

harry esteve

Independence

For the past 12 years, the Emerald has considered itself "independent." Its legal ties to the University administration were severed — politely — in 1971 when the Emerald incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

Now, more than a decade later, the Emerald is starting to question just how "independent" it really is.

At the heart of the problem is a \$5.50 per student yearly subscription fee that is assessed through the incidental fee fund. Incidental fees, which also fund the athletic department, the EMU and various clubs, are controlled to a certain extent by the ASUO president.

This year's ASUO president is C.J. Balfe. And Balfe is less than happy with this year's Emerald.

The reasons for Balfe's dissatisfaction with the Emerald are complex, and for the most part, irrelevant. Newspapers never have been considered great buddies with governmental leaders. They would be considered irresponsible if they were.

But because of his dissatisfaction, we hear he is considering a large cut in the Emerald's fee allotment or try to eliminate it altogether. And that has the Emerald wondering about its independence.

When money is used as the tool to influence Emerald policy, it's a threat that's difficult to ignore.

It's difficult because the subscription fee is crucial to the Emerald. It pays most of

what it costs to print the paper each day at the Springfield News.

Advertising sales pay for everything else: equipment, salaries, taxes, phone bills, etc.

Without the subscription fee, the Emerald would be hard pressed to stay afloat.

In February, the Incidental Fee Committee will begin its annual series of hearings where they will undertake the unenviable task of deciding which programs to fund and which programs to cut.

The Emerald will be there, as it has been for the past 12 years, asking the IFC to allocate next year's student subscriptions.

We know most students want to read the Emerald. Thousands of copies disappear off the racks every morning. We also know most students don't mind paying a small fee to receive it. In a vote last year, they overwhelmingly approved the current method of funding the Emerald.

If funding for the Emerald is cut, then the Emerald may ask the students to vote again. We think they'll continue their subscription.

And perhaps that's the only way to be truly independent.

A final note of irony to this unfortunate situation is that the ASUO was highly supportive of the Emerald's initial drive for independence. In fact, when the Emerald was on the rocks financially a few years after independence, it was the ASUO that bailed it out with a long-term loan.



LOOK AT YOU! ALL YOU INDIANS DO IS HANG AROUND THE RESERVATION. WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND GET A JOB?

letters

Two kinds

I've heard of dead baby jokes before but this exhibition in front of the EMU is profoundly distasteful. Granted an aborted fetus is a gory sight but what is even more grim is the misrepresentation of the facts.

There are two kinds of abortions: legal and illegal. A legal abortion is a simple five to 15 minute procedure performed in the safety and cleanliness of a clinical setting and often includes extensive counseling for both partners.

However, I strongly suspect that the mangled bodies

displayed by the "pro-lifers" resulted from the latter.

One common variety of illegal abortion is performed by amateurs for an outrageous fee on a kitchen table with crude, unsterilized implements and no anesthesia. If a woman cannot produce the "blood money" demanded by outlaw abortionists, she is left with one desperate recourse — the coat hanger.

As unthinkable as either of these illicit alternatives may seem, ask any nurse with 30 years experience of the women they have cared for who were brought to the hospital with a perforated or severely infected uterus, of those who bled to death or of the "lucky" survivors who were left sterile for life.

Legal or illegal, an abortion is not an action lightly taken.

I thank God everyday that I have the right to choose a safe and legal abortion.

H.W. Hartshorn
landscape architecture

Essence

Referring to the recent article published in the Emerald about Christianity ("Spreading the Word"), I offer these comments:

Many of those who discuss and/or debate the subject of Christianity seem to have missed its essence altogether. To paraphrase a statement by Josh McDowell, Christianity isn't just a religion. Religion is people trying to work their way to God through good deeds. Christianity is God coming to men and women through the

gift of Jesus Christ, offering them a relationship with Himself.

Some people may continue to reject Christ and His love because their "will" doesn't allow Him in. Instead they adopt tactics and attitudes that will preserve their egos and their pride (i.e. "Christianity is a state of mind").

As far as spreading the word of God goes, there is nothing "neo" about evangelism, which has been practiced continually by His disciples since Jesus came to earth and has its roots in the testimony of His Life, not Oriental religions, as Hee-Jin Kim suggests.

Rarely have I seen such a wide degree of fault-finding notions expressed about Buddhism, for example, as those hurled at Christianity. Could it be that the key reason for this selective criticism isn't so much from feeling condemned, but rather from feeling convicted by the heart when one hears the gospel of Christ?

Pascal, the French writer, said, "The evidence of God's existence and His gift is more than compelling, but those who insist that they have no need of Him or it will always find ways to discount the offer."

If anyone is tempted to let this same kind of tunnel vision get in the way of discovering the truth about God, I urge him or her to first read and study His Word in its entirety before deciding whether or not God is everything He claims to be.

Lyn Gaston

letters

Maligned

Usually one can overlook your shoddy journalism by simply realizing that your reporters are "just practicing" for the real world while in college. However, your article titled "Cuba Group Loses IFC Funding" (Emerald, Jan. 11) should not go without a response.

Your reporter interviewed two members of the Cuba Study Groups and stated several negative remarks attributed to them but failed to report the accomplishments mentioned by them in his interview. In contrast, Alan Contreras (not a member, nor have we had any contact with this "expert") was quoted as call-

ing us a "bogus" organization.

To set the record straight: We are a small group of people interested in Cuba. Some of us have visited there. We taught two terms through the Search program about Cuba and received extremely positive evaluations from the students in the classes. This entailed much research, time for arrangements for guest speakers, films, etc. None of us were paid a cent for many hours of work.

We feel it was unnecessary to take up one-fourth page of the Emerald to malign a small group like us. Perhaps we are pawns in some internal power struggle between various groups at the University? We did not ask for funding this

year. The funding we were awarded last year (\$60) was taken away once, reinstated, then revoked again. We have netted more money and far less hassle in one bake sale at the University Bookstore.

Perhaps this undue distortion of what we are about has to do with the current rage of creeping conservatism taking place on campus and nationally. Does it make the Emerald, ASUO, IFC, etc. see "red" to have a group with the name "Cuba" on campus?

How about some responsible journalism, folks. As Jack Webb said: "Just the facts, ma'am. Get them straight."

Janice Zagorin
member, Cuba Study Group

oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 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
Display Advertising and Business
Classified Advertising
Production
Circulation

686-5511
686-3712
686-4343
686-4381
686-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Photo Editor
Sports Editor
Associate Sports Editor
Entertainment Editor
Night Editor
Associate Editors
Higher Education
Departments and Schools
Student Government
Features
Politics
Politics/Education Reporter
General Staff
Advertising Manager
Classified Advertising
Production Manager
Controller

Harry Esteve
John Healy
Marian Green
Cort Fernald
Joan Nyland
Bob Baker
Mike Riplinger
Paul Danzer
Jonathan Siegle
Dane Claussen
Sandy Johnstone
Frank Shaw
Richard Burr
Sean Meyers
Michele Matassa
Aleta Zak
Darlene Gore
Sally Oljar
Victoria Koch
Jean Ownbey

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University Community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned into the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turn" columns should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.