

opinion

Committee looks into student-athlete

The Emerald supports the decision of the University Senate to set up a committee to investigate prohibiting first-year students from athletic competition at the varsity level.

Right now the answer to the question of whether first-year students should or should not compete isn't really clear cut.

We are cautious in this matter because there is a movement afoot recommending to the National Collegiate Athletic Association that they lift the eligibility of first-year students. There are as many reasons to lift eligibility as there are to leave the rules as they now exist. The more universities and colleges that ban competition by first-year students the greater is the pressure on the NCAA to do the same nationally.

The question of the first-year student-athlete, and eligibility for varsity competition, was first broached at the University of California at Los Angeles in the spring. At that time UCLA's Legislative Assembly adopted (without dissent) a resolution proposing to the NCAA that "only those students who have completed at least 24 semester units or 36 quarter units of academic credit are eligible for varsity competition in football." They also resolved that "students who compete in football shall complete their four seasons of competition within five years."

UCLA was seeking to strengthen their academic standards. They viewed the current NCAA academic eligibility rules as doing little to ensure athletes gained full benefit of the university. UCLA also deplored the minimum progress rule, saying it could be "satisfied by a mish-mash of 'Mickey Mouse' courses."

While the point that a student, or student-athlete, is primarily at a university to succeed in an education, is beyond argument — the UCLA resolution ignores the fact that collegiate athletics is big business for universities. Exploiting first-year students in competition at the expense of their education is a problem in the system itself, not the individual athletes.

We hope the University Senate Committee investigating the issue can provide more information to resolve the question. It's easier to penalize the first-year athletes by prohibiting them from competition — it's much more difficult to revamp the whole system of collegiate athletics so that the business side doesn't supersede a student's opportunity for an education.

C'mon out... just for the heck of it

Today's University convocation is more than just an afternoon off — more than a chance to see your favorite and least favorite professors parading around the Memorial Quadrangle in the oddest of ceremonial garb.

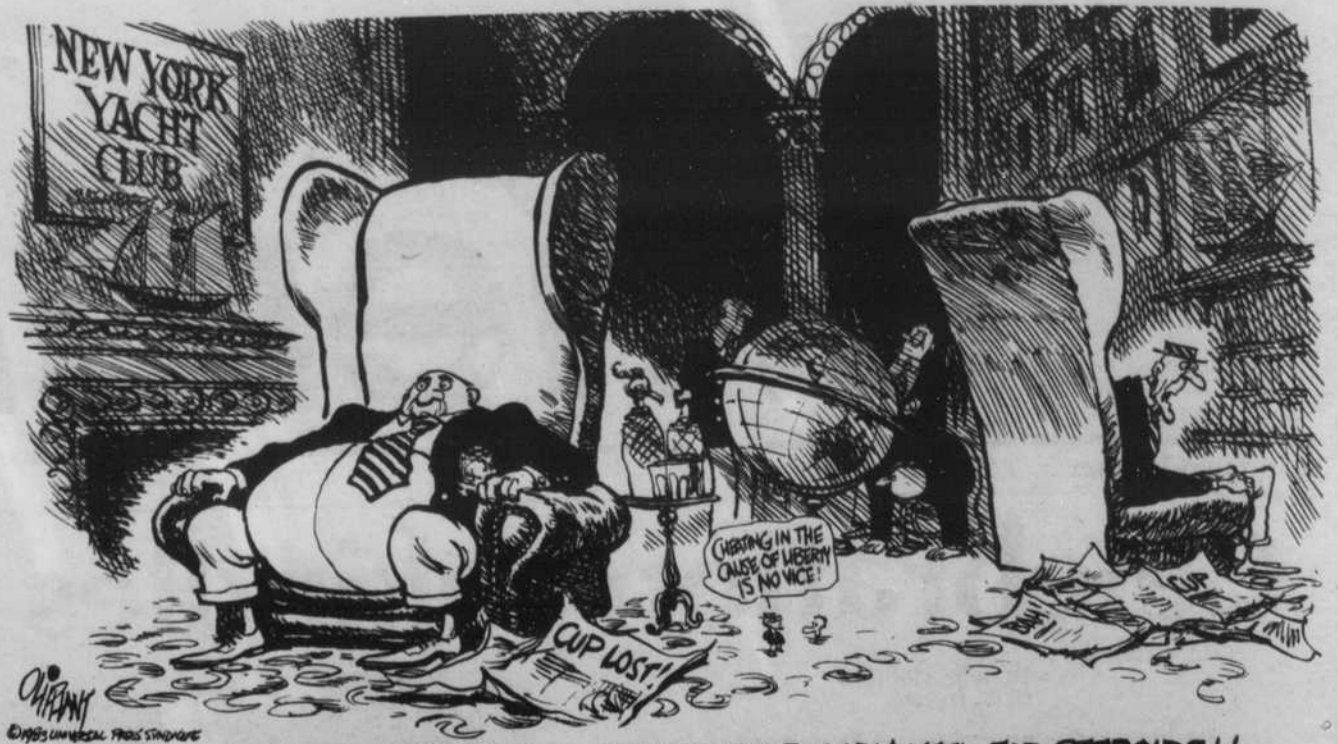
The convocation is a time to prepare for the rigors of the year ahead by putting things in perspective. Though — to put things in perspective — not a few students will wisely spend the free time reading and studying. Then again, not a few more students will take the afternoon off to catch up on their sleep. But, still more students, and more than a scurrilous few, will take the suspension of afternoon classes as a time to test their limits of endurance at any number of campus-area saloons.

For those not attending, the Emerald will attend and hear Peter Pouncey, the newly named president of Amherst College, speak on "Humanistic Imperatives in a Technological Society."

Pouncey's topic kicks off an afternoon of seminars on topics dear to those who wish to master a world of silicon chips, E-prongs and diodes (the devil you say).

While most students are away from classes doing heaven-knows-what, some interesting seminars on the technology theme are to be held. The seminar titles have that rousing techno-speak accent to them. The seminars range from "Robots and Czech Literature," "Wilderness and Technology," to "The Limits of Corporate Social Responsibility" and "Convivial Technology for the Global Village."

It's ironic that the ceremonies, scheduled to be held in the quadrangle in front of the library, will be moved to MacArthur Court in the event of rain. There are some things this technological age may never master.



'THAT'S WHAT WE COULD DO—CHECK THEIR BLOODY KEEL FOR STEROIDS!'

letters

Not involved

I would like to make some remarks concerning the lead story, "Students Challenge OSPIRG's Funding" (Emerald, Sept. 28).

The first paragraph stated that the present funding challenge against OSPIRG "...strongly resembles recent efforts by the College Republicans, the group that used "less than ethical" tactics in the 1972 presidential campaign..."

First, the College Republicans at the University are not, nor have ever been, involved in any action against OSPIRG or any other PIRG. In fact immediate post campus chairman, David Ridenour, is presently an OSPIRG campus board-member, duly elected to that office in last spring's election.

Second, with regards to being "less than ethical" in 1972, your article strayed from both accuracy and relevance. The insinuation that the UOCR club has ever acted in a "less than ethical" manner is both insulting and false. The present UOCR club was founded in 1981 and registered with the EMU in 1982. It has absolutely no relationship or link with any of the past in either membership, charter or registration. During the late '70's, to our knowledge, there were no CR clubs on campus. Moreover, our club is completely new and independent. It has never broken any code, ordinance or law of this city, this state, or this campus. Whatever you may feel about our policies and our positions, we have been fully ethical.

Finally, though not a journalism or English student, I am at a complete loss as a reader to find the pertinence of an election 11 years ago and my club at present. At the time of CR supposed wrongdoing, I and most of my membership were plodding our way through the rigors of grade three, and conspiring to watch Saturday morning cartoons — in this, as far as I know, we were not concerned with college politics. At any rate, the election of 1972 has no relationship or significance concern-

ing Richard Burr's individual actions.

I would humbly suggest that Jim Moore, Emerald ASUO associate editor, attempt to remain more on topic when reporting news. Ad hominis arguments, subtle slurs and the ghosts of Watergate's past, though nifty political tools, really have no place in objective reporting.

Douglas Green
chairperson, college Republicans

Hail him

I disagree with Christopher Gore (Sept. 30), that Kouns' speech at the Sept. 19 inaugural was "totally out of the context with the spirit of NSHP." While it is true that Kouns "seized upon this opportunity" to present his viewpoints, I would rather hail him for this act than recoil to customary disdain.

American college students comprise one of the most ignorant and apathetic sectors in contemporary society. In fact, European exchange students are usually shocked to discover in American students such an alarming lack of insight into foreign affairs. And too often, those that manage to keep abreast of current affairs, do so only with the aid of a slanted media.

It is clear that the American university's main function is to render service to the corporate system. Here, you will find a conveyor belt churning out tomorrow's technicians, managers, and briefcase toters, all of whom are trained to grease the wheels in the machine we call America.

The American university is failing in its original purpose however, which is to produce critical thinkers who delve into current social, political, and ethical problems and develop a composite solution only after weighing a variety of possibilities.

Furthermore, business and professional students have too often chosen their academic focus because of some vague promise of a lucrative career waiting for them upon graduation. These students are basing their financial prospects on naively optimistic forecasts which promise upswings in the economy and unlimited growth, despite such insignificant factors as social discontent at home and abroad, world starvation, environmental degradation, and the threat of global war.

Finally, American universities have failed to produce students who have the courage to take moral positions on any given vital issue-positions which would more often than not cause them to deviate from the status quo and set standards of individual leadership.

However flawed Kouns' approach was, I applaud him for

shaking students out of their shell of comfort. Shall we coddle and hand-hold students for four years? As for those who think that his speech was not hopeful, let me remind readers that hope isn't a doorbell that one can ring when a crisis appears. Rather, hope is the gift of perseverance for those with the courage to work for change.

Sarah Barton
senior, English

Right agenda

In response to Dan Goulet's letter, Emerald Sept. 28, here are some of the plans for the nation Watt and his New Right cohorts have on their agenda, just in case we were too distracted by their ludicrously hypocritical and moronic personal beliefs (such as Watt's bigotry and the White House's cynical sexism):

Watt would like to radically reduce restraints on mining and industrial development in the U.S. in order for industry to have free rein in the exploitation of our environment. With this greater freedom, more uranium could be mined for overly expensive and dangerous nuclear power plants and for use in thermonuclear weapons research and development. In addition, oil companies could drill off the California coast without "cumbersome" safety precautions, eventually leading to oil spills which would indelibly mar the beauty of our coastlines and destroy a plentiful food source.

With the greater freedom, companies like Union Carbide, General Dynamics and United Technologies (mammoth defense contractors, supported by tax dollars for building huge, needless amounts of weaponry at the expense of funding for housing, food production and education for Americans and the poor around the world) could dump carcinogenic chemicals in dense population areas and watersheds, causing disease and death. Coal from strip-mines near national parks could be burned for more electricity (most of which everybody wastes) and the resulting smoke could be liberated from pollution-control devices, defoliating our forests and causing health problems because of the resulting acid rain.

It's pretty clear what the New Right's agenda for the interior holds: Escalation of the already suicidal arms race, poisoned oceans and scarred countryside, destruction of food supplies, disease and death.

Watt and his friends' tactless and plainly idiotic behavior is simply symptomatic of the fact that their beliefs are formed in twisted minds. When the truth of reactionaries' inner beliefs are exposed, their demise is inevitable.

Rolf Sjogren
junior, history

oregon daily

emerald

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