

Editorial

Twenty days best class drop deadline

The University Assembly will decide today whether to extend the course drop deadline from 10 to 20 class days after the beginning of the term.

We recommend the extension. Students need more than two weeks in which to decide whether they can master the material in a given course.

The University catalog and the ASUO Course Guide provide some information about classes. Experienced students know that only time spent in class really provides enough knowledge about a class to allow an informed decision to keep or drop the class.

The four-week deadline will give students this necessary margin.

We hope that all Student Senate members attend the Assembly meeting. At the University Senate meeting that discussed the deadline, only five of the Student Senate members bothered to attend. The extension lost by one vote.

The issue has gone to the Assembly because such a close vote in the Senate requires Assembly action.

The Student Senate is supposed to have 18 members, but loses many to resignations each year. This occurs in part because issues such as the drop deadline are non-sex and don't give budding student politicians the chance to throw their weight around.

The drop deadline issue may be boring, but for many students it is one of the most important facing their representatives this year. They need to be there to carry out their duty to represent students.

In the recent ASUO elections, 91 percent of the voting students approved of the extension. This is a clear signal both to the Assembly and to the Student Senators.

Oregon must divest now or face escalating protest

Shantytowns in protest of apartheid have appeared at campuses around the country, and Tuesday the University got the beginnings of one, too.

At Dartmouth and other schools, shantytowns have produced small-scale riots and arrests. Conservative and liberal students have clashed, sometimes violently, over the presence of such towns.

State officials should divest now. South Africa is hardly a stable place to invest money, and Oregon money is supporting apartheid. The shantytown idea is a legitimate way to remind state officials that the issue of University investment in corporations involved in South Africa will not go away.

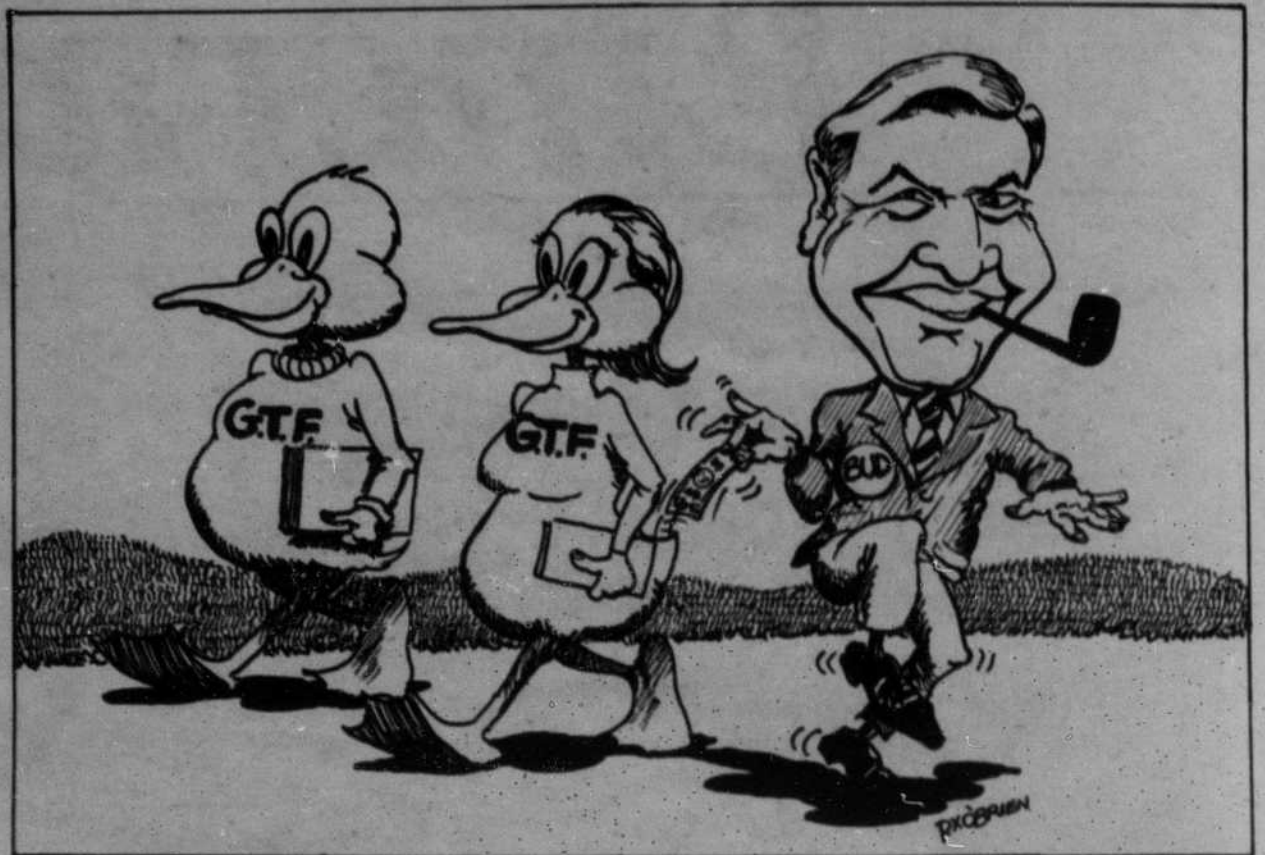
The government of South Africa maintains a system in which voting and other benefits of citizenship are denied to black people. American corporations and states that tacitly support this government by their presence are delaying, not advancing reform.

The state is not neutral. It is a part of this repression.

University administrators elsewhere in the country are discovering that the divestment issue can disrupt the orderly bureaucracy of their institutions. Good.

Let those administrators ask their boards and investment councils to divest. Let Chancellor Davis request that the State Board vote *again* for divestment, as it did in 1977.

The Board should reaffirm its position on divestment each time it meets from now until the issue is resolved. Until it shows this one minute of moral courage each month, protests should continue.



Letters

Life sacred

To a confused Rob Young: Between 500,000 and one million animals each year die to test cosmetics alone — hardly a life saving matter for humane beings. The two most common tests are the Lethal Dose 50 percent (LD50) test and the Draize eye irritancy test.

The Draize test is used to measure the irritancy of products that might get into a person's eyes. Rabbits are used because their eyes don't produce tears. While one eye remains untreated to serve as a control, into the other is introduced the caustic substance to be tested. Remember how it felt the last time you got shampoo into your eyes? If you would like a more lengthy, detailed description of the damage caused to the rabbits' eyes before it was destroyed just write the manufacturer of Procter & Gamble, Clairol, etc. where they chart the results of these tests in case of a lawsuit against them.

LD50 represents the lethal dose (usually oral) that will kill 50 percent of the animal test group. How much liquid bleach do you suppose it takes to kill a small mammal? How long do you imagine it takes them to die?

Compassion is the key to unlocking our "inferiority complex." The total disregard for

life present in our CIVILIZATION is exemplified in this torture of creatures we consider to be "inferior" to ourselves. It is the same justification used throughout history for the death/torture/extermination of "savages," "gooks," "queers" and other "obviously inferior" groups.

Compassion, Rob; all life is sacred.

Thomas Pettitt

Cancelled

To whoever made the decision to cancel the anti-apartheid rally because of... did I hear right... rain?!

My question: Do you think South Africans delay their fight for freedom because of the elements, let alone a few drops of moisture? Excuses like this only perpetuate apathy on campus and our self-righteous attitude that conditions must be perfect for us before we'll make efforts to help others.

It's just difficult to see the disappointment of those who worked on getting the rally together and the students who sacrificed classes to protest something they believed in.

No one ever told me that rain made such a difference to Oregonians.

Catherine O'Connor
Student

Religious hoax

While religion may be all well and good as a mental security

Donald Hoverson
Physics

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

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