

Mallard Drake creator snares national award

University graduate Steve Sandstrom had to laugh. "A journalism award for an art major. That's not too bad," Sandstrom said after winning the national Mark of Excellence contest, sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists. Sigma Delta Chi.

Sandstrom, one of 13 national winners, took the top award in the Newspaper Editorial cartooning category for a Duck Soup cartoon that appeared Nov. 18, 1977 in the Daily Emerald. About 2,400 full-time col-

lege students entered the national competition.

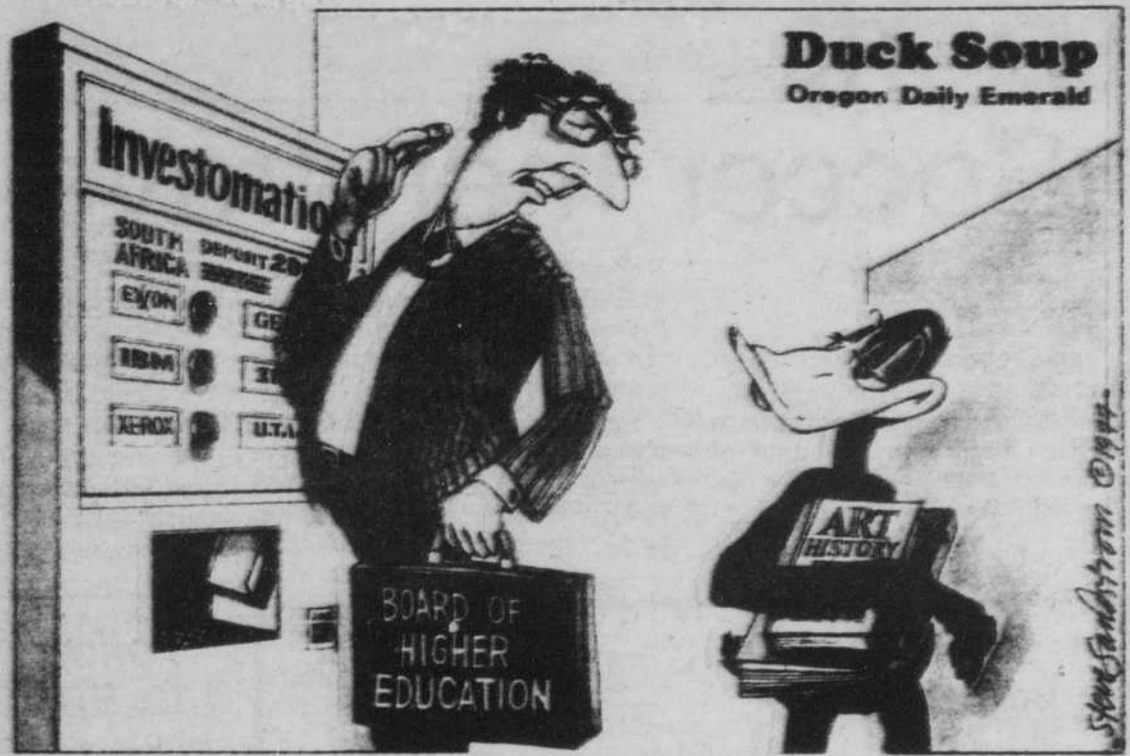
In the cartoon, Sandstrom featured his trademark character Mallard Drake in a satirical look at the divestment of stocks in South Africa.

Sandstrom graduated from the University with a degree in fine arts last spring.

But before he graduates, Sandstrom placed his character in an election for University mascot, vying against the well-known incumbent, Donald Duck. Duck won a hands-down choice over Drake, 1,068-590.

"Some people thought my duck was sleazy," Sandstrom said.

To celebrate the national honor, Sandstrom said that he would draw Mallard Drake winning the award. "It's his as much as mine."



"Pardon me, would you happen to have change for a Krugerrand?"

Post office left thirsty by Rainbow

The U.S. Postal Service and Springfield's tiny Rainbow Water District will fight it out in U.S. District Court today over the District's refusal to provide the postal sorting center with water service.

The district wants the government agency to pay a \$36,000 benefitted property charge. The postal service says the charge is a tax and that federal sovereignty exempts the postal service. The post office will seek a preliminary injunction ordering the Rainbow Water District to provide water service until the matter is decided.

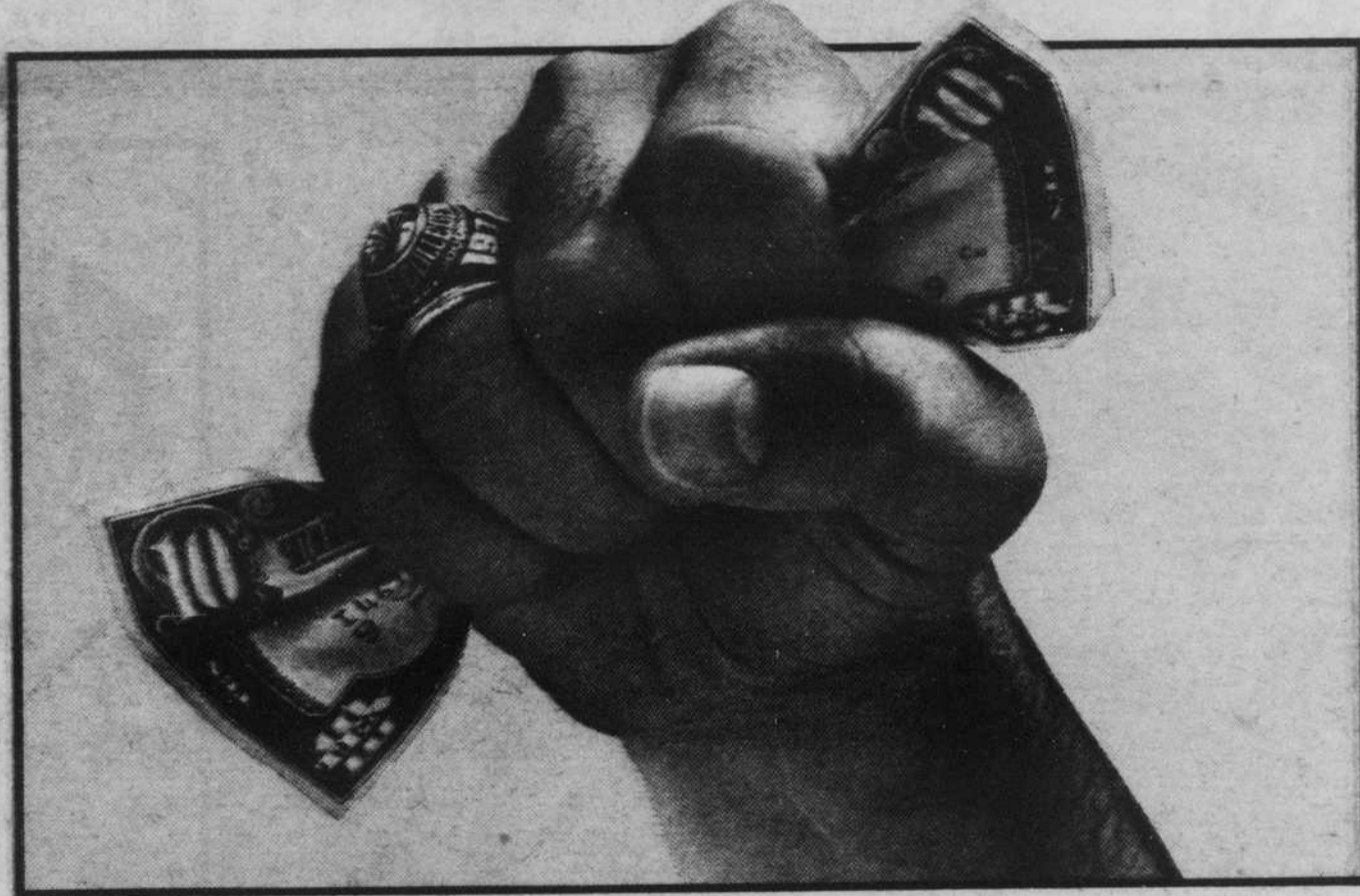
The \$36,000 charge will cover the actual costs to the water district of installing pipes to service the new sorting facility, based on a square footage of the property involved.

The decision to challenge the charge was made by the Washington, D.C., postal service head office. Ron Bartlett, of the Eugene post office said that local authorities had no voice in the decision to sue the Rainbow Water District.

The Postal Service sent the district a check for the charge under protest so service could be started. The Post office indicated it would sue to recover the charge, plus interest. But the district rejected payment under those conditions and has refused to give water to the agency until the charge is paid with no strings attached.

The Rainbow Water District says that if the Postal Service is successful in getting a free water connection, the \$36,000 cost will have to be passed on to the district's other 4,000 customers.

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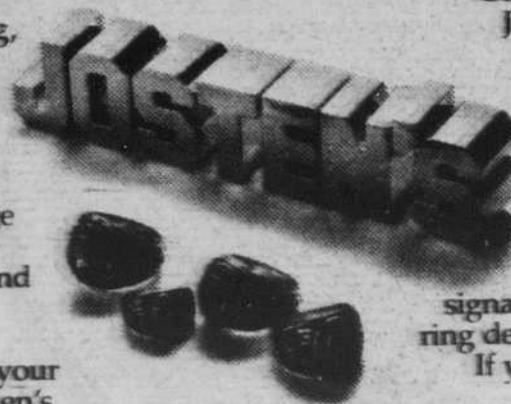
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