

Radical moderation

By Michael Rust
Assistant Editor

In a book describing experiences as a volunteer in the 1960 presidential campaign, novelist James Michener described how then-candidate John Kennedy had been heckled by some youthful Republican sympathizers at Indiana University. Michener indignantly reported this was all

typical of students of his acquaintance. Indeed, he prophesied dark days for the 1960s would reveal American college students to be such a group of some insouciant American right-wing movement.

As it turned out, history responded to Mr. Michener's analysis in about the same way that critics have usually responded to his reports. All of this is long past of course, but there's a certain irony if one looks back over a 20-year-old story and similar stories today.

For the past several years a great deal of finger-wagging has been directed against the supposed conservatism of college students. Reports of membership increases in ROTC and fraternities and societies have been common. Even more high-minded was Nicholas von Hoffman's claim in the pages of *Harper's* in May 1982 that Ronald Reagan "is alerted and roused on by the rewards of capitalist wealth and the pleasures of the young American for Jesus, the Helms helms, and in every church, the youth sing along with a constant while-hour rate of approval through which they have all been programmed to work of finding and refuting the unaltered abstract values so dear to Democrats.

Although it was a considerable relief for many to have identified the source of that white noise that rang in their ears every time they stepped on campus, my sports were stirred by the knowledge that even a supposedly progressive place such as Eugene was not immune from the neighbors of the Right. As the same Mr. Hoffman's article was on the occasion of a lecture by a professor from the University of Wisconsin, I was in the audience at the University of Oregon in the middle of a far-right totalitarian state and was here's yet another "It was glad to see information was reported by the daily, if somewhat credulous, one-

you Daily Emerald, as well as Catherine's conviction that college students ignore racism and sexism in their "because of an increase in apathy and a decline in a desire to learn."

In June 1982, the Emerald weighed in with another scope of work. In the last edition of the 1981-82 school year — a year commonly called "Gray no-right" — the Emerald mentioned that Eugene, the seat of "Berkeley of the North West," an underground of students, a night that was causing it to heat a striking resemblance to Bob Jones University — or has that matter — Oregon State? Even as recently as last year, a woman convinced an Emerald reporter it was an example of "the conservative movement currently raging across the country." The reporter's conversation, unfortunately, "creeping and raging" in a 1980 do-ugly, but one gets the general idea.

Happily, it seems as the age of Reagan continues, students are re-dressing themselves. No less an expert than Mr. Gary Trudeau, the Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of *Douglas*, told a Harvard Class Day audience last June that he had observed signs that students are about to begin another cycle of protest activity. Trudeau cited the hostile reaction to recent campus speakers by United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick as reason for his opinion. Apparently, the idea of a speaker being howled off a platform sounded to quite well with Mr. Trudeau's memories of his own youthful idealism.

In an atmosphere of this sort, the birth of a publication such as this is bound to elicit greatly varied reactions. In my own case, it has triggered some thoughts about my own political attitudes and how they have evolved throughout my University years. When I started in Eugene in the fall of 1979, I was glad to be in a place with a heritage of political activism, and a

reputation for being a haven for the refugees. In the one word commonly I came from, I had worked as a volunteer for liberal candidates in a couple of campaigns — both a racial trial, but the closer thing I could find to political activism. A 1977 campaign Wayne Morse poster and a 1974 campaign Richard Nixon counter-down calendar were among the objects on my bedroom wall. Honor 5. Thompson was my favorite political journalist. I had had years worth of back issues of *Belling Stone* and I preferred "Able's Revolution" to the sound track from "Saturday Night Fever" (Olivetti). I was one-up on most of my classmates when I arrived in Eugene.

During the 1979-80 school year, I was involved with a number of political groups, most notably Students for a Nuclear-Free Future. I participated in and helped organize demonstrations, leaflet distribution, as well as the petition drive to place nuclear power reactors on the ballot. I made no great claims about any of this, although my political involvement allowed me to feel certain as compared myself to my "apathetic" classmates. It was minuscule compared to that of other people and involved no great sacrifice on my part. I mention it simply to show where I was when my attitudes began to shift.

In the same I tell my budding activist career, the 1980 election was upon us. We shall never see days like those again. It's difficult to explain to those who were not present just what the response to Reagan's victory was like in places such as Eugene. The more popular opinion seemed to be that some east-borne of religious fanatics had torn through the country with the general objective of signing out big little cohorts of progressivism such as Eugene.

It really seemed that some students, no matter how sincere or well-meaning, lacked something — call it historical perspective. I will remain

Continued on Page 3

Stop the presses

Alternative paper hits campus

Some 4,000 copies of a new bi-weekly newspaper, the *Oregon Commentator*, hit the newsstands Monday morning.

The new non-profit publication, is published by Dane Claussen, a former Emerald ASUO associate editor. The *Commentator* is an alternative newspaper that "believes in the newspaper's role as an opinion leader, rather than simply recording and reflecting a viewpoint," writes Claussen in his "Publisher's Files" column.

The newspaper will offer articles about science, business and economics and debate education issues, tasteful humor and satire, according to Claussen's column. Additional copies will be printed as advertising allows, says Claussen.

"Commentator articles will tell you what the other publications on campus are unable to tell you because of the inexperience, incompetence or narrow-mindedness of their staffs," writes Claussen.

Oregon Daily Emerald Editor

Debbie Howlett says she is glad to see an alternative paper on campus.

"I think it's great...I think there's a need for students to have a choice of opinions and in what they want to read," she says.

But the *Commentator* isn't in direct competition with the *Emerald*, Howlett says. "We have the same market, but we're not in competition," she says.

Commentator editors agree. "We will complement rather than compete," says Michael Rust, a *Commentator* associate editor and a former *Emerald* associate editor.

"To plan to compete in any way would be too complimentary to them (other campus newspapers)," writes Claussen.

"We appreciate their activism," says Jim Middaugh, ASUO publications coordinator. "We find it generally well researched and written."

However, "we regret that they talked about other publications being 'inexperienced, incompe-

tent and narrowminded.'" Middaugh is editor of the *Survival Center's Oregon Advocate*.

The paper is subsidized through the resources of the staff and advertisements, Rust says.

Commentator has applied for use of unoccupied EMU space on a rental basis. The House Committee of the EMU Board of Directors, which handles such applications, is meeting Wednesday. The publication has filed for registration with the ASUO for the purpose of having access to meeting space, but not for funding.

ASUO paper gets new name, editor

The ASUO executive branch announced two changes affecting the ASUO programs newspaper — a new editor and a new name.

Jim Middaugh, a senior in journalism and political science, has replaced Mary Hope as editor. Hope left the University because of financial reasons.

The paper's name, originally announced as *Not the Emerald*, has been changed to *Off the Record* because the *Oregon Daily Emerald* published a parody issue April 1 two years ago and holds rights to the name *Not the*

Emerald according to Sherri Shultz, ASUO executive assistant.

Shultz also says some ASUO staff members, including Middaugh, were not comfortable with the name.

ASUO Pres. Mary Hotchkiss says she has mixed emotions about the change in editors.

"I'm disappointed and sad that Mary Hope had to leave," Hotchkiss says. "But I'm glad to have Jim and think he will do a good job."

Middaugh, who edited his high school paper in San Jose, Calif.,

and is also editor of the *Survival Center's newspaper The Advocate*, said he is "a bit apprehensive" about his new job but is looking forward to the challenge.

The first issue of the monthly paper should hit the newsstands Nov. 7 or Nov. 8 and Middaugh says that doesn't leave him much time.

"I need help," he says. The paper needs volunteers to write copy, people to sell advertising on commission and the programs to submit copy, Middaugh says.

Middaugh says the bulk of copy

will come from the ASUO programs, but the paper will have an editorial column and he has offered a column to the interfraternity council.

Long-range goals include establishing a community calendar, a legislative update and an occasional poetry or fiction piece, he says.

But right now Middaugh just wants to get *Off the Record* off the ground.

"I hope the programs will take advantage," he says. "The success hinges on getting copy."

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