

Letters

The right of different ideologies to be heard is a cornerstone of liberal thought. "Let truth and falsehood grapple" in the arena of the free press and allow citizens to discern the truth by comparison. People proudly tout freedom of speech, but are all too willing to suppress viewpoints that they disagree with.

I rarely agree with the Commentator. Indeed, I read it more for entertainment than information. Yet, if I may paraphrase, though I do not agree with what they say, I will defend unto my death their right to say it.

Tom Jeffries
Journalism

Undervalued

The results of a survey being conducted by the Oregon Public Employees Union (OPEU) among clerical workers at the University of Oregon will be presented at a rally in support of pay equity on March 20 on campus. (Pay equity refers to bringing up the pay scale of jobs determined to be undervalued by the state's 1984 Comparable Worth Study.)

Local legislators and others who were involved with the Comparable Worth Study will be invited to attend the rally to hear the results of the survey, including testimony from workers in the undervalued classes. Clerical workers, food service workers, grounds keepers, custodians, laborers, public safety workers and laboratory workers — among others — are included in this group. (Out of 1100 OPEU-represented workers at the University of Oregon, 750 were compared underpaid by the Comparable Worth Study.)

Washington State just passed legislation calling for pay equity support campaign. OPEU's Membership Committee will serve cake in the lobby of the EMU to dramatize Gov. Atiyeh's "let them eat cake" attitude toward the University of Oregon's undervalued employees. Please join us in our struggle for pay equity.

Lisa Siersacki
Susan Cook
OPEU Membership Committee
members

Read articles

Barring a possible live debate and/or Commentator commentary, this should be my last entry in the Great Afghanistan Debate.

I realize that during vacation students want to avoid studying. However, for students who are truly interested in finding out what is happening in Afghanistan, I recommend that you set aside two hours to read these 12 articles.

"Migratory Genocide" and "The War in the City" (The New Republic, April 4, 1985), "Moscow's Dirty War" (Newsweek, Dec. 3, 1984), "Slow Death in Afghanistan" (McLeans, Dec. 24, 1984), "The Awful Logic of Genocide," "The New Holocaust" and "...an entire country is dying..." (National Review, Oct. 4, 1985), "Soviet atrocities aimed at Afghanistan's civilians" (Commentary in The Oregonian, Feb. 7, 1986).

Oregon Daily Emerald

"Afghan War Finally Hits Soviet's Home Front" (U.S. News & World Report, Dec. 12, 1985), "Afghanistan: Six Years of Soviet Occupation" (U.S. Dept. of State Bulletin, December 1985) and "Little war, big lesson" (LA Times/Register Guard, Jan. 12, 1986).

These articles give a reasonably accurate picture of Afghanistan since the 1978 Soviet-sponsored coup.

Taken together, they pulverize Glen Sacks arguments — arguments which, after careful dissection and cross checking, I have concluded are based on cleverly connected half-truths, out-of-context quotations from mostly dated sources, unbacked assertions and funny-smelling statistics from dubious sources. (i.e. Worker's Vanguard) all served up with a liberal helping of "progressive" phrases and hysterical speculations masquerading as "facts." Actually, I have deduced that Sacks probably has not read most of the sources he cites in his letters, but that he is mostly regurgitating the arguments, citations and statistics contained in the Nov. 17, 1985 issue of... Worker's Vanguard.

Tom Visoky
Journalism

Vicious assault

It's astonishing to see the Emerald editorial page used as the personal soapbox of a few insecure individuals. What other possible justification could exist for the shameless mudslinging launched on David Herman in the Feb. 19 Emerald.

The blatant lack of professionalism is an embarrassment to the entire U of O community. Let's hope someone at the Emerald has the good sense to be ashamed. Over the years, countless disagreements have been printed in these pages. Seldom, though, have the arguments sunk to the inexcusably low level of an undeserved personal attack. It's enough to make one wonder if there are any limits the Emerald will not go to in an effort to smear those with whom they have personal disagreements.

The Record was born of the frustration of student groups with the lack of coverage of their events. Numerous other groups have established their own newspapers or newsletters for the same reason. Perhaps threatened by this trend, the Emerald staff has turned to vicious personal assaults to vent the frustration generated by its

own inability to serve the students.

Having lost several top-flight staff members recently, one to the Record, maybe the remaining Emerald staff felt an attack of this sort was called for. It was not, and we will not forget this maliciousness when the time comes to vote on Emerald funding.

Angee Hill
Political Science

The real world

This is in response to the letter from the fraternity brother who was upset about the unfair stereotyping of fraternities as steaming cesspools of rape and rape ideology.

Sure, I'm also against stereotyping. Still, it somehow escapes me why anybody wants another four years of "high school locker room." No thanks. Come on! There's a (sort of) real world out here (thank God).

But then, isn't there a corridor of "high school locker rooms" leading straight to the highest levels of society? Yeah, the real, real world.

Jim Myers
Mathematics

Support dissent

The ASUO has suggested cutting back IFC funding to one of our student forums, the Commentator.

The Commentator should receive its full IFC funding, without cuts. If it receives less, the reach of its voice will be inhibited (insufficient funds does that). It is one of our sources to share and develop opinions. The Commentator offers us views the Emerald does not; the Emerald alone just won't do.

Above all, though, the Commentator provides our campus with more in-depth and different angles on the issues it addresses. The Commentator needs to be heard, for "when everyone is agreeing, no one is thinking."

I support the Commentator because I disagree with its platform and because its difference of opinion adds to my education. Were I not graduating this winter, I would support the Commentator on the spring ballot. We have everything to gain from it.

Jamieson Dickie
Rhetoric and Communication

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