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UO STUDENTS:

Because the Oregon Daily Emerald became an optional student fee last spring, we are now offering refunds to students who have paid unwillingly for their subscription to this newspaper.

Students who do receive this refund are stating their intent not to read the Emerald for the remainder of the current term.

Through Friday January 11, we will be refunding \$1.78 to students in room 300 of the EMU.

But remember: The small cost of an Emerald subscription - 3¢ a day - buys 3 months of news about your education, your administration and your weekend entertainment.

letters

Free speech?

The comments attributed to President Olum by the ODE (12/6) are amusing and more revealing than their speaker thought.

Olum refers to English poet John Milton's ideas concerning free speech. Milton's *Aeropoeitica* defends freedom of speech as necessary to allow "responsible" people to decide their own minds on issues. For Milton, this speech exists only for a Christian ruling class. Heresy, Milton concedes, is not protected under the rubric of free speech. Nor do the masses possess such freedoms, not being "responsible" enough. In short, speech for the ruling class, crass rhetoric for the oppressed.

Technologically and militarily the United States leads the global ruling class. Students should understand that they are directly implicated in atrocities committed by the Marines when the University "sponsors" Marine presentations. Students are forced, by Judge Woodrich's Dec. 4 ruling, to continue supporting the apartheid abuses of white supremacist South Africa. Does this University represent the military corporate vocational system?

Free speech is a privilege of the ruling class. Every day the U.S. military supports the murder of a student protester or the mass arrests of Chilean activists. If this is the "price of freedom," then it's time we rethought: Freedom for Whom? Olum mimics not only Milton's rhetoric, but also his 17th-century assumptions. Or is it heresy to reveal the oppressive policies of the alma mater? Mens agitat molem, except when it comes to investing, when the \$ rules.

P.S. If 35 conservative Congress members can condemn apartheid, why can't Paul Olum?

Robert Taylor
English

No more war

Like, ya know, killing the gypsy moth isn't any different from Vietnam. Haven't we, like, learned our lesson? I mean like the gypsy moth has a right to eat trees — I mean like, we burn wood don't we? If we killed the gypsy moth the entire ecosystem would be in chaos. We don't kill Bald Eagles because they're a fascist creature that kills — like Hitler and the Nazi College Republicans on campus. No more war on gypsy moths — We must unite!

Dan Goulet
Save the Bugs

Sexist words

In response to Brian Moore's letter (ODE 12/5):

I wonder why women wanting inclusive language is so threatening to you? Regardless of your need to belittle the issue, using man (which is used to mean one with male genitalia) is sexist. Period. Leave m-e-n/s-o-n in words that are not being used to mean humanity as a whole, just don't use men/man to mean people. It really isn't that hard.

Leah Juniper
W.R.R.S.

Morality?

I would like to comment on a letter by Peter Mayer of Eugene in the 11/9 Emerald. He claims that because Marxism denies God, it "takes away the basis of ethics and morality and has provided mankind with the philosophical justification for the murder of 150 million people in 67 years."

I am not a Marxist, but I take issue with Mr. Mayer's logic. The claim that God is the basis of morality illustrates a gross misunderstanding of the concept of ethics and morality. Moreover, it should be noted that far more people have been killed in the name of God than at the hands of Marxists.

Peter M. O'Day
Biology

Olum's right on

President Olum is right on the button in his criticism of the people who disrupted the slide show of the Marine recruiters at the EMU. A university must keep itself open to the expression of all views, even those which may be repugnant to many people. No individual or group has the right to set itself up as a self-appointed vigilante that suppresses the written or spoken word. History is filled with stories of censors, bookburners and goon squads whose actions have deprived others of the right to express themselves.

There is nothing wrong with expressing displeasure or disagreeing with what others say or write; indeed, disagreement is the part of the process of finding the truth — the major function of a university. But disruption is not disagreement.

Barry N. Siegel
President, Lane County
Chapter
American Civil Liberties Union

Anti-social

It didn't surprise me when I saw the cartoon "America's fighting bishops..." (Emerald 12/6) in *The Register-Guard*; it wouldn't have surprised me to see it in the *Commentator*. It was a surprise, though, that the Emerald figured it had to give the *Register-Guard* a hand in spreading Oliphant's message. Granted, there are cartoons sparkling with such wit that it covers a repugnant anti-social message. It strikes me, this particular cartoon is meretricious and deserving of reprinting only from the point of view of a last-ditch defense of capitalism.

Capitalism is one side of a materialistic coin, the other side of which is communism. This coin always belonged to Caesar, whom Christians, through the centuries, have at times been more eager to worship than God. Last year the bishops condemned one form of Caesar worship in their pastoral against nuclear weapons; this year it is the worship of enrichment which attempts to replace social justice with smithereens of charity. It must not be forgotten that, unlike Protestantism, Catholicism has never been comfortable with capitalism. For centuries the church condemned usury without which capitalism couldn't have developed.

I am proud that my bishops put distance between the church and Caesar. According to human nature they will be hated and vilified by those who are comfortable with an unjust social order.

A.E. Brettauer
Eugene

Eliminate rape

Pornographic t-shirts and business suits differ vastly in their coercive effects. I strongly suggest that Mr. Young (ODE 12/3) go to the Women's Studies office and request a viewing of the anti-pornography slide show developed in part by the YWCA.

This anti-pornography slide show should also be seen by the fraternity men running an escort service and by all men concerned about rape. The elimination of rape depends in large part upon men reforming men. It is crucial for all men to learn that pornographic presentations of women's bodies do far more damage to the mental health and physical safety of women than drab business suits ever could.

Lisa K. Johnson,
History

oregon daily emerald

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