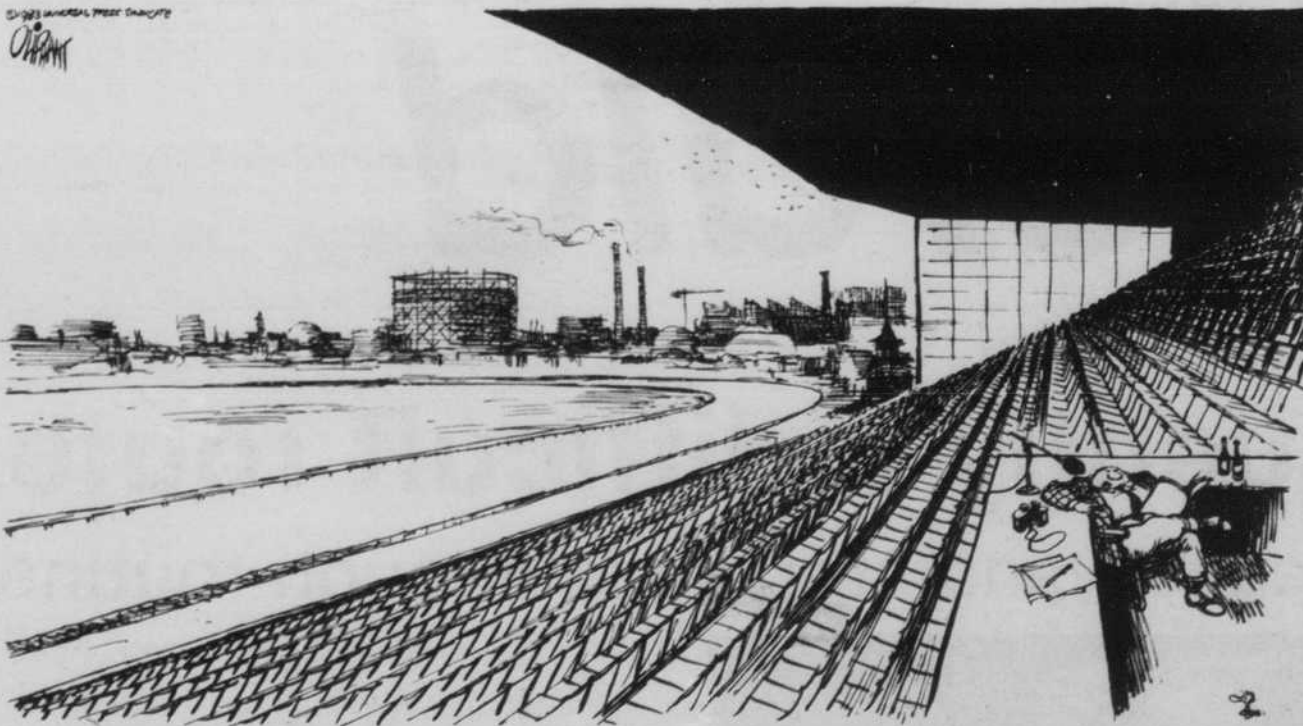




... INTO THE BACK STRETCH, IT'S GLENN AND MONDALE NECK AND NECK, TWO LENGTHS BACK TO HART...

harry esteve

Swansong with a smile

Shortly after my year-long term as editor of the Emerald began last summer, I found myself on the phone to the dean of the journalism school. I was asking for his advice on how to handle a particularly sticky controversy that arose after the very first issue.

He recommended humor. It was sound advice, advice that showed the wisdom of years of journalistic expertise and a tenure as former Emerald editor. I wish I could have followed it.

It was hard coming up with one-liners though, when a member of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce said to me in a soft, confident voice: "You're in a hell of a lot of trouble, young man."

But the dean's counsel stayed with me as the months staggered by. I began to consider it a challenge: how to be amused by animosity, how to lampoon a law suit.

Fortunately, I got some help.

There was the woman on the phone, irate because we hadn't yet printed the names of some students who had won academic awards. We hadn't received any information about the awards, I explained to her. "That's not how Woodward and Bernstein went about it!" she retorted triumphantly.

Or the group of Middle Eastern students who crammed into my office, wanting to sue because we had printed an interview with an Israeli fighter pilot on the front page and hadn't given similar treatment to their press conference.

Following a half-hour discussion on freedom of the press and why they didn't have a "constitutional right" to a front page article, the group was unconvinced. "Let's fuck this!" one of them announced. And they all trooped out.

And what would the year have been like without our indomitable student government? Angered by our audacity to operate independently of them, ASUO representatives kept up a continuous barrage of threats and official-sounding complaints.

Among them was a precious little gem — officially titled a "legal essay" — that showed, if nothing else, our student leaders are prepar-

ing themselves quite well for careers in the big world of bureaucracy. Quoting from the essay:

"In view of the fact that the corporate officers of the ODE and the editor-in-chief of the ODE are chosen by the board of directors, the curtailment of the representational function by the arbitrary and capricious, not to say democratically insensitive, action of the ODE Board... diminishes, curtails, tempers and impairs the ability of the individual voting students to affect the entire policy of the ODE."

If I had known what it meant, I might have gotten upset.

The dean's advice was beginning to make some sense by this time. Humor can be a soothing balm against the sting of criticism.

Not the kind of "when in doubt, giggle," humor, a la Erma Bombeck, but the ability to laugh in the face of double-strength migraine headaches — headaches that are somehow transmitted through telephone receivers.

But even after becoming somewhat adept at the art of the gratuitous guffaw, there were times when laughter was impossible.

One of them was the day we found out the Oregon State University newspaper won an award for the best newspaper in the region. Or the day we received a particularly nasty — and anonymous — note to the editor. Putting it nicely, the mysterious author was calling the Emerald staff a group of incompetent illiterates. He or she ended the note with the cutting question, "Don't you people ever proofread (sic) your material?"

So ends my year at the helm of the Emerald. Although I feel a little like a negligent father walking out on his child, I know I'm leaving it in competent hands.

Debbie Howlett, who has been eagerly awaiting the chance to (re?)decorate my office the moment I remove the last dried-out and dying plant, has the strength and the patience it will take to survive the year as the editor.

And now that I can officially call myself a former editor, I feel qualified to proffer the most sagely advice I can think of.

Keep smiling, Debbie.

letters

No impediment

As president of the local AAUP chapter, let me respond to Prof. Brady's May 25 Emerald letter.

1. There is, and has been, very little interest in collective bargaining among this faculty. AAUP knows this because we have had public meetings and information sessions on the topic at which practically nobody showed up. Prof. Brady knows this because his pro-bargaining AFT group has, apparently, dried up for lack of faculty support. At least, we have heard nothing from him for some time.

2. If and when there is such interest, the AAUP will address itself to it. The idea that the campus AAUP chapter, with its 150 members, has such Draconian power over 900 Oregon faculty members as to be successful in keeping collective bargaining out of their eager grasp — even if the AAUP wanted to do it, which it doesn't — is ridiculous.

3. In the meantime, AAUP strategy has been to fight for higher salaries and better funding with the best weapons at hand: the facts. There is a shocking imbalance in funding for higher education in Oregon versus that for the public schools and community colleges. You don't need a union card to recognize that injustice, or to correct it.

4. If you think faculty governance is a "tattered myth" here, Tom, then try teaching were it doesn't exist. And if you still find yourself protected by academic freedom, tenure and due process rules, remember that it was the AAUP that established them, that keeps them alive, and that will go to bat for you — member or not — if you are denied them. For that reason, if no other, AAUP deserves your support, and that of every faculty member.

Rather than throwing rocks at the other players still on the field, why don't you and your organization get back into the game? If your arguments are as convincing as your think, then win over that great apathetic lump out there. AAUP isn't standing in your way.

Glen Love
professor, English

Purporting

A couple of days ago, a letter purporting to be from my good friend Prof. Thomas Brady of the history dept. ap-

peared in the Emerald. The letter attacked an organization to which I belong, the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

While I was at first, myself, taken in by the seeming authenticity of the letter (written in very good and precise English prose; dealt with faculty collective bargaining, an issue in which Prof. Brady is interested), I soon realized that it was evidently a forgery, and that someone had managed somehow to breach the Emerald's elaborate epistolary security measures and to present us with a document that could only result in damage to Prof. Brady's admirable academic standing. I write to clear his name.

What tipped me off the forgery was the way in which the letter ignored certain significant facts and misconstrued others, whereas the real Prof. Brady is far too good an historian to treat even recent history so one-sidedly. Specifically, the letter claimed that the AAUP had defeated its own collective bargaining election in 1977, but I know that Prof. Brady knows that the faculty as a whole voted down the proposal by a considerable majority; and the letter did not mention that another faculty organization, the American Federation of Teachers, attempted to call a collective bargaining election two years ago and could not get enough signatures from the faculty at large for the election to proceed. Since my friend Prof. Brady is an active member of the AFT, he would certainly have known that; the letter writer did not.

The Emerald staff will not, I hope, be too distressed about the appearance of a forgery in its "Letters" column. Obviously the forgery was well done. There may even be someone going about in a Prof. Brady disguise, and, should I see such a person, I shall report him to the Emerald immediately. I am grateful to the Emerald for allowing me this opportunity to defend the reputation of so respected a colleague and friend.

J.T. Sanders
professor, religious studies

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Emerald would have been distressed if a letter to the editor was a forgery. However, the letter referred to in Sander's letter was the authentic work of history professor Thomas Brady.)

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, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to 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 turns" must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial column will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turns" 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.

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