

Commentator merits funds, not ideological persecution

Those who would deny funding to the Oregon Commentator should carefully examine the hypocrisy underlying such a position. They claim to oppose funding for a variety of reasons, but the only reason most have is that they object to their money going to a conservative publication.

If accuracy is to be the standard, apply it in the same manner to every publication supported with student fees. Some say that beyond inaccuracy, the Commentator distorts its "news" stories, adding an editorial twist. Anyone who wants to single out the Commentator for this criticism has obviously never looked critically at an issue of the Oregon Advocate or Off the Record. Using the same standard, they would not pass muster. Over the years, "news" stories in these publications have had as much editorial slanting as anything appearing in the Commentator.

The difference between the Commentator's writing and that in the Advocate or Off the Record, aside from the differences in sub-

ject matter, is in political viewpoint. The reason that the Advocate doesn't get told to clean up its journalistic act and threatened with loss of funding is that it has a liberal viewpoint.

I am not trying to condemn the Advocate or other publications. I am trying to point out that the Commentator, for no reason other than its political viewpoint, has constantly been the victim of a cadre of irrational hypocrites, so-called "progressives," who would not know the First Amendment if their mothers nailed it to their chests. These people believe that only certain ideas, with which they agree, should be heard in campus publications.

I hope that there will be some in the new ASUO leadership with the maturity and foresight to accept the Commentator for what it is — a raucous but healthy counterpoint to the mainstream of liberal expression on campus — and support its continued presence.

Commentary by Alan Contreras
Contributing writer, Oregon Commentator

letters

Left out

Minority enrollment at this University is indeed too low (indeffensibly low in my view), and it is important that the Emerald draw attention to this inequity, as it did on the front page of its May 15 edition. ("University's enrollment of minorities is 'too low'"). Unfortunately, as is often the case in articles that purport to address so-called minority issues, the article referred not at all to that most invisible and most oppressed of all minority groups

— American Indians. Those of us who do attend this University are here largely to acquire the skills necessary to improve conditions in our Indian communities, and we recognize only too clearly that there should be many more of us here pursuing similar goals.

It would be reassuring to believe that the Emerald, and for that matter the University, understands the importance of improved educational opportunities for Indian people. In the American legal system, Indian tribes are entitled to exercise many of the powers of self-

government. In order to do this effectively, with maximum benefit to our peoples and our lands, we need leaders who have been educated at universities. When public media and institutions ignore our legitimate needs, we remain invisible; if we remain invisible, we tend to be all the more vulnerable to oppression.

Steve Suagee
American Indian Law Student Association

Illusory fact

Time and again, I hear the zealous efforts of non-Christians who want to instill into the minds of all of us the illusory ideas that the Bible is the greatest "Book of Contradictions" (ODE May 15).

Many a time I ask for proof of this illusory fact. I have not heard or read of any. If one tries to prove it, he will be doing what the greatest scholars of the world have tried to do, and failed. Jesus said, "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect — if that were possible,"

(Matt. 24:24 NIV). I encourage anyone to write me and show me any fact-based proof of contradictions in the Bible. My address is: Box 60474 Hamilton, University of Oregon, Eugene, 97403-6004.

May God bless each of you.
David Stevenson
Born-again student

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