

# Censorship pulls its boots on again

University administrators have invited public comment on a proposed policy—already “temporarily” in effect—that requires prior written approval for display of signs and banners in or on campus buildings and “other institutional facilities.”

Our comment on this policy: Chuck it.

No difficult mental gymnastics are needed to see that this policy could, for example, stymie organizations with displays in the EMU as readily as it might restrain drunken poster wielders in Mac Court.

We are particularly irritated by the appearance in the University environment of this ancient impulse to censor.

The campus, purportedly, represents a bastion for the free exchange of diverse ideas and modes of expression. As written, this policy has convinced us that it lacks practical benefit, moral or intellectual justification or legal support.

Officials who approved the new pol-

icy, designed in the office of University Vice President Ray Hawk, argue the policy is needed for safety reasons.

The problem of large signs blocking spectators' views at athletic events or the vision of contending demonstrators turning stick-attached banners on each other apparently motivated this broad mandate for “control.”

## ours

Lord forbid that a paying customer might be discomfited by a “Go Ducks!” placard or that disparate Iranis might turn their printed slogans against each other instead of the Shah!

The potential, however, for using this sweeping, yet ambiguous policy to circumscribe unpopular notions appears obvious.

No guidelines for what represents an inappropriate sign—and, therefore, no limits on the “responsible individual” who must approve each sign—are con-

tained in the policy.

In effect, the new policy represents a lazy man's path to bureaucratic equanimity by use of overkill.

This path, however, could easily lead to the courtroom door, where tribunals at several levels have demonstrated their disaffection with similar measures that impeded free expression on public property.

Such proposals as the University's are, after all, tampering with civil rights that begin in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and end up in every citizen's speech or writing.

General remedies supposedly directed at specific ills have consistently been rejected by state and federal courts. That's what Oliver Wendell Holmes was addressing in 1919 with his “clear and present danger” test in *Schenck v. U.S.*

And the idea of “prior restraint,” which would be exercised by the University's policy, appears, in a much more modest sense, to be the object of

disapprobation by Supreme Court Justices Hugo Black and William Douglas during the 1971 Pentagon Papers case. At that time they wrote, “Open debate and discussion are vital to our national health.”

The University administration has a legitimate concern in preventing injury or unjustifiable inconvenience to students and visitors on campus. That concern, however, should be addressed to specific problems that can be identified, halted and punished as they arise.

We suspect that adequate mechanisms already exist in the University's voluminous registry of rules and regulations to curb and redress most such problems. If those mechanisms are insufficient, the administration should draw up a narrower policy devoid of the elements of prior restraint and free-expression restrictions entombed in its latest effort.

Once more: elephant guns for elephants; fly swatters for mosquitos.

## theirs

## Canal plan looks worthy

No one's promising a Parisian quay along the banks of the Seine, but Eugene could gain a novel, multi-benefit waterway system as a result of an ingenious proposal emanating from the University Department of Landscape Architecture.

“It's just a matter of vision and commitment,” according to Department head Jerry Diethelm, who has interested both students and governmental agencies in his idea.

The department's proposal would link Amazon Creek with the now-stagnant Millrace, a turbid portion of which runs through campus, by means of canals. Improved flow and expanded load capacity from this linkage could provide improved water management and flood control for the Eugene area as well as establish the basis for an attractive residential, commercial, parks and recreation system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will soon begin a \$60,000 feasibility study of the canal-system proposal and Diethelm and his stu-

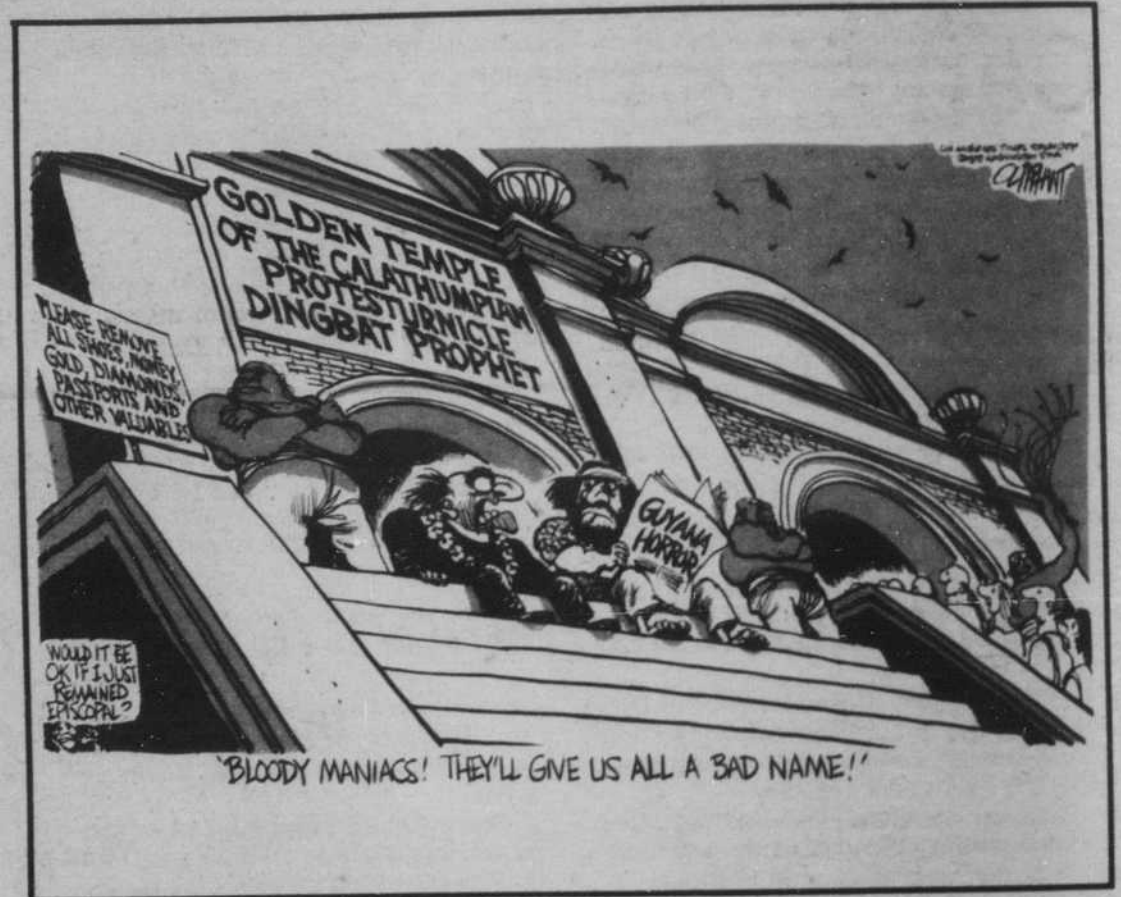
dents have applied for a federal grant to continue their design efforts.

If technically and financially possible, the waterway system suggests an exciting array of urban-improvement schemes.

In addition to the potential for combining a utilitarian concept with an imaginative aesthetic, however, the project gives students an opportunity for practical experience. That's a rare boon for us sweating out the unreality of the University's “hot-house” environment, seeing our carefully nurtured, but untested theories wither in the harsh elements of the outside world.

The Emerald applauds Diethelm and the landscape architecture students, endorses the urban-waterway concept and urges its support by the University community, other citizens and appropriate governmental groups.

We've seen the dream's beginning in “vision” and hope for its realization through “commitment.”



tom thompson

## Unknowns, cost factors fill China oil picture

Chinese officials are quick to point out these days their determination to meet the turn-of-the-century goal of China becoming a modern industrial country by the year 2000. They emphasize that China was able to offer its first consignment of petroleum abroad when the world oil crisis of Oct. 1973 was beginning to hit in the West.

Within a decade China had reduced its dependence on Soviet oil from one-third of the country's requirements in 1960 to zero in 1970, and in 1973 was able to export to Japan a million tons of crude. This is an impressive accomplishment.

Yet, since China has provided no reliable base numbers with which the country's percentage increases in petroleum production have evolved, much of the speculation on the size of China's reserves may be more wishful thinking than fact.

The CIA estimated last year that China has 40 billion barrels onshore and an equal amount offshore. Other specialists put the figure at 45 billion each, which would give China about three times the reserves of the U.S. Much of the oil seems relatively inaccessible and will be expensive to recover.

What is known is that China does have a number of

producing basins—spread mainly east-west across the breadth of the country—some of which have never been explored using current technology. Several additional discoveries of unknown size have been reported in recent years.

China's oil production, which rose six-fold between 1966 and 1976, is now estimated at 1.8 to 1.9 million barrels a day for last year. These figures make China the world's tenth largest producer, comparable to Indonesia. On balance my own estimate is that China can be expected to produce 2.4 - 2.8 million barrels per day by 1981.

Until recently many analysts have not realized that much of this oil will be needed for domestic consumption in China. China's reserves may be large, but by the standards of industrialized countries, China's consumption is extremely low and, in per capita terms, seems likely to remain so for some time. In addition to industry's increasing demands, China's mechanizing agriculture is requiring greater amounts of petroleum-based fertilizer.

Given these estimates, within a decade or so the expanding domestic demand will absorb total capacity unless deposits in Western China or offshore are proved and

exploited much more rapidly than expected.

This is the background to U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger's enthusiastic welcome in China last month. Schlesinger held working level talks on U.S.-China cooperation in China's offshore oil exploration, as well as sales of U.S. equipment and technology.

China is especially interested in foreign participation in extractive industries—offshore oil and mining, for example. The Chinese have favored Japan as a partner in offshore oil drilling ventures. But Japanese oil industry sources say frankly that in deep water drilling American technology is superior and probably will be necessary. Pennzoil, Exxon, Union Oil, Phillips Petroleum, and Mobil have held intensive talks with the Chinese in recent months.

The possible joint ventures to follow could produce agreements involving \$50 billion in construction and production. Yet it is by no means clear how China expects to pay for these and other massive projects it is negotiating. Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien recently indicated that foreign technology imports will cost \$600 billion between now and 1985 or \$75 billion a year—equivalent to about one-quarter of China's gross national product.