

Out of the trough and into the future tense

Let's face it: all God's children got money problems, and where those children gather together — in sororities, in schools, in institutions of every kind — these problems gather and swell, backing up like bile in a hepatic liver.

Our case in point is the University. Caught amidst inflation, the dwindling student population and FTE-dependent revenue formulas, fiscal technicians of every level and factional persuasion carve away at our budgets like podiatrists attacking the gout.

In this process University programs are not so much modified as maimed. The motive is futile (or feudal, one forgets just which): a foredoomed attempt to preserve a bit of the carcass for every club of cannibals.

But University budgeting (and, therefore, program priorities) needs surgery instead of first aid; not rhetorical anesthesia but sharp scalpels will serve best.

Students deserve a consistent approach to decisions about program funding that utilizes criteria attuned to the real world of post-graduate endeavor and not the fading nostalgia of academicians

seeking to replicate the education of their distant youth.

Hoary tradition must give way to present fact and the fact is that students don't give a skinny hoo-haw about the past subjunctive of Latin, but are intensely interested in the future perfect of their lives.

Today's college students need — and want — to gain professional skills from which they will wring the professional salaries of their post-educational afterlife. They want to get down to business, which is Business. They don't want to know about Hunter S. Thompson, but J. Walter Thompson;

Literati

It's a big-money world we're living in and much of the so-called education foisted upon us at the University represents just so much anachronistic junk to clutter up the rationalism of a modern mentality.

So, the Immorald wants to identify which of the academic areas we believe could be eliminated and which maintained in the best interests of the University and its students:

• **SOCIOLOGY** — This sorry pastiche of undigested populism and left-leaning effluvia only masquerades as a useful discipline. Possibly the only redeeming aspect of the department lies in small-group dynamics: how to manipulate employees, colleagues and superiors to ease your path to the top.

• **HISTORY** — As traditionally presented, this academic "discipline" encourages a sense of pathetic longing for the supposedly preferable conditions of another era, usually inadequately understood or represented. The dynamic of sequential time leads us inexorably into the future and so should our training. George Santayana? Never heard of him.

• **POLITICAL SCIENCE** — Another of the wet-brain fields that generally breed frustration and counter-productive speculation. The only useful sub-area in political science would be public administration, i.e., how to maintain a productive and comfortable interrelationship between business operations and public policy-making.

• **FOREIGN LANGUAGES** — Let them learn English.

• **SCIENCE** — If you can apply it to the production process, of course; computer sciences, media techniques, creation of labor-saving technology deserve the lion's share of research funds.

• **ATHLETICS** — Encourage major sports (football, basketball) that attract endowments and ticket purchasers. Also (in Eugene) track, because the activity encourages sales of Nike and Osaga running shoes and paraphernalia, thus enriching local enterprises.

The prime criterion for maintaining and funding University operations should derive from individual program's success rate in placing graduates in jobs. If the programs can't cut it in the arena of the marketplace, they should be cut out . . . period.

It's time we woke up. The dream of a classic, well-rounded education doesn't put any pizza in the pantry.

The invigorating dislocations of some faculty firings and the shed tears of a few pansy art or literature students shouldn't stand in the way of our march toward destiny.

If history passes these archaic students and professors by, the race (human and rat) will be better for it.

Illiterati

Gay literature

Reprinted from April 10

Oregon State University Barometer

We wonder what Mel Ferguson's mother would think of his signing requisitions for books with titles like "The Toilet," "New Lesbians," "Vaginal Politics," or "Liberating Masturbation?"

Titles of the books listed above were on book lists submitted with purchase orders to the ASOSU by the Students for the Advancement of Women (SAW). The purchase orders were approved by Mel Ferguson, ASOSU president and Rob Larson, ASOSU treasurer.

About 10 percent of the \$741 in books purchased last spring term were about gay lifestyle, which brings up several questions.

First, is the study of gays a legitimate concern of an organization supposedly aimed at advancing the cause of the

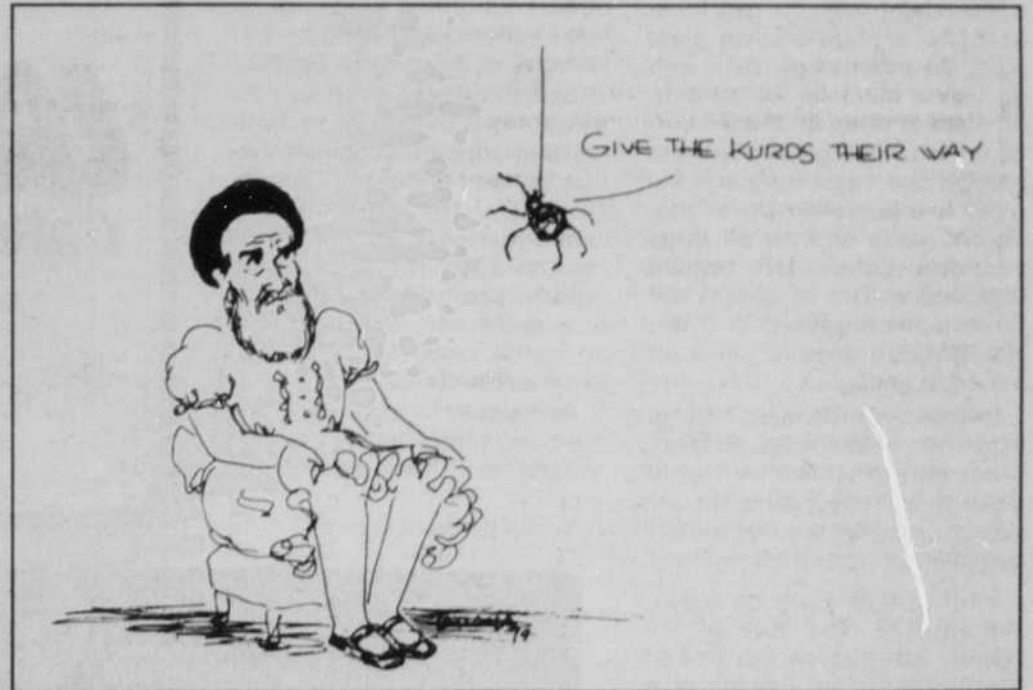
women's movement? We don't understand the relationship between the feminist and gay movements.

Secondly, should student fees be used to purchase things like gay literature? SAW received \$1,100 in student fees last year, and \$1,500 the year before.

Thirdly, did our student leaders scrutinize the requisitions before they were approved, and did their decisions represent the attitudes of their constituents?

It's our opinion that the majority of OSU students would use any student fees to buy material such as the listed above.

We hope the next set of student leaders to be elected know how to handle special interest groups and their funding requests, however sensitive, with their constituents in mind. RS



Vigilantes

'No law enforcement'

Please forward if necessary to Right Man. I could HAVE a card & booklet in the air around 1924 on my folks property & a typewriter.

Dear Sir

I would like to say something should be done insofar as law enforcement as to a husband (he smoked) not allow me to tell my daughter (younger) what to do around the house etc. This man gets by with more & more in life & did & does in this town & will more if something isn't done about his behavior — language or not language, money or not money — individual.

There was no law enforcement in this town in 1957 and still isn't — no trusteeship — language or not language — money or not money — individual. Other mothers were allowed to tell their daughters what to do — no law enforcement for a divorce — man would commit with his language. Man has everything figured out not to miss to die & die — language or not language — money or not money.

I would appreciate some law enforcement — no Pastor or individual, or Priest could or can work with any one here to have done otherwise to tell or handle

this man (smoked) husband is this town & he gets by with more & is going to be much more evil, deadly, dangerous way of living —

Elena Rivers (Bronski) graduate, undeclared

Checkers Count!
Haves, Agreeing, Trusteeship?

Elena

Still continue not to do one or other with Dyed Hair — Smoke-Liquor Cards, Stage with Hares (Right), Agreeing, Trusteeship — no one knows how to do - die, everything goes blind etc.

Elena

'Notenda delenda est!'

Every pedant understands that some students remain more obtuse than others, no matter how repetitive the drill or comprehensive the instruction.

However, your journal's insufferable obstinacy in ignoring my advice regarding its miserable grasp of language perplexes me; nevertheless, I will try again.

The heading "Notenda" in your arts and entertainment section represents a callous bastardization of the pellucid language given birth in Roma. (In fact, I can't understand shy your publication persists in using an obscure, vulgate dialexct derived from the crude mouthings of our northernmost province, Britannia.)

The term you should use for that weekly listing of events is, of course, fasti memores. Have you forgotten your Horace? Hve you forgotten your Ovid or (horrible dictu) your Cicero?

Your other section headings could do with improvement as well: Sports, per exempli, is a vapid substitute for ludi athletae and your opinion page's tripartite divisions (although a droll "take-off" on Caesar) use frivolous, linguistic popularizations. Nostorum, Vostorum and Illorum are just the words for you. Or, as the sittler among our learned youth are wont to say: Q.E.D.

Mort Lingua
professor, contemporary classics
Tuesday, April 13, 1979