

joan nyland suitable for comment

I walked into work to see two co-workers tuned into their Sony Walkmen or rival lightweight portable cassette players.

Where was the "good morning," or the joy of listening to coffee perking or VDT's humming?

Tuned out.

In the 1920s people started drowning conversation with home radios.

Then came the television in the 1950s to sever household communication. Husbands could watch the "news" instead of conversing with their wives and mothers could have their children entertained by the tube instead of reading to them.

Car conversation was the next to go, stifled by the placement of the car radio and the car tape deck. Office chatter was soon silenced by the infiltration of Muzak.

However, with all these forms of audio stimuli the ears weren't blocked — conversation could still get through.

Enter the carry-it-with-you-plug-it-in-the-ear radio/tape deck.

By nicely blocking the ears a person can now fully reject the art of conversation.

The purchasers of these machines must find human conversation or the sounds of our

everyday world so boring or so scary they need to block it out. They have chosen to listen to only a small bit of their world — which could be anything from Air Supply to Bach.

Listening, occasionally, to music using these portable ear-plugs is one thing. The people I am talking about are anti-social. They have plugged into their Walkman to plug out of conversation.

My plugged-in co-workers may be able to talk while their ears are being filled with whatever, but they are unable to listen. They have chosen to stop hearing how other people go about their business, to stop observing with their ears, to stop thinking about what another person is saying.

It is impossible for a person who is filling their ears with music from a radio or cassette to simultaneously be sounding out what another person thinks or feels.

Listen, there is no meeting of minds with between a human and a Walkman.

The little machines, I fear, signal the death of dialogue.

"Are you out of touch, loaded so much?" sings a newsroom "walkman" as he struts by my VDT.

No, but he is.



- THANKS FOR TRYING, ANYWAY!

letters

Transients

Has anyone taken the time to look around this campus lately? A tragic injustice has been committed against a group of individuals with little or no political power. The situation which I am referring to concerns the whereabouts of the vagabonds of society — the transients of the Emerald City.

Where have all the transients gone?

The existence of the transients at this university serves two purposes: First of all, do any of you ever think where the transients go at night? Where do they sleep? They are often the nomads, the drifters of the evening and in the day they rest. So, why can't we help these individuals out? Bring back the television room for these wayward souls.

This would also help the students. Seriously now, how many of you have done poorly on an exam, passed through the

EMU, only to find 10 or more transients huddled by the television. And be honest, all of sudden you don't feel so shitty anymore. All of a sudden you realize that there are a lot worse things in the world than you right now.

And they can also help you with your studies. Next time you have the urge to go out and party and forgo your studies, stop by the EMU and watch a show with the transients. In most cases, you quickly will find yourself at home pondering through several texts to prevent the same misfortunes that society has cast upon them.

So, next time you see a bum, vagabond, transient or wayward soul say hello to them, get to know them, or talk to them. But most important of all, find out what they did in life and desperately try to avoid all such avenues when driving down the road of life yourself.

David Cree
senior, physics

letters

Finance

The "Recommendation's" editorial in the Feb. 3 Emerald contained many very useful points, including a concern for the proliferation of so-called "academic" programs paid for with student fees. However, it also included several inaccuracies, one of which served to destroy the basic premise of your editorial view.

You claimed, inaccurately, that distributing the combined revenue shortfall and EMU pay increases over the ASUO Program budgets would result in a 6-percent overall decrease in funding for student programs. Since the revenue shortfall based on enrollment projections will be about \$50,000, and the EMU basic cost increase will be about \$86,000, the reduction in programming would be about \$136,000.

Since current expenditures on student programming total about \$552,000, the actual reduction would be about 26-percent, a very large percentage which would, if applied across the board, result in severe hardship to many worthwhile programs.

The Emerald also assumes by its approach to the budgeting process that all programs currently funded are of equal relative value to the student body, as shown by your preference for across-the-board cuts.

Across the board cuts (or in-

creases) would eliminate the need for and purpose of the elected Incidental Fee Committee, which exists to carry out the policy preferences of the student body that elects it. The budgeting process would become a single act by a bureaucrat applying a formula without regard to the changing needs of the student body. Existing programs would be presumed legitimate, new programs illegitimate.

Finally, neither the IFC nor the ASUO Executive are intended to be judicial in nature, applying a set of inflexible rules and formulas to a given set of facts (or dollars). They are intended to be legislative in nature, putting students' changing needs and desires into fiscal form.

Alan Contreras
first year, law

Nominate

Regarding Randy Shepard's Feb. 14 letter, I agree with him that it is unfair for the ASUO to be using our fees to support "subversive" and "socialistic" organizations like the ACLU, SNUFF, gay and other minority groups.

To make it fair, maybe they should fund some other groups like: STUPID (Students for Political Injustice and Discrimination) and MMACHO (Manly Men Against Commie-Homo Organizations). How about BUTT-HOLE (Business-Types Taught to Organize Legal Exploitation).

Since Mr. Shepard is obviously qualified, I'll take this opportunity to nominate him to head these noble causes.

Anyway, what do people think this country is, a pluralistic democracy?

Sieg Heil!

Michael LaFreniere
graduate, counseling

Heartened

I am heartened to see that old-fashioned, McCarthy-era bigotry survives at the University; things were getting a bit bor-

ing around here. I'm referring to Randy Shepard's Monday letter to the Emerald, in which he complains that his "tuition" (actually, his incidental fee) is being spent on such "radical" and "subversive" organizations as SNUFF, the ACLU, the Asian Student Society, and "numerous other interest groups."

With respect to the ACLU, it might surprise Mr. Shepard that the ACLU actively works to uphold our rights to, among other things, express ourselves freely. This is hardly a socialistic or radical policy, unless the First Amendment is socialistic or radical.

It is this right that allows Mr. Shepard to express himself in the first place. Not only does the ACLU support the right of "Commies and Radicals" to speak, it also support that right for far right-wing organizations such as the American Nazi Party, which, given the tone of Mr. Shepard's letter, should please him.

Perhaps, Mr. Shepard feels that our government is so benevolent that we don't need groups like the ACLU to fight for our rights. A closer look at history would dispell this notion.

On SNUFF: Which is more dangerous, SNUFF or a nuclear war? The answer is obvious. I don't see them trying to overthrow the government; do you?

Finally, I don't understand his attack on the Asian Studies Society. In what way are they subversive? Is it because they are more serious, better informed than other students attending this University? I'm at a loss for an explanation.

I hope Mr. Shepard is in the minority on this issue. It will be a dark day at this University when fear, prejudice, and bigotry dictate funding decisions.

Mr. Shepard would do well to realize that a university, by definition, exists to broaden minds, not to indoctrinate bodies.

Tom Birkland
junior, political science

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
686-4361
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
Student Services/Community 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
Alela Zak
Darlene Gore
Sally Ojar
Victoria Koch
Jean Ownbey