

Perfect example

While I missed the Greg Wasson article on legislative interns, I would like to add my own comments to those of letter writers responding in the July 15 edition.

I feel very fortunate to have had the skills and abilities of University intern Stephanie Nichols earlier in this session. She is a self-starter who learned quickly and was also able to take direction.

Nichols was able to parlay her interest in the elderly to excellent advantage. She worked closely with me, my staff and my in-district Senior Advisory Committee (composed of lay people in Coos and Curry counties), displaying tact and understanding to everyone's mutual benefit.

Indeed, under her guidance, that committee sent representatives to Salem and successfully introduced amendments to a bill on the state's Policy on Aging which is now law. When she left at semester's end, my office felt a real void.

If the voters choose to return me to the House for the next session, I only hope I can be assisted by such a capable University product. Nichols, to my view, was a perfect example of how the intern program should work.

Bill Bradbury
State representative, district 48

Don't forget lit

Concerning the front-page story in the ODE of July 16 about renewed emphasis on student writing: the over-headline "Balance shifts away from literature" may be somewhat misleading, and I should like to remind Emerald readers that the heart of the English department, and of a liberal education, is still literature, however broadly defined. While we take our duties to teach writing seriously, it would be an educational mistake for us to neglect the values provided by the study of literature and for students to think that literature is or can be less important in the fulfillment of their lives than it formally was.

Thelma Greenfield
Acting head
English department

Bum rap

I hate to quash Oakley Glenn's pet theory about deadheads, but it just ain't so. While many of us do travel from city to city to see the Dead, the vast majority of the people in line two weeks ago are residents of Eugene. Those deadheads truly into it were between St. Louis and



St. Paul following the Dead when tickets went on sale here in Eugene. So it is upsetting to find out that we have been labeled "transients" with all the wins and bums. One would think that with all the money we're pouring into the University we would get a little respect, but obviously we don't. Just remember, all you staid, conservative folks, next time you go to a football or basketball game at the University, it was made possible by thousands of us drug-addled freaks — who for the most part live right here in Eugene.

Mike Seidel
junior, history
Steve Smith
senior, marketing
Francis Schafer,
sophomore, geography

Militarily consistent

If I remember correctly, since the Reagan administration came to power it has announced \$35 million in military aid

and advisors to El Salvador, offered the sale of F-16 fighter aircraft to Venezuela, 108 M-60 tanks to Morocco, 24 Cobra helicopters equipped with antitank missiles to Jordan, Boeing 747 and 727s which can be converted into military transport aircraft to Iraq, removed restriction on sales of "lethal weapons" to China, and has promised to supply defense weapons to Taiwan.

In addition it has made several proposals requiring approval from Congress such as the resumption of arms sales to Argentina, the resumption of covert military aid to guerilla forces in Angola, an extra \$600 million in military credits in 1983 and 1984 to Israel, and F-16s as well as \$3 billion in economic aid and military credits over the next five years.

Whatever else one might want to say about the boys from California who are playing politics back in D.C., you have to admit they are consistent, although deep inside my heart I can't help but be more than a little proud of not paying taxes.

Dave Isenberg
senior, international studies

Paige, perchance

One morning last week my eye caught the "Perchance" letter to the editor. I found myself confronted with a challenge of wits in the usual competitive macho style. I must admit that I almost took this challenge as my mind was thinking of various colloquial contortions of the English language. But then, my mind wandered to the editor's note on the very same page (Paige trial). The article itself is unsettling, but its location in relation to the "Perchance" letter is much more significant.

The "Perchance" article illuminates a naive and petty mentality which remains ignorant of a very serious human problem. The oppression of women. Once we have settled who is going to open doors for whom and what "word" we can call each other, then the so-called "feminists" can put down their signs and run to the arms of men holding patronizing smiles.

This attitude smothers individual potential and interpersonal relationships. What rational human being can read the Paige article and feel good about himself/herself? The writer of "Perchance" ended by saying that the women's liberation movement has struck out. At the moment, in despair, I agree.

Lillian Lahe

Writing as thinking

As much as I appreciate your article "examining renewed emphasis on student writing abilities," I still feel that you have missed a very significant point: writing is, to borrow Mary Lawrence's phrase, a thinking process. A university is an occasion for thinking, and writing, as an expression of analysis, has never been absent from our collective mission.

Rather than bemoan statistics and point to trends, we must all realize that the free and accurate exchange of ideas is our only hope for survival. Flaws in educational systems are not, of course, easily to be escaped, but I must insist that writing is such a central issue that none of us may ignore it.

In short, it seems to me that assigning blame and citing soi-disant remedies is not the point. I want to see people learn to communicate, for once we fail to express ourselves, we are all lost.

Please take the sensationalism out of the issues and help all of us to start thinking again.

Stephen Schuber
American English Institute
Thursday, July 30, 1981

