFF has made most of the concessions. The University's uncompromising stance has been clearly demonstrated by its rejection of the factfinder's report.

Although the GTFF hopes to continue negotiations, it is now apparent that the University will not bargain seriously unless it is pressured to do so. The ultimate form of pressure is a strike, which nobody wants. We believe that a significant show of support from faculty, students and GTFs could avert a strike.

We ask faculty and students to contact the Administration and make their feelings known, and we encourage all GTFs to join the GTFF and show the University we want a fair contract. To learn more, look for our tables in the EMU lobby, come to the GTFF meeting on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. in the EMU, or contact us at 344-0832, or 868 E. 13th, above the Red Rooster barber shop.

Jeff Edmundson
Graduate, Psychology



Does 'extremist' charge fit Shah foes?

The destruction by arson of a cinema in Abadan, S.W. Iran with the resultant death of approximately 430 people has been headline news in the American media for a number of days. This sudden concern with Iranian affairs is most remarkable. The confrontation of the Iranian people under its Islamic leadership with the tyrannical regime of the Shah during recent months and the many thousands of people massacred has gone unreported — or at best — has been reported in a highly distorted fashion.

The most objectionable distortion is that to which the nature of the opposition movement has been subjected. It is described as consisting of "extremist Muslims" whose concern is the blocking of the "reforms" of the Shah!

In reality, the movement is NOT some unrepresentative minority, but consists of the overwhelming mass of the Iranian people who are 98% Muslim. The religious leadership enjoys the widespread support of most classes throughout the country. All that the Iranian people seek to attain under

the leadership of the religious authorities, is the simple and universal right of being ruled by a government that corresponds to their own wishes and aspiration, not those of foreign powers and interests.

Today, in Iran, it is the mosque that is the symbol and bastion of Iranian identity and nationhood, not the palaces of the Pahlavi tyrant. The Islamic movement in Iran has been frequently described in the Western press as acting out of hostility to the so-called "reforms" of the Shah: the emancipation of women and land reform!

As for giving the vote to women, this is totally meaningless in a one-party system in which loyalty to the Dictator Shah is mandatory. If the regime has emancipated women, why do women play an important part in the anti-Shah movement all over the country?

As Ayatullah Khomeini, the spiritual national religious leader of Iran who was exiled in Iran since 1963, has said, "The regime has destroyed the liberty of both man and woman. Both men and women fill the

prisons of Iran and it is there that their liberty is menaced."

What has been called "land reform" can more accurately be described as the destruction of Iranian agriculture, resulting in the impoverishment of the Iranian countryside, a massive rise in the price of foodstuffs, and the transformation of Iran into an importer of even the staples of life. The religious leadership in Iran has NEVER held individual title to land and it is the Shah himself that owns almost the whole country!

Another foolish lie propagated by the Regime and reflected continually in the U.S. media is that the popular movement in Iran is Marxist in nature with the Shah's opposition labeled "Islamic Marxist."

Islam and marxism are totally antithetical, and the merging of the two is impossible. Marxism counts for nothing in Iran.

The Iranian people do NOT wish to substitute one form of foreign domination for another!

Signed,
A. Ghafari
for the Muslim Student Association