opinion

Arena will serve campus and Eugene

When revenues climb into the millions of dollars, level-headedness must override sentimentality. On this basis, we support John Caine, University athletic director, in his coordinating efforts to build a $14-million arena adjacent to Autzen Stadium.

This domed complex, if built as proposed, would: be built entirely with Oregon wood, offer seating for 17,000, provide numerous secondary

ours

benefits (including badly needed office and storage space) and would generate added revenue for the Athletic Department. (Caine estimates that increased basketball attendance alone would account for between $400,000 and $500,000 annually.)

Caine's plans include booking larger concerts which would also provide annual revenue in the six-figure range, which will more than supplement increased basketball receipts.

Such financial and cultural benefits for University students and staff — as well as for the community as a whole — makes Caine's approach appear financially sound. His only opposition thus far has come from students who hail from the Pit (less affectionately known as MacArthur Court). Many are gung-ho enough to dive to the floor for loose balls (if need be) in support of their Ducks. Such emotional support continues to be an anchor for the basketball team, even though former coach Dick Harter has long since said farewell to his "kamikaze kids."

Coach Jim Haney, who replaced Harter two years ago, supports the concept of a new facility enthusiastically. He is not concerned about losing Mac Court because he sees the spirit of Duck fans as a product of people — not one of cement, metal and wood. That is what Mac Court is when it is empty: an ugly, outdated amalgamation of cement, steel and wood. Soon, it may become dangerous to mount the Pit's rickety bleachers for a crowded basketball game.

The new arena promises to be safe, comfortable, vertical in design (bringing fans nearer to the action), and aesthetically satisfying. Though it would be foolish to think the University will not incur any indirect costs while getting the complex approved and built, most of the seed money to do this has been contributed privately.

The $14 million needed for completion of the arena will also be contributed by individuals, who will then be guaranteed an opportunity to buy season tickets for several years to come. The University is asking for state aid in maintaining the facility, but Caine feels the Athletic Department could handle the $200,000-plus annual cost if the state rejects the request.

Maintenance costs may appear high, but they are valid in light of the size and potential usefulness of the arena. What exactly is this potential and where will all the added revenue be spent?

• Other sports programs, particularly women's athletics, will get a healthy financial boost and more space to work with, according to Caine. Mac Court will be used at least twice as much for these activities, as well as for additional PE classes. The Athletic Department also plans to vacate its office in favor of moving into the new arena, leaving more classroom space available on the central campus.

• The library is slated for 50,000 square feet of climate-controlled storage within the new complex, which is urgently needed. (Currently library storage is limited to 3,500 square feet.)

• The University Printing Department and Distribution center will be relocated in the new facility. And central office space and classrooms for the University's continuing education program are also included in the present plans.

Of course, athletics will benefit the most from a new dome on the river, and this is appropriate. Basketball recruitment will be given a needed boost which Haney is more than pleased about.

But Caine and his staff seem to be surveying the broader needs of the University and community in an honest light. We hope he will continue this approach.

There is no such thing in the sports world as a sure thing — any coach would tell you that. The financial world is even more tenuous. But it seems that Caine, Haney and the Athletic Department are for the moment backing a winner.

yours

Artless sloth

When he wasn't wasting his time writing novels, Albert Camus was a pretty good journalist. He once proposed a control newspaper: a newspaper that would come out a few hours after other dailies and publish the percentage of truth in the stories those other newspapers printed. Camus is gone, alas, and we don't have the control newspaper. What we have is the Emerald.

On Monday the Emerald printed a story by Larry Sigurdson, an artless compound of sloth and innuendo purporting to document the existence of the absentee administrator — at least on Friday afternoons, at least in some departments or offices, at least partly for not entirely upfront reasons. If Mr. Sigurdson had used some facts he didn't bother to collect or some that he collected but didn't bother to report, his story might have been different. Better still, it might have been eliminated.

Item: If he had checked around, Mr. Sigurdson might have discovered that the reason Eaton Conant did not answer his phone at the Institute of Industrial and Labor Relations is because he is on sabbatical this year (still a respectable academic activity the last time I checked into it) and that his work is being done by Jim Koch, dean of graduate programs in the College of Business Administration, and two GTF's (of whom I happen to be one) sharing a part-time position.

Item: Mr. Sigurdson did not mention Emory Via, director of the Labor Education and Research Center, whom he did find in his office on Friday afternoon. Mr. Sigurson's call was very timely. Via and the entire office staff were in the midst of seeing a federal grant proposal through its final stages on the way to a 5:00 p.m. deadline, preparing a LERC presentation on training Oregon workers in the field of occupational health and safety which was to be given at a national conference the following week and otherwise attending to the incidental business of a very busy office. Via and some members of the staff, (including myself) were still at the office after 6:00 p.m.

Well, I guess these facts just didn't fit the story Mr. Sigurdson wanted to write — too bad, for the people who read the Emerald.

Who needs this kind of reporting? Save a tree — don't print it.

Someone asked me Monday if I was going write a letter about all this. I said I felt Sigurdson didn't deserve the time it would take to write a letter but he did deserve a punch in the mouth if he happened by I've changed my mind. He deserves both.

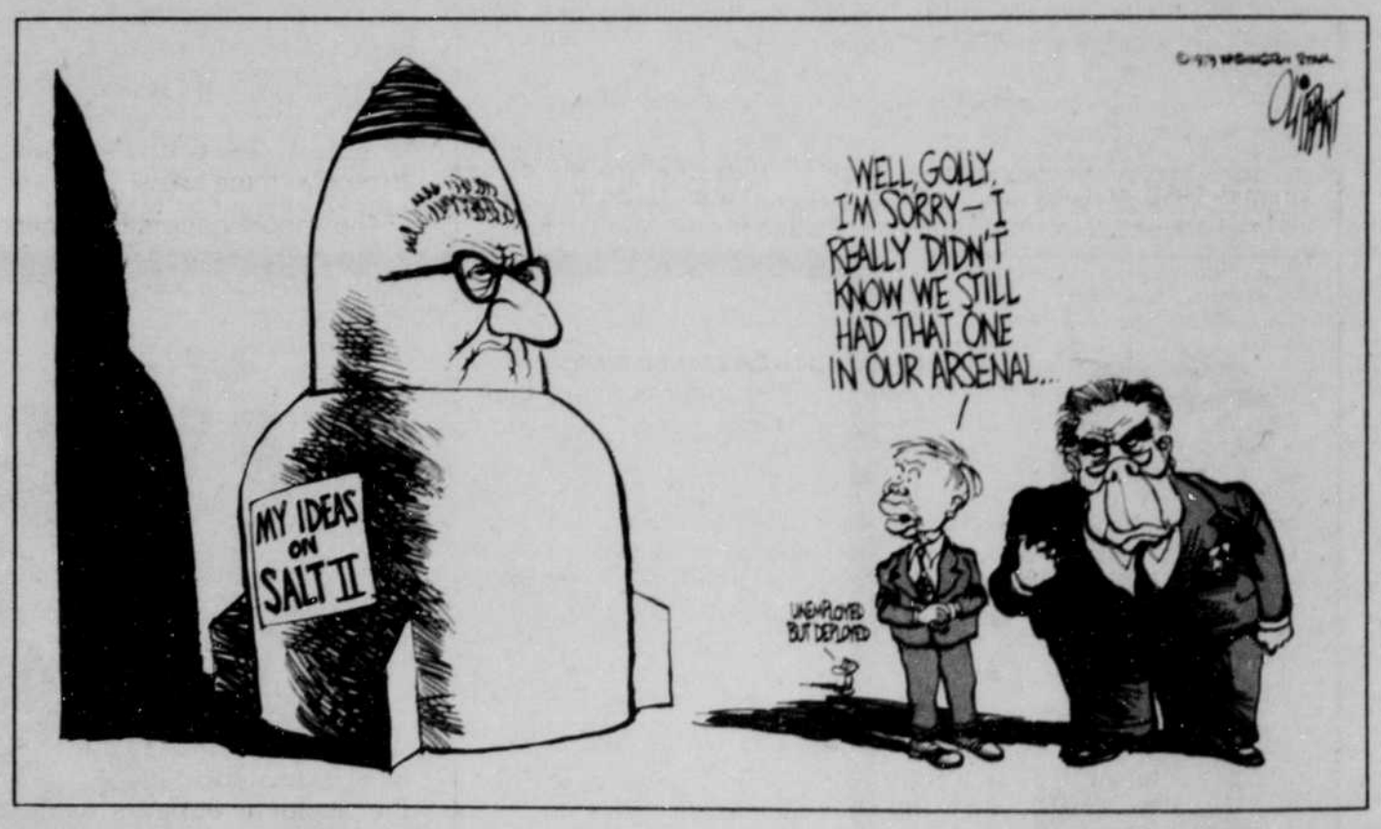
Jeanne Pryor
GTF, Institute of Industrial and Labor Relations

Deserve time

During the last few months since I moved to the hazardous city of E gene, I have been repeatedly harassed by a sex-crazed member of the Scientology church. The man frequently disturbed a friend with whom I had been staying and he followed me around whenever he saw me. The final solution to my problem was not found in calling security; we simply made it clear that we did not want him around.

The greatest challenge to the freedom of the American people lies in a dependence upon a cohesive force to express our disagreement with views held by others. The only weapons wielded by the RCYB were words, and Mr. Spencer, obviously unarmed, felt the need to call security.

theirs



Bravo, Mr. Spencer! It's young Americans like you that make the world safe for authoritarians. Is your way of life so fragile as to be shattered by pamphlets you do not have to read? Your call to security on the basis of the fact that you disagreed with the RCYB can be interpreted in only one way: as political repression. By calling in security, rather than ignoring the RCYB, you have proven true their arguments and strengthened their position.

Let me state for the record that I do not support the views of the RCYB. But they, like anyone, deserve fair and just treatment regardless of their political views.

So, Mr. Spencer, in the interest of democracy — next time a Girl Scout comes to your door selling cookies emblazoned with propaganda, next time a Christian knocks passing out good news and next time a Greenpeace member gives you a whale button, I challenge you to give them the notoriety you gave the RCYB and call security. It isn't every day they get their picture on the front page.

Merri Horine
junior, political science

Never too old

Between Paul Olum and myself, one of us has made a major error in perception; either this is a kindergarten that I have mistaken for a university, or this is a university that he has mistaken for a kindergarten. Assuming that I am wrong and this is in fact a kindergarten, I would still personally have enough respect for a bunch of normal five-year-olds as to take into serious consideration their thoughts and feelings on the subject of who was going to teach them.

Furthermore, if Olum is correct in stating that "most undergraduate students (don't) have any real concept of academic scholarship," then it is due largely to the prevalence of such so-called educators and administrators in the American school system who have not only taught their students how to think, but have actively prevented them from learning to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to direct Mr. Olum to the works of such real educators as Paul Goodman and Ivan Illich in the hope that (as the old saw has it) one is never to old to learn.

Cathi Beavers
sophomore, anthropology

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinion columns must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced.