

letters

Tom McCall

They say he is gone. With a dignity and clarity of purpose the like of which most people will not see again in their lifetimes, Tom McCall's life ended Saturday. He personified Oregon in a way no other modern figure has, and the passing of his spirit touches not only the souls of all Oregonians, but the trees, mountains, deserts and seashore of his beloved state. Wither dost thou travel now, Tom?

You only spoke with me for ten minutes that day in 1976, but I will always hear your voice in the surf along the beaches you helped protect, and I will always see your smile in the stars, visible through the clear Oregon air you held inviolate.

Walk in peace now, Tom, for the people of your Oregon will care for her well. We will remember you well as long as we live, and we will tell our children and grandchildren, on crisp January evenings, of the tall man who came from Prineville to become the outstanding figure of his time.

We will tell them of your courage and independence as governor, and of the strength and serenity with which you made your peace with the inexorably rising tide of death.

They say he is gone, but they are wrong. Life is a mere flicker in time and space, but as long as there is a state, and a state of mind, called Oregon, Tom McCall's candle will continue to light the way for all Oregonians.

Alan Contreras
first-year, law

Governments

I refer to articles entitled "Iranian groups attack Khomeini" (Emerald, Nov. 17) and "Iranian Revolution a success..." (Emerald, Dec. 13).

The statements of Mohammad, Siadat, and Arash regarding the socio-political-economic situation in Iran are inaccurate. Furthermore, all three do not perceive the central problem that characterizes most less developed countries.

First of all, it is not true, as Mohammad said, that Iraq was forced to attack Iran because of Khomeini's wanting to export the revolution to Iraq. This was

merely an excuse on the part of Iraq to attack Iran, having had its eyes on Iranian oil fields for a long time.

Arash is critical that pending legislation in Iran will deter Iran from reaching its goal of economic self-sufficiency. But self-sufficiency should not be Iran's immediate goal since it lacks many resources that must be obtained through trade.

Siadat and others misread the major problems of Iran. The central problem is not that Khomeini inherited the Shah's problems nor that Iran is a theocratic state nor capitalism.

Iran suffers from serious problems of corruption at all levels of society whether socialist or capitalist. In such a country it is necessary to bribe and extort to obtain the necessities of life. In such a country the government constitutes a drain on its resources.

Merely imposing a secular democracy will not improve Iran's situation as long as opportunists and corrupt people dominate the government and other institutions.

Syed Farid Alatas
senior, economics

Time schedule

Were budget cuts or poor organization the reason why the University wasn't able to distribute the time schedules for Winter Term before the first week of Christmas break?

Many people had left town by that time. They could not get a hold of a schedule until Jan. 3 or 4 — just in time to blindly pick some classes before registering. So much for carefully planning one's academic career.

Shame on the University if this was a strategy to limit the number of copies of the schedule needed and shame on just the same University, if, after years of practice, it isn't able to provide this simple, but essential, service properly.

Feyna van Voorst Vader
landscape architecture

Non-Christians

Having just read the two articles on "Spreading 'the word'" (Emerald, Jan. 11) we want to commend the Emerald for some

fine journalism on a topic that is both a highly visible and auditory part of our campus.

However, we feel that by only interviewing Christians for this article, the beliefs of the large population of non-Christians on this campus (i.e. Muslims, Jews, atheists, etc.) were neglected.

Don Walker, a source for the article, expresses the opinion that many people feel "threatened" because they do not have a personal relationship with God.

As Jews, the authors of the letter resent the assertion that the only way to reach God is through Jesus Christ. We respect the street preachers' right to speak, but oppose their condemnation of our beliefs.

Ken Stein
Ruth Leibik

Political

This is to set the record straight on some misinformation promoted by Nan Henderson. In a recent Emerald article Henderson said, "The major purpose of Oregon Free from Drug Abuse is not a political one."

The truth is as per an Oregonian article of Oct. 10, 1982 in which Henderson's group OFDA endorsed Gov. Vic Atiyeh for re-election. If this is not political, I would like to know what is?

Henderson's ranting against honest drug abuse education reminds me of the moral-majority types who oppose sex education. They wrongly believe that honest education leads to abuses.

A few "highly respected" organizations who have endorsed the removal of criminal penalties for the private possession and use of marijuana are: The American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, the National Council of Churches, the National Education Association and many others.

Joe Wilson
director
Oregonians Cooperating
to Reduce Drug Abuse

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