

Letters

Better if fewer

I do not resent the people who want to serve their country in the armed forces. I do resent those who believe that only by joining the military can citizens serve their country. There are many "helping professions" and many vital industries in which a citizen can participate to serve his/her country. Soldiers are not the only ones who serve their country.

I would say that far fewer

soldiers would serve the United States much better. I object to the size, influence and expense of the armed forces. How can a military force that is scattered across 117 nations be called "defensive?" Why are tests developed by the military used for high school vocational counseling? How come we can afford "Star Wars," but can't afford to repair the nation's bridges, roads and railroads?

As for the issue of deceptive recruitment, perhaps it is unfair

to demand that the military be more honest than other employers. On the other hand, few other employers claim the right to send their employees into life threatening situations. Those that do — police and fire departments — make this working condition explicit.

The military does not belong in the lobby of the student union.

Shasta Hatter
Psychology

See other films

Consider the Cultural Forum's choice of films this term. Rambo will soon be served up to student audiences, justified as a fundraiser for the impoverished Cultural Forum. Never mind that the remainder of their schedule consists largely of white men killing Asian people, white men killing Native American people and white men killing other white

men.

There might be some excuse for all this carnage (and the values it teaches us all) if the Cultural Forum was indeed underfunded, but hey folks, the Cultural Forum received approximately \$72,000 of your student fees for their operations this year. Is this an underfunded program?

Also, consider your alternatives. There are other groups showing films on campus, and you won't see anything like Rambo at their showings. At other groups, your money goes to support different things: Catalyst Films and the ASUO co-sponsor, as well as groups like Student Campaign for Disarmament and the Survival Center, show films on social issues with the revenue generated from their presentation going to support their ongoing projects. They teach different values than Rambo and similar exercises in racist macho violence.

Further, I question what

"renaissance" of American film is demonstrated by cowboy movies. President Reagan has had a hard time differentiating between reality and "B" movies. Feeding us more trash like this doesn't help students get accurate information on "how the West was won" (i.e. stolen from the people who were already living there) or the history of our just defeat in Vietnam.

David Herman
Catalyst Films

Commentator

Was it discrimination or just plain ignorance?

When Lynni Pinckney was elected ASUO President last year, she told us that her administration would be a "politically active one." But did any of us truly understand the meaning of those words?

Pinckney was forced to rescind one of her orders this week. When faced with a possible investigation by the Constitutional Court, Pinckney backed down from an earlier decision to freeze IFC funds for the Oregon Commentator.

The ASUO Constitution states in section 6.7 "... Once allocated, there shall be no attempt to attach any further conditions or policies concerning the use of such accounts." When Pinckney tried to attach a set of affirmative action guidelines to the pre-negotiated contract with the Commentator, she violated the ASUO Constitution, not to mention local civil law concerning contracts.

So why did Pinckney do it? Was she ignorant of the law? Pinckney isn't stupid. She has legal advisers within her administration. She knew that her actions were wrong. She knows the law, and she should have no problem identifying the legal rights of separate parties of a contract.

Could the true reason be that Pinckney, who last year actively campaigned against funding for the Commentator, has never accepted the fact that the Commentator has a legal right to IFC funding?

Based on her actions, her idea of a "politically active" student government must be a government that will do anything to advance its narrow ideology. Even if that means stifling opposition or breaking formal legal agreements.

Yes, Pinckney represents all of us. Makes one proud to be a U of O student. Right?

Ron Munion
Political Science/History

Looking for work?



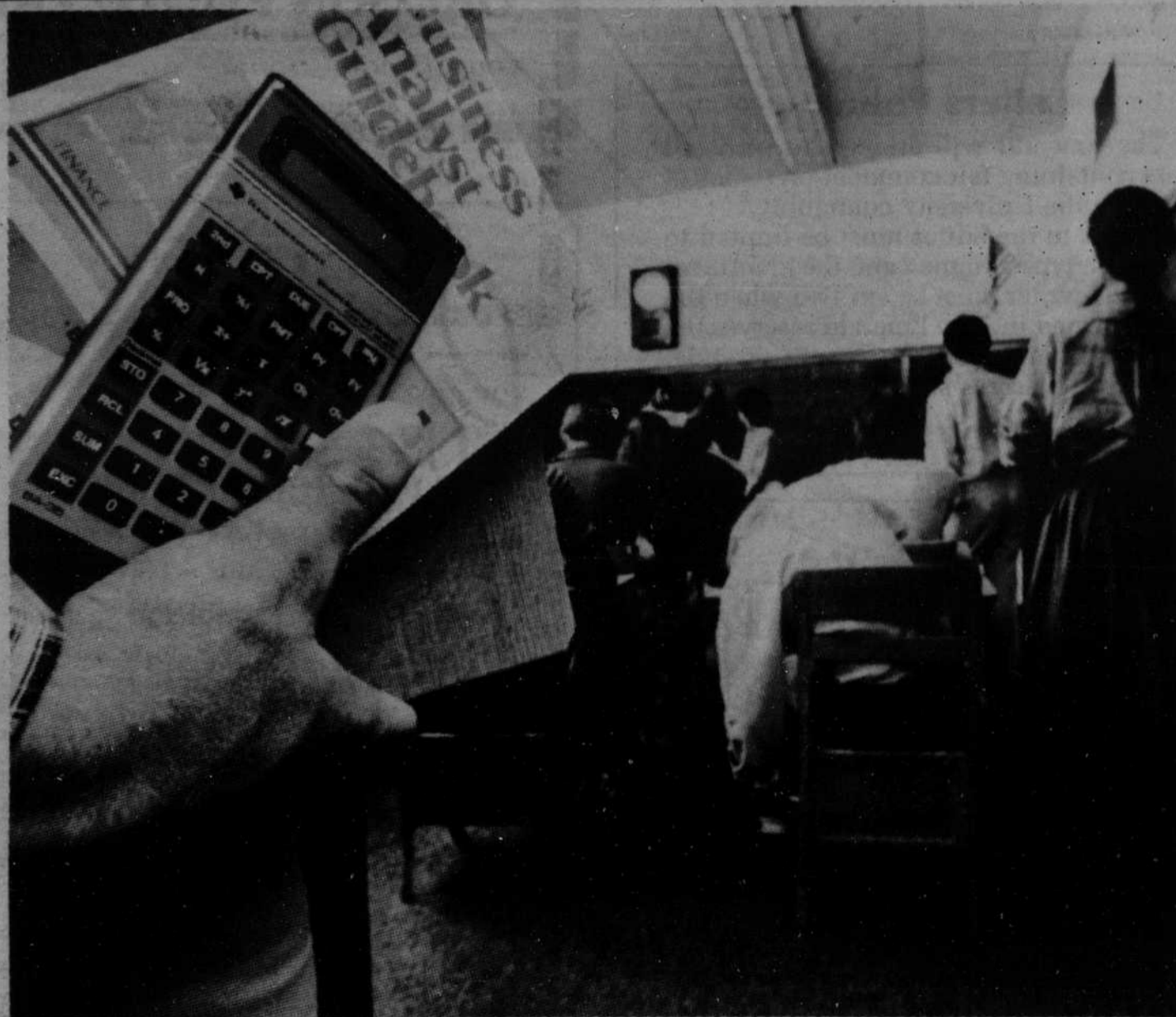
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