

Unfair IFC reduces Commentator funds

In a fit of generosity, the Incidental Fee Committee decided Wednesday to only cut the Oregon Commentator's budget by 25 percent from the current level.

The Commentator received about \$6300 this year. Next year it will get about \$4700. Why the decrease?

Has the Commentator published often enough this year? Yes. Has it accomplished its purpose of providing commentary on public issues from a conservative perspective? Yes.

Does it serve a substantial portion of the student body? That question is harder to answer, but it prints 3000 copies and they get picked up and read. We believe that its service to the student body as the only regular conservative publication on campus is beyond question.

Why then did the IFC choose, by a 3-2 vote, to substantially reduce funding for the Commentator?

Because certain campus illiberals can't stand its politics. Some of these non-progressives are IFC members. Others have griped enough to convince IFC members to squash a publication they hate.

We applaud the courage of IFC member Cindi Kim, who doesn't like the Commentator one bit, for her vote to continue the current funding level. We also applaud member Adam Apalategui for saying that despite its problems, the Commentator "has a place on this campus."

We agree, and wish the iconoclastic Commentator well in its fourth year of lively service to the University.

New fears about literacy affect schools and society

A recent test shows that illiteracy among U.S. adults is much higher than previously estimated. The test, administered by the Census Bureau, shows alarming levels of basic reading incompetence across a wide spectrum of the population.

Citizens who cannot read and write cannot fully participate in their society. The need for basic skills must not get lost in the rush to boost high-tech training.

The University offers user-supported remedial classes for students who are deficient in reading and writing. The very existence of such a program speaks to a problem the University should not have to face.

Each level of the educational bureaucracy points the finger lower on the academic ladder, until the illiteracy problem is laid at the feet of (choose one or more) parents, television, teacher salaries and workloads, student motivation, high tech emphasis and so on.

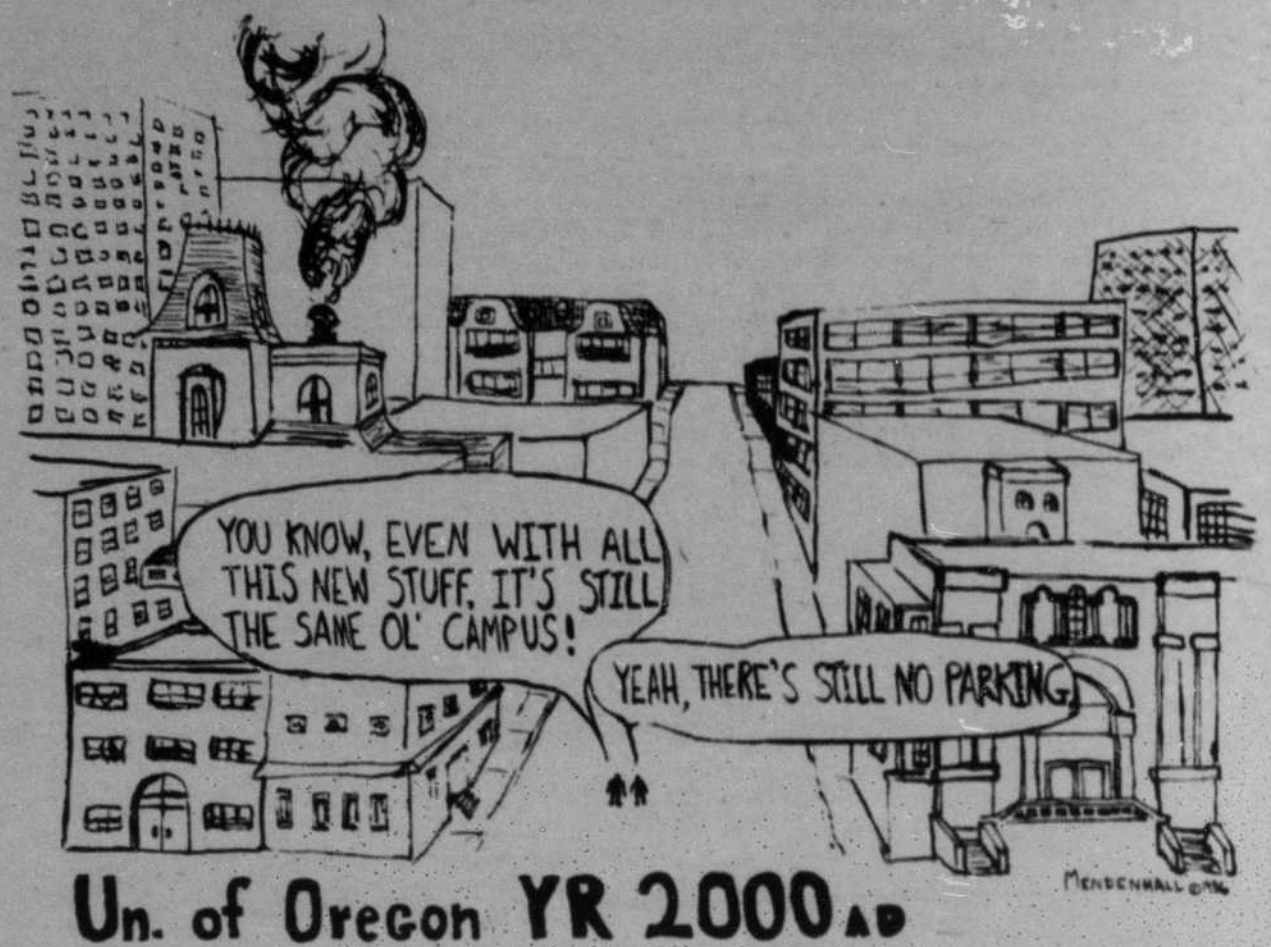
The problem belongs to everyone.

Oregon has established tougher standards for admission to State System schools. Wherever the burden for training in basic literacy belongs, it does not belong in Universities.

Universities are places for people who already have basic skills. People who do not have them do not belong here.

Adaptation to the needs of students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds is fine up to a point. However, if the University accepts ill-prepared students, less pressure will be brought on secondary schools to produce well-prepared students, and the cycle of substandard literacy will continue.

The University should couple its remedial programs with vigorous insistence to secondary schools that they provide the basic linguistic skills necessary for survival in society.



Letters

Same problem

This is regarding a letter I wrote stressing a format change for the University's radio station, KWAX. I was very pleased to receive responses, the goal I had when I wrote it.

But all of the responses to my letter were in strong rebuttal to my proposition. I obviously did not expect this strong opposition. But later I found in speaking with many people that a lot of students do not even know that KWAX exists, and if they did they certainly had never listened to it.

This is unfortunate for a college radio station. Although most of the rebuttals did have good arguments, the problem still remains: the majority of this school has no use for a radio station that plays classical music. Sure, I like classical music. But my concern is that a college radio station should be an integral part of the University.

With the format change I mentioned earlier, many more students would start listening to KWAX. With an increase in audience the station would become a much better communication outlet for students.

Public service announcements and news about the college would finally get the attention they need.

Perhaps voting for a format change would be a good idea on the part of the ASUO. Then we could see what the majority of the student body feels. I believe that a change would benefit this university immensely. Those in agreement should voice their opinions. The student body would be pleased with a change.

Robert Duffy
Student

Total sham

Chris Green's divestment commentary (ODE, May 1) displays liberals' customary ignorance of the way capitalism works. This may come as a shock to Chris, but DIVESTMENT IS A TOTAL SHAM!

It does nothing to influence the South African government, nor to help the South African blacks. The total sum of what divestment "accomplishes" is the transfer of stock from one greedy capitalist owner to another. That's all, nothing more. It is at best a moral gesture, and a weak one.

Indeed, since large businesses are rarely sold for cash but instead for interest-bearing notes, with profits low and interest rates high, divestment is no self-sacrificing statement of solidarity but is indeed good business.

The only "divestment" that will help South African blacks is if the workers "divest" the mining corporations of the endless mineral wealth of South Africa. Whereas now this tremendous wealth serves only to fatten the bellies of the corporate bandits plundering South Africa, a socialist government could nationalize the

mines and use the tremendous profits to build industry, infrastructure, hospitals and schools for the South African people.

That's the only "divestment" I'm in favor of. Indeed, I'm appalled that our student money is being wasted on this ridiculous nine-year divestment lawsuit. Rather than squandering any more money, I have a suggestion: turn it over to Angola (invaded and currently being terrorized by South Africa), its Cuban allies, and SWAPO (in South Africa's colony, Namibia). These groups aren't making useless moral gestures, they're actually fighting apartheid.

Glenn Sacks
English

Social deviants

"It's sad in a way that we have to have Gay Pride Week" (ODE, May 5). Yeah, it is sad that these social deviants are allowed to express their perverted views openly on our campus. Why these criminals of nature are allowed to exist, let alone express their beliefs, is beyond my imagination.

Where does Mr. Harding find signs of acceptance of these fags and dykes on our campus? I can't even find any signs that they should be allowed to exist, for they stray from every cultural and moral law of nature and society.

"All types of people are gay and lesbian." Bullshit. Only insecure, socially inept persons would find pleasure rolling around in bed with a member of their own sex.

"We want to tell gays and lesbians, 'Yes, you have a reason to be proud.'" What possible reason could you find to be proud for being a gay or a lesbian? Go crawl back under your rocks.

Jon Niedermeyer
Beta Theta Pi

Thursday, May 8, 1986

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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