

# USSA congress worth attending

When a handful of University students made their way across the country over spring break to attend a United States Students Association conference in Washington, D.C., they left with a few expectations and a lot of hope and returned with increased lobbying knowledge and skills and a national congress of the USSA.

Much of the hubbub and activity on this normally tranquil summer campus this week is that congress.

A series of workshops, caucuses, and task forces are spread from one end of the campus to the other. The congress schedule seems to include most issues pertinent to universities and students. Women's issues, voter registration, the environment and financial aid are only some of the topics.

And there is a lot more happening.

For one thing, the voting delegates in attendance will hammer out a policy platform of priority issues for the 1984-85 academic year. Last year's platform had 14 issues listed and its priority issue was financial aid, somewhat ironic considering last year was the year of the Solomon Amendment flap.

Without a crystal ball it's difficult to predict what might head the list this time around, but with a crucial November election on the horizon, we hope student voter registration will be the hot topic.

Some statistics show that since the voting age was lowered, the number of students voting has actually declined. The USSA and other campus and political groups have been stepping up registration drives for nearly a year now. Perhaps making voter registration the priority will lead to more students at the polls.

As far as the local delegation is concerned, the word is that the seven University delegates will be pushing for environmental issues. A majority of the USSA membership is from the East Coast, and, according to some University delegates who traveled to D.C., the environment takes a back seat to other issues with the eastern contingent.

Meanwhile, in the classic political tradition of late-night meetings and smoke-filled rooms, a separate power struggle for the national presidency of the association is going on.

In the thick of the bartering and, apparently, the thick of the race, is former ASUO Vice Pres. Kevin Kouns. As a member of USSA's board of directors, Kouns began lobbying for the top seat at the D.C. conference and has enough support to be enthusiastic about his chances.

While it may not directly benefit the University if Kouns garners the USSA presidency, it certainly won't harm us. Good luck Kevin.

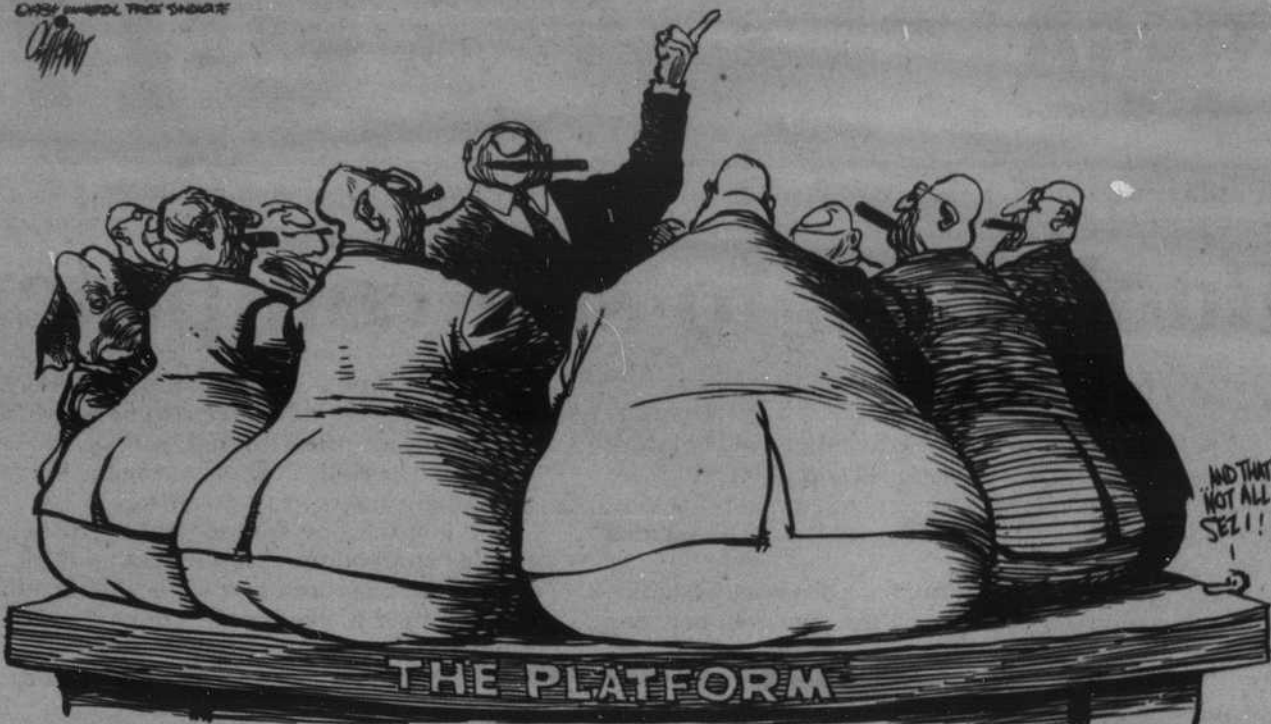
The ASUO has exerted much effort in organizing and hosting the congress and deserves a pat on the back. We hope the students and faculty of the University take advantage of the plethora of sessions on campus and attend some before the congress ends Thursday.

## A timely offer

We applaud the news that a package is in the works that would allow students and faculty in the state system to purchase microcomputers virtually at cost. According to one source, the proposal could mean a 40- to 50-percent savings.

It's a given that today's society demands computer knowledge from the thousands of degree holders that universities are grinding out each spring. And the day will come when most educating is done on a computer system, so it's appropriate that this benefit comes from a network of education.

CROSS AMERICAL TRUCK SHEDDING



"THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY WE SHOULD BROADEN OUR BASE. TO THEM I SAY, 'FAT CHANCE!' "

## letters

### War dreams

While I appreciate many of the ideas expressed by Stewart R. King (Thursday), I feel compelled to defend the statue "Corporate Soldier."

The first time I saw the statue I gasped, shrugged and continued about my business. However, for several days, I had dreams about war. War is not among my experiences.

In the last of these dreams, a handsome young man was wounded and "repaired" by doctors. When the doctors were finished, the soldier was more metal than flesh, and the soldier was returned to the front lines.

The next time I saw the "Corporate Soldier," I understood from where these nightmares had come. (Perhaps my reaction was so strong because many of the men I know are Viet Nam veterans).

The man who created the "Corporate Soldier" ... is himself a Viet Nam veteran, and was actively involved in a veteran's organization which opposed that war. Even without that knowledge it doesn't seem accurate to say the statue glorifies soldiering. It is rusty, ugly, and, the pose suggests, being shot.

For me, the "Corporate (as in multinational corporation) Soldier" is a powerful anti-war statement.

Shasta Hatter  
Psychology

### Republicans?

Three earnest young Republicans have done us the favor (Tuesday) of revealing, for all to see, their propensity for sloppy thinking, neglect of facts, and indifference to human suffering. Michael Cross's iteration of the old Republican chestnut that all wars in this century were started under Democrats is a textbook example of the "post hoc propter hoc" (after which because of which) fallacy: Did Hitler and Tojo have nothing to do with all of those thousands of young men that Roosevelt, according to Cross, was responsible for killing? Would Hitler never have risen to power if Hoover had been re-elected in 1932? Should we have sided with the Nazis?

Also, who is the purveyor of "empty slogans and meaningless propaganda": the man who squarely faces the necessity to raise taxes or the buffo actor who hedges on the question and flexes his muscle saying "America is back"?

Mr. Visoky is at least more intelligent than Mr. Cross, but in denying any responsibility of the state to help the poor and destitute, he amply reveals the callous indifference to suffering which is an article of faith among free-market ideologues. Thank you, Mr. Visoky, for showing your true face.

Ms. Parkman's fulsome praise of Reagan's appointments of

women conveniently ignores the millions of welfare mothers whom he has victimized by his cuts in social services and overlooks the astonishing 50-percent rise in infant mortality among blacks since Reagan took office. If Reagan is morally offended by abortion, why is he indifferent to the death of children after they are born?

Thomas I. Ellis  
Ph.D., English

### Purple Rage

Ever since I saw "Purple Rain" I have been furious. The film's blatant abuse of women, verbal and physical, was atrocious. The audience was treated to several instances of degradation; a woman thrown into a trash can, women casually referred to as bitches, a woman hit in the face by "the Kid" when she seeks to follow her own direction.

After reading several almost glowing reviews of "Purple Rain," my rage is growing. To come to the University this morning (Thursday) and discover the Emerald praising the film for its "substance, talent and exciting drama" was too much. Perhaps it was ignorance on my part, but I formerly regarded the Emerald as an enlightened, somewhat progressive newspaper. I am now not only angry, but also disillusioned.

Krysti Lambert  
Health Sciences

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