



## greg wasson a quorum of one

Ben,

Hope things are fitting together better on the East Coast and that your return to New York City is proving rewarding. During your stay as a roommate, I sensed that you felt like you were in a backwater, that Oregon is too far from where "it's" happening.

The accuracy of that analysis depends on your definition of "it." With your concern for international politics, you can place that assessment in a damning context.

However, the parochial in me forces an attempt to shift the focus. Like Paris, New York and Boulder, Oregon has hosted many scholars of the spirit. Granted, many of those have moved on, leaving a reputation that attracts those who are students of nothing save a hedonistic search for gratification.

Still, the political and social fabric has been disturbed, exposing opportunities for change and growth.

Unfortunately, not everyone had taken ad-

vantage of the chance for knowledge. Consider Rep. Fred Parkinson, R-Silverton. Thursday, he stood on the floor of the House and condemned the University community for advocating socialism, erecting barricades to efficient operation of the free-enterprise system and just being an all-around drag.

Essentially, what the esteemed representative said was that anyone with different politics than his shouldn't expect their counsel to be considered. As much as I hate to do it, Ben, I have to call it bullshit.

Parkinson may have been here a long time and sent three boys through OSU, but I've been here awhile, too. After a childhood in rural Oregon, I farmed, logged and went to school. For Parkinson to argue that I am an abhorrent accident that should be dismissed is an arrogance no one I've met has the right to display.

But, enough of that.

Last week also produced an interesting contrast between faculty and students as each group addressed the legislative sub-committee in

charge of the higher ed budget.

The panel is attempting to cut an additional \$30.6 million and has asked for help. What it got from the faculty was three hours of whining about the devastation further cuts would have. The response was irritation. The lawmakers are busy and didn't enjoy wasting their time listening to facts they understand all too well.

If the faculty doesn't wise up, the Legislature is going to be forced to start shaving the budget with no direction from a segment of the population that will be directly affected. Then, of course, the professors will sit and complain that the cuts were misdirected.

Students, on the other hand, told the legislators that they opposed further reductions, but if the knife had to fall, here's some places to direct it. Their suggestions were obviously self-motivated, but they presented a well-balanced, reasoned list of alternatives.

With that, I've got to run. See you later,

Greg

## YOURS

### Marxist twaddle

Most of the time the addled rantings of RCYB members serve only to make me smile, but there is a limit to the bounds of humor. In his letter of May 14 eulogizing Bobby Sands, John Kaiser has succeeded in provoking my temper.

It's not that Kaiser follows standard RCYB practice in using distortions and convoluted logic to "prove" all Ulster troubles are linked to the "great class struggle." It's not that he falsely asserts that the English are staying in Northern Ireland solely to cling to a bit of the Empire. (This is true in part, but many Britons would love to see the army out of Ulster, were it not for the near certainty of even worse civil strife following a British exit.)

It's not that Kaiser reduces a complicated problem to dogmatic, simplistic, Marxist twaddle, emphasizing violence and hate rather than peaceful measures. (Kaiser has that much in common with the IRA provos, anyway.) It's not even that Kaiser attempts to make a saintly hero out of a terrorist who took his own life (a choice not given to the killed children and other victims of IRA terrorism).

I'm used to these distortions. But Mr. Kaiser, please, if you're going to insist

upon spouting such tripe, learn to spell those critical cliches. I don't think "proletarian internationalism" (perhaps a positive non-national reading movement) is what you meant, but rather "proletarian internationalism." Am I write?

Kevin Swan

Senior, international business, German

Editor's Note: The misspelling of "proletarian" was an Emerald typographical error.

### Slipshod salaries

In response to Richard Wilen's letter concerning the "slipshod work" of clerks in the registrar's office (May 14), I would like to present some pertinent issues concerning clerical work.

These clerks, who have the immense responsibility of handling and processing student records, are paid very close to minimum wage. If they are clerical assistants, they are paid \$669 per month to start; if they are clerical specialists, they begin at \$785. These salaries are from \$100 to \$250 less than those of University groundskeepers.

How can anyone — students or the employer — expect people who are paid so little to perform in a professional manner?

Salaries are a reflection of worth to the employer. They are also a major part of a worker's self-image and dedication to his or her job performance. Clerical workers are shown every month that they are worth very little to the state of Oregon; hence, they value their responsibilities accordingly — very little.

It is also a well documented fact that clerical work is one of the most stressful lines of work in the country. Clerks in the registrar's office are no exception, as Richard Wilen pointed out by saying he realizes their work is "boring" and "tremendous" in volume. I'll add to these observations that it is also confining, low in status, and unflexible — all powerful stress factors for working people. The tediousness of their jobs, combined with stressful working conditions, produces an atmosphere that will actually hinder these clerks in working at top performance levels.

People should be aware of these conditions so they can better understand the reasons behind clerical error at the University. It is more than just some dumb, lazy clerk behind these problems — it is a system that perpetuates low quality through low wages and counter-productive working conditions.

Julie Lindstrom

Clerk, University publications

### Bayard's busy

(Re Ken Sands' Even editors get the blues May 15:)

Bayard McConnaughey is in Charleston, Ore., at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

Wade Freitag  
O.I.M.B. student

### Why not both?

As an American Jew, I am committed to the survival of the state of Israel but not to the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. The religious fanatics who live in these settlements are as dangerous to the Israeli nation as the Moral Majority is to ours.

On the other hand, I believe strongly in the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent nation of their own. In such a country, Palestinians could live along side the Israeli. They could elect a course of mutual cooperation or choose to return to the war of attrition. It is unacceptable that the nation of Palestine would replace the current state of Israel; for Israel exists like Texas, California and Alaska — there is nobody to return it to!

In my opinion, "historical roots" are not sufficient reason for establishing ownership of the "promised land." Both sides can make justified claims to the Land of Israel.

In order to create a Palestinian nation, there is only one consideration: How two peoples who have learned to mistrust one another over centuries can seek a dialogue and establish mutual trust. When people can believe one another, they have a basis for cooperation.

Last Wednesday, I put the question to an Arab moderator during "Jews against Zionism" lecture. He said that the "PLO was committed to the destruction of the state of Israel by military means."

For a minute there, I felt that some Arabs were sincerely interested in peace and in developing a country within which they could live in pride. It seems that "Zionist propaganda" and "Palestinian propaganda" are not such distant cousins.

I would help you build a Palestine, but not on the graves of my family and my people!

Gary F. Gordon  
Graduate, health education  
Monday, May 18, 1981

