

## Coverage disappointing

The power of the press to confer significance on the trivial is too well known and too frequent to require demonstration. And, in most cases, too harmless to deserve criticism. But when an event of some significance is trivialized — as was the case with your coverage of Foreign Language Day on May 18th — we have a right to wish for a little more judgement to go along with editorial power.

"Lingo-lovers dine and dance." Your headline was not exactly false; there was some eating during the program and there was some folk dancing. And it is safe to say the participants share an enthusiasm for language study. But the day's events were much more than the apparent social gathering your copy implies, and the epithet "lingo-lovers" suggests that language students belong roughly in the same category as artichoke-lovers and model car fanciers, i.e. hobbyists wrapped up in their own peculiar monomania.

The coverage of this event was all the more disappointing in that it seemed so much at variance with the Emerald's awareness of the importance of some recent issues: in particular the dangerously ethnocentric consequences of punitive tuition increases for foreign students and the serious problem of declining undergraduate enrollments. What happened here on May 17 bears clearly on both these questions. The fact that more than 700 high school students and their teachers are sufficiently committed to awareness of other cultures — that is what language study is about, after all — to come to the UO for such an activity ought to put legislators and politicians on notice that their constituents may not be quite so isolationist as they are sometimes depicted. And our willingness to sponsor such an event should convince some people

at least that we are not quite the exclusively research-oriented, student-indifferent institution we are sometimes accused of being.

The fact that the Language Day included some entertainment shouldn't have caused your reporter to overlook the underlying seriousness of the program. No fewer than a dozen faculty and 30-40 students worked to give the high school students an opportunity to learn more about the cultures in which the various languages are used. They received information about France, Germany, Italy, Spain and various Spanish-speaking countries from natives of those countries, as well as from faculty specialists. They met with representatives of a frequently ignored ethnic minority, Americans of Hispanic background. They heard about foreign students' perception of American life. They were given opportunities to use the languages they are studying in practical, problem-solving situations. They were, in short, encouraged to continue an activity which may be in serious jeopardy in this country if we are to believe the preliminary findings of the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies.

In fact, it might be expected to be of some interest to the readers of the Emerald that the UO is in some respects resisting a national trend toward cultural re-orientation. The creation of the new International Studies major and outreach activities like Foreign Language Day need encouragement from those who would hate to see the Emerald Empire become a self-contained Forest Fortress.

The high school students who came here for Foreign Language Day deserved better from you. "Lingo-lovers" we can do without; culturally aware, multi-lingual citizens are indispensable. To be aware of that and to do something about it in Roseburg and

Klamath Falls, or for that matter, in Eugene and Springfield, is far from trivial. That the editors of The Emerald don't seem to agree was a surprise and a disappointment.

Louis A. Olivier  
Head, Romance Languages

Editor's note: The Lingo-Lovers headline was intended to describe the action in the photo rather than the substance of foreign language day.

## Excuses can be made

Here is a bit of information that I would like to pass along.

At the Jan. 31 University Senate meeting, the senate approved a list of recommendations contained in a report from the Affirmative Action Compliance Committee to the University's administration, departments, and colleges. The report stated that the spirit of affirmative action hiring guidelines was not being upheld by the University. The message from the senate and to the University was clear: "Your hiring procedures are flakey, so clean 'um up!"

Now one of the senators who voted in favor of the recommendations, Gary McMahon, has recently been appointed to the IFC; an appointment by which no affirmative action guidelines were followed. Excuses can be made, but it smacks of political favoritism.

Perhaps the saying — "Do as I say, not as I do." — is the former AUSO executive's (as well as the new IFC member's) statement on affirmative action compliance.

Jess Barton  
senior, CSPA

## Similar reviews

It sure is nice to know that Keith Allen reads Rolling Stone. I can tolerate the fact that Allen's review of Graham Parker's "Squeezing Out The Sparks" in the May 17 Emerald makes no sense (when did presenting one's music in a pleasing and meaningful way become a flaw?) and that it's never clear whether or not Allen likes the album, but what rankles is that I've seen it all before.

To put it more directly, Keith Allen's review was lifted almost verbatim from Greil Marcus' review in Rolling Stone. Some of the similarities:

Greil Marcus: "Nobody Hurts You" hits first and doesn't wear out."

Keith Allen (On the same song): "Surprisingly, it doesn't wear out." Allen then goes on to quote the same lyrics that Marcus quotes.

Greil Marcus on "You Can't Be Too Strong": "It's a stark, personal statement. The thing is, see, this girl he got pregnant just wasn't strong enough to have the baby; the doctor wasn't strong enough to refuse to perform the operation."

Keith Allen: "The woman was too weak to keep the baby. The doctor was too weak not to perform the hideous deed."

Greil Marcus: "You can't tell if the song was written around (guitarist Brinsley) Schwartz' riff — a searing, muscular attack . . ."

Keith Allen: "With the help of his band, 'The Rumor' (sic), and particularly a searing riff from guitarist Brinsley Schwartz . . ."

All the talk about Parker's vision also seems strangely familiar. Keith Allen owes the readers of the Emerald an explanation.

Phil Bernstein  
sophomore, undeclared

Editor's note: Similarity of views hardly proves plagiarism and in this situation reviewer Allen disclaims any such act. We note in passing that multiple commentaries on a finite body of subject matter inevitably leads to certain redundancy in phrasing.

## Veteran on draft

With the Defense Department bill that would classify and register 18-year-old people coming up before the U.S. House of Representatives in a matter of weeks, I feel a sense of urgency to express my opposition to such a measure. As a veteran who has seen the military from the inside, I can testify to the waste that



seems to be inherent in our military system. Rather than an increase in mobilization capabilities and therefore an INCREASE of waste, what is desperately needed now is an awareness of environment that would prohibit such a senseless exploitation of our precious resources.

Should a real need for bodies ever confront our nation, there would be no shortage of volunteers. However, I'm sure that anyone who has seen and felt the injustice of a peacetime draft, as I have, would not hesitate to leave the country rather than be recalled into a system designed solely to exploit that which it doesn't have.

I would hope that the youth facing a draft for the first time be aware, more aware than I was at the time of my induction, and simply refuse, en masse, to participate in the profit motivated exploitation of resources which would only in turn be wasted by a greedy and downright lazy society.

If knowledge is in any way cumulative, then we will have learned from our previous blunders as a nation and concentrate on making ourselves self-sufficient here at home rather than be led into believing that domination and exploitation of other's resources will guarantee our survival.

At best, this moral outrage of taking

what we feel we may need could only achieve a stop-gap solution to the reality of finite resources. The technology exists to realize a secure future with what is at our disposal here on this continent. If there must be a draft, let it be for a Solar Corps, to build our future here at home. As for a military draft, I say, this time, HELL NO, WE WON'T GO.

Gary Dawson  
senior, anthropology

## 'We have no right'

We, the people of America, have no right to express moral indignation over the Chilean Supreme Court's decision not to allow the extradition of General Manuel Contreras, ex-director of the secret police DINA, to stand trial in the U.S. for his role in planning the 1976 assassination of Orlando Letelier and two of his aides.

Letelier, the Chilean Defense Minister under Allende, was an outspoken critic of Pinochet's tyrannical dictatorship.

It is extremely unrealistic of Kristy Fassler to believe that the U.S. will cut off diplomatic relations and economic relations to Chile. After all, it was the American government (the CIA) that helped Pinochet overthrow the freely elected Marxist President Allende.

So much for our hypocritical gestures

of demanding democracy and human rights abroad while not realizing them at home (i.e. the speed at which the ERA is being ratified and the Wilmington Ten and Jose Torres farces of justice which are not isolated exceptions but extreme cases of the widespread systematic racism that we must recognize and face as such); they don't last long when faced with economic reality — socialist governments are a direct threat to American business interests.

Yes, Bob Dylan is right, "Money doesn't talk, it swears."

Andrew Orlians  
freshman, biology

## Deserve a rebate

Residents of Bean East and West do not have study areas, lounges, or cooking facilities. We have the conference rooms, but even during dead and finals weeks, we are kicked out by various groups. It's no big deal, but there is no reason we should have to pay for facilities we don't get. In these times of rising dorm rates, present residents should be given a rebate and future ones a discount. You can just subtract it from our damage fees.

Sunn Thomas  
sophomore, pre-journalism