

opinion

Davis must act now to resolve problems

What we called "quiet rumblings of discontent within the ASUO" last July have now manifested themselves into full scale problems. Three important and creative members of the ASUO staff have resigned after stating that the administration and leadership of Pres. Julie Davis were making it too hard and unpleasant for them to do their jobs.

During the past two weeks, executive assistant Sherri Stultz, student events coordinator Bill Snyder and state affairs coordinator Scott Seibert announced their resignations, claiming that there was a lack of openness and cooperation in the ASUO office.

In addition, there are rumors of discontent coming from other ASUO staff members over the way Davis is running things. It is hard to say whether these rumors reflect fact, but something is obviously wrong.

The current air of disunity in Suite 4 must be resolved if the ASUO is going to be effective in its leadership this year and achieve the important goals it has set for itself. It is clear that the Davis administration will be different from last year's ASUO under the leadership of Mary Hotchkiss. There is no reason why Davis should follow in the steps of Hotchkiss as some pro-Hotchkiss people would like to see.

Students voted for Davis because they felt she was qualified and dedicated to an effective and strong ASUO. They are right. The Davis administration has all the ingredients to be a strong student government. But to do that they must be open enough to work out their staff differences and achieve a higher level of trust and unity with each other.

An ASUO leadership that alienates members of its staff cannot possibly present itself as a strong and unified organization. There are ways to resolve some of these problems. Davis must delegate responsibility, keep staff informed of important decisions and give them a chance to voice their opinions in an open and non-threatening atmosphere.

Davis has the potential to make the remaining nine months of her term successful for her administration and for the University student body. She is a strong and intelligent leader. However, the recent resignation of three staff members shows that she must make a better effort to encourage open communication and trust within the ASUO office.

Lebanon remains a costly mistake for Americans

Once again tragedy has taken the lives of Americans in Lebanon. Thursday, for the third time in 17 months, Americans were the victims of a suicide car bomb attack by a terrorist group which calls itself the Islamic Jihad.

It would be easy to say that the United States is the innocent victim of insane, unpredictable and excessively cruel violence in a country where guns speak louder than words. It is a lot harder to explain who should take the blame for the continued death of Americans in Lebanon. It's also hard to know who is responsible for a faulty security system designed to protect Americans, and to explain why Americans have become an enemy in a civil war that is not their own.

The Reagan administration's policy in Lebanon after the 1982 Israeli invasion has been nothing short of support for an ill-gotten Israeli military adventure that has left mass chaos and violence in its wake. While Reagan spoke of American neutrality in the Lebanon conflict, his administration repeatedly vetoed U.N. Security Council resolutions that called for an Israeli withdrawal from that country. Reagan continued to send military equipment to Israel throughout the occupation, and he openly backed the new Lebanese government that came to power after the Israeli invasion — a government made up almost entirely of the anti-Moslem Christian militia previously under the control of Bashir Gemayel.

These activities hardly speak of political neutrality. Almost two years after the PLO made a public exodus from Lebanon, the Israelis are still there and Americans are still being killed. If new Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres succeeds in getting Israeli troops out of Lebanon (he has been opposed to their presence there from the start) it will be a major step in correcting one of Israel's biggest military mistakes to date.

In Lebanon there is no such thing as security for anyone. The Reagan administration has yet to learn an important lesson: Don't get involved in other peoples' civil wars. In the complicated case of Lebanon it is a civil war that has been going on for centuries. The only thing Reagan has succeeded in doing in Lebanon is offering American lives for target practice.



letters

Nonviolent

It's now 39 years since nuclear bombs were used to methodically, experimentally incinerate two civilian population centers. Medical researchers are still documenting how these bombs continue to maim and kill. Yet in comparison with the destructive power of today's arsenal, the world of 1945 was practically a Garden of Eden.

Seven years ago, I first made a point of participating in a public commemoration of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, having attained a stage of "moral maturity" enabling me to understand that I am responsible for any further use of such hellish devices, and thus must act to prevent the possibility.

At first my efforts were on a mental and political level: I endeavored to understand the finer points of nuclear strategy, to speak nuclearese, and to win minds and votes. To convince I was one of Oregon's first members of Physicians for Social Responsibility, a group which does an admirable job on that level with particular regard to health and biological effects of nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

I have since come to understand the arms race as a spiritual question, one necessarily requiring a spiritual answer. Politics, dealing primarily with gradients of power, will never resolve our deeper predicaments. "Have nothing to do with power," advised Gandhi shortly before he died.

We must still vote, and petition, and talk with people about the problem, because these are avenues for nonviolent change.

But we need to find a deeper faith to carry us through this crisis. We need to posit and then try to manifest what activist-theologian Jim Douglass calls "the spiritual equivalent of 'e equals mc squared.'" "

We're all weary of being convinced. We've learned to be tremendously headstrong, and look where it's taken us. Let us learn to be heartstrong; to convert, and to be converted. The Sermon on the Mount and Gandhi's model of satyagraha (truthforce) can be the basis for a practical religion of non-violence in the nuclear age.

Vip B. Short
958 Lawrence, Eugene.

Subscription fee

I would like to clarify for the entire student body a message I felt your paper has left purposefully vague:

1. All registered students are entitled to get the \$1.78 Emerald "subscription" fee

which was taken out of our tuition this year.

2. To get your refund, hurry to room 300 in the EMU and ask for it. No refunds will be given after Friday.

3. If you wish to "donate" this optional money which you have already paid to the Emerald, do nothing.

Through the referendum procedure last year U of O students voted the Emerald funding optional, yet your ad refers to "students who have paid unwillingly for their subscription..." Which students? What subscription?

Fifteen thousand students are eligible for refunds this year, yet late Monday afternoon I was informed that only three people had read the ad, figured it out, and gotten their money.

Please print this article before Friday. The students have a right to have options explained in clear and unambiguous terms.

Steven Pradell
Law student

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, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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