

## Book-banning is on the increase

"It's a problem that's more and more prevalent," says Cheryl Emmingham standing in front of her bookstore display of banned books.

Censorship is increasing.

Emmingham is assistant manager of tradebooks. She observed this recent phenomenon and coordinated the banned book display and information notebook found on the second floor of the bookstore.

The bookstore's display has led to an increase in sales of these books and "I read banned books" buttons.

What Emmingham has noticed is that book banning is not only symptomatic of the rebirth of conservatism, but initiated also by special interest groups, "who want to control what people are reading."

Censorship by school districts and even state legislatures is not a regional phenomenon nor a religious one. San Francisco school districts banned "Mary Poppins" due to pressure from women's groups. Mark Twain School in Warrington, Penn., banned "Huckleberry Finn" because of the way it portrayed blacks.

Oregon is not without its share of censorship. For instance, the Roseburg school board banned the game Dungeons and Dragons from schools on the grounds that it teaches, "fantasies of evil."

The Supreme Court has upheld the First Amendment when some of these cases and others have been taken to court. On June 24 in a 5-4 decision the Court upheld the right of a group of Long Island students to keep their banned books on the shelf. Justice Brennan called this, "the right to receive ideas."

The right to "receive ideas" seems a bit fuzzy. Ask any teacher; receiving ideas is not particularly a right but an ability.

In some cases, self-righteous and ignorant groups want to ban books because they dislike a particular clause or phrase. For instance Anchorage, Alaska's school board banned The American Heritage Dictionary because of definitions of "bed" as a verb and "knocker" as slang for a woman's breast.

In these cases childish titillation on the part of the board has taken over common sense.

The right to free speech is what the Court must uphold. That and freedom of prior constraint.

According to Emmingham, even though the Supreme Court has more or less upheld the First Amendment when it is challenged by book banning, the books still are being taken off the shelf while the cases are pending. Unless the community chooses to take it to court, the books will be gone, permanently.

The "Most Censored Books" list compiled by the American Library Association reads something like a list of suggested summer reading: "Grapes of Wrath," "Of Mice and Men," "To Kill a Mockingbird," and of course, that lascivious and libidinous "Catcher in the Rye" to name only a few.

The American Booksellers Association and The American Society of Journalists and Authors are opposing this newest trend.

It may be trendy to read banned books, but it is definitely misplaced social concern to ban them.



## letters

### Haws kudos

I have now served my community for over seven years as a city counselor, and determined that it was time for me to resign. I did this for two reasons. First, as the economy worsens my growing bankruptcy business is demanding more and more of my time. Second, the voters in my ward have now had an opportunity to vote in the primary and elect my successor. I see no reason to make him wait seven months until January, 1983 to take office.

As my last task I wish to thank those who have supported me these many years — my wife and family, friends, citizens, staff members, and other Council members.

I also wish to thank the local TV and radio stations, the Willamette Valley Observer, the Springfield News and the Emerald for the long hours they put in covering the local news. I am pleased to report to the citizens of Eugene that they have reported the news fairly and objectively. They have not, as have some tinged with nepotism, distorted the news. Innuendoes, half-truths, political slanting, libel and name-calling have not been their trademarks.

I also wish to thank those people who took the time to come to the city council meetings to testify at hearings or to write to us so that we would have this additional point of view before we made our decisions.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the Bethel Ward and the City of Eugene.

**Eric Haws**  
Attorney at Law

### Dear Dr. Olum

I'm writing as an employee of the University, a citizen of Eugene, a parent and a person who believes that the only hope for the survival of this planet is communication — granted, the hope is dwindling with every newspaper headline.

The universities of this nation have always been wombs for the birthing of ideas and ideals that call to task our state and federal governments when they become citadels of destruction rather than servants of

the people. To axe KWAX at this most crucial time to begin struggle against leaders of nations who value nuclear weapons over environmental harmony, over food for the hungry, over comfort and/or security for senior citizens, the disabled, the children, well, hell, all of us, is to take a giant hand and place it over the mouth of the people, for the people, by the people.

I realize your choices are all lousy but I agree with the staff at KWAX when they state their \$82,000 annual budget is not likely to save a school or department and there is a good chance for KWAX to become self-sufficient if given the time to do so as was originally proposed.

**Leslie E. Hunter, Secretary**  
Department of Psychology

### KWAX case

With your June 24 editorial you created a beautiful case for saving KWAX (and the three other out-reach programs) from the budget axe. As you mentioned, KWAX "directly benefits Oregon," provides a "crucial link between the University and the State," is "necessary for good public relations," and "provides work experience for students."

With these positive attributes, how can KWAX's demise be considered the "right move" by Pres. Paul Olum?

Every day of the year KWAX reaches out into the University community and beyond with classical music, radio drama, and public affairs. University money which goes to KWAX is economically spent on informing, educating and entertaining thousands of people.

All of academia needs to be reexamined if the "lesser of evils" involves cutting programs which benefit thousands on a daily basis.

These cuts are shortsighted, the easy way out of our budget problems. Instead, the Oregon State System of Higher Education needs to do some long-range planning, consolidating duplicate programs.

Cutting the small, unique programs at each school hurts the entire system. The proposed cuts will only isolate this University further from the people, at the time when it should be reaching out to all Oregonians.

**Karen Nestvold**  
Music

## oregon daily emerald

The summer edition of the Oregon Daily Emerald is published Tuesdays and Thursdays, except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial	686-5511
Display Advertising and Business	686-3712
Classified Advertising	686-4343
Production	686-4381
Circulation	686-5511

Editor  
Managing Editor  
News Editor / Politics Editor  
Photo Editor

Harry Esteve  
John Healy  
Cort Fernald  
Mark Pynes

### Associate Editors

Higher Education  
University/ASUO  
Features  
Community  
Contributing Editor

Debbie Howlett  
Steve Hooks  
William Kogut  
David Brown  
Joan Nyland

### General Staff

Advertising Manager  
Classified Advertising  
Production Manager  
Controller

Darlene Gore  
Sally Oljar  
Ann Peterson  
Jean Ownbey

## letters policy

The Emerald will accept and attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on issues, ideas and topics of interest to the University community.

The letters **must** be limited to 250 words, signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to The Emerald offices, EMU 300.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content. Publication is dependent upon the space available.