

# opinion

## Passive, ineffective sums ASUO's year

Today the ASUO presidency officially changes. Pres. C. J. Balfe steps down and Mary Hotchkiss steps up.

With Hotchkiss will come a new style of governance. At least we hope so.

During a recent interview, Balfe said the ASUO under his direction "infiltrated" the University administration, the community and the state this year. Although it's hard to understand exactly what he means by "infiltrate," it's even harder to see the results.

Balfe cited attending city council meetings, getting on the city's mailing list, shaking hands with state legislators and being chummy with University administrators as examples of infiltration.

Granted, all of these gestures are a good start, something that could and should have been accomplished in the first month of his administration. But they are simply the means to an end — the end being an effective student body voice.

Instead, we have seen an academic year of staff resignations, useless bureaucracy and an increase in the ASUO Executive's budget.

The ASUO, despite Balfe's apparent belief in strength through change, suffered from 10 resignations and one firing this year. Replacing some of these qualified people was not an easy task and in at least one case involved numerous trips to the Constitution Committee.

At a time when many programs were receiving large cutbacks, the ASUO increased its own budget, fattening its advertising budget by nearly \$8,000. There remains no guarantee that the money will go toward promoting all ASUO student programs, the stated reason for the increase.

The Oregon Student Lobby Conference, which the ASUO hosted in the fall, was a good beginning for organizing student lobbying efforts this year in Salem. But it didn't have to end there.

Balfe admits that the ASUO did not spend enough time in Salem this year. The ASUO and its program of state affairs did not get students to participate in the lobbying effort.

House members such as Rep. Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, and state board members such as Bob Ingalls told us that students should be lobbying in Salem and working through the constituencies of their parents. A handful of student representatives having coffee with the Oregon Student Lobbyists does not constitute a force.

The lobbying failure is probably due partly to Balfe's belief that demonstrations and presidential activism, such as Hotchkiss' recent participation in the ROTC demonstrations, is the wrong tactic for the student body president. We disagree. We like to see the student political figurehead take an active part in campus politics.

Balfe, like most elected officials leaving office, knows that "the majority of the job is doing what students expect of you, not what you want to do." But that sounds too much like a rationale for passive governing — going through the motions and waiting for crises to be brought to the Executive.

The Emerald continues to advocate an active ASUO presidency which stirs student interest and speaks out to students as well as administrators on matters of interest to students; we await next year with some hope.



## letters

### Organize

No one likes to be underpaid, and it is right that faculty salaries should be widely and openly discussed. Someone must identify, however, the hypocrisy of the local American Association of University Professors and its officers on this issue. They complain, in their current newsletter and elsewhere, that our salaries have declined dramatically as against those of faculty in the Eugene schools and the community colleges. They even admit that the latter's gains are direct consequences of collective bargaining. Why do they not draw the conclusion that the faculty should organize?

The truth is that the local AAUP is the most important organized force against collective bargaining on our campus.

Some years ago, when the AAUP filed as chief petitioner for our first campus branch election, and then worked against its success, its president confessed to me that their object was merely to heighten the AAUP's lagging appeal to the younger faculty. The dissembling of the current leadership is thus not personal but the continuation of a long-term policy. It is quite at odds with national AAUP policy, for the AAUP is now a labor organization.

Our salaries are low because we will not organize. The local AAUP has for years talked about salaries and opposed organization in the name of a tattered myth called "governance," which amounts to the right to petition the ad-

ministration. The local AAUP is thus an accomplice to the present state of affairs; and any faculty member who listens to such a group, which opposes the evident means and cries about the unreached end, deserves what she or he gets. Or less.

In a modern university, under the business principles of "sound management," the value of anyone or anything, from management's point of view, is its price. Our prices (salaries) may be low, but they reflect directly the value our managers assign to us. No moaning about "governance" will affect this transformation, through management, of the University in the image of the business corporation. We must use the instrument appropriate to the situation in which we find ourselves, organization. If we do not use it, if we follow the University's AAUP, we shall get precisely what we deserve. Or less.

Thomas Brady  
professor, history

### El Salvador

On Tuesday May 17, Oregon became the first state in the country to formally ask the federal government to stop military aid to the ruling junta in El Salvador.

Senate Joint Memorial 6, sponsored by Margie Hendrickson of Eugene, asks that the federal government place a moratorium on all military aid to the government of El Salvador until there is substantial and widely verifiable proof that their current policy of violent suppression of fundamental civil liberties and human rights has been terminated.

The memorial passed the State Senate by a vote of 29-1 and the House by a vote of 40-19. Such strong bi-partisan support is a strong expression of the fact that the American public is extremely hesitant to support a regime with no regard for even the most basic of human rights.

The staff and supporters of the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America, who participated in a concentrated lobbying effort, applaud the

Oregon Legislature and hope that similar legislation will be taken up in other states.

Help stop the more than 8,000 yearly killings of innocent civilians, help stop the \$205 million in military aid that Reagan wants to send to El Salvador this year, write to Washington and urge your representative to take action on Senate Joint Memorial 6.

Jim Middaugh  
Eugene Council for  
Human Rights  
in Latin America

### Misguided

I am always amazed by letters like the one submitted by Brandon Shepard in the May 18 Emerald. In one paragraph he said we should have "nuked" North Vietnam, while in the next he said the United States has a "humanitarian duty" to save people from communism.

Shepard must believe that it is humanitarian to kill helpless civilians of a communist country in order to protect human rights. Such nearsighted conclusions ignore the complexity of the issues involved.

In regard to Central America, I will accept the notion that communist governments often repress human rights. However, heavy-handed efforts by the United States in the last 90 years to shove non-communist governments down the throats of Latin Americans have been unsuccessful.

It is a violation of human rights when Washington decides which national faction is "good" and then supplies arms, undertakes covert actions and supports dictators to enforce our misguided foreign policy. Such methods have not worked and will not work. The United States must seek different ways of ensuring human rights in Latin America.

Martin Jaqua  
law

### 'Cutesy'

Regarding the May 19 headline "University alum to give artsy talk." How cutesy!

Carolyn Steward  
secretary, physical plant  
Wednesday, May 25, 1983

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