

Letters

Student body

Your editorial of October 15 argued that the Chancellor's office should exercise greater control over student government and that the "State Board, with the help of University President Paul Olum, is the only body who can ensure that student government speaks for the student body as a whole."

I disagree. The only body that can ensure that student government is representative is the student body itself. Surely you don't want a benign dictatorship of administrators or of a citizen board to decide whether the ASUO speaks for students.

You cited a number of ASUO actions that you felt did not represent student opinion as a basis for your position. You were even generous to this administration in stating that students supported us on issues where ASUO did not.

But even if that is true, it is up to the students, not Big Brother, to do something about it. To do otherwise is to admit that democracy cannot work here.

The President does have veto power over student government actions (with a possible appeal to the State Board), but that is a power I would exercise only if an action of the student representatives were clearly illegal or represented real danger to the University or some of its programs, not because I disagreed with ASUO or even thought students did. Except for such an extreme situation, the administration will continue to respect the decisions of the elected representatives of the students.

Paul Olum
President

Human aid

I cannot agree with the Emerald's editorial stance on the Sister University Project. The Emerald says that "...any benefit from the program will be lost if it degrades into a platform for political grandstanding." It's clear that the Emerald considers ASUO President Steve Nelson's courageous and honest account of the U.S.-backed Duarte regime's repression of University of El Salvador students, faculty and administration such grandstanding.

Last year the Salvadorian military abducted Antonia

Quezada, president of the University of El Salvador student association. He was held incommunicado, without charge, and interrogated while hooded and handcuffed for sixty hours.

An outpouring of telegrams from around the world, including ones from our own University community, secured Quezada's release. Paul Olum sent one of those telegrams. Does the Emerald consider this political grandstanding also?

Again last year Miquel Parada, President of the university, was brutally beaten and left unconscious with his car machine-gunned. The head of the biology department was murdered.

The most important humanitarian aid we can send our sister and brother students in El Salvador is strong advocacy against U.S. intervention in their country. Outspoken criticism of U.S. duplicity in the Duarte Regime's brutality can help to expose the lack of democracy in El Salvador and mitigate the repression.

Richard Wiener
Physics

Economics

Why is the rest of the world "catching up" with the U.S. economy, with Japan winning most of the prizes? The difference is that one-third of our industrial sector is diverted into the military, while they keep their economy focused on producing, rather than destroying mankind.

On Wall Street Week last weekend the chairman of the board of Sony admitted that American labor is now cheaper, so they are moving operations into the United States. That is the cause of the trade deficit — Japanese investment; the same dollars earned selling autos stay in the U.S. as Japanese investments.

A continuing economic decline is being caused by either the increase in taxes or the cut in social programs mandated by Gramm-Rudman. However, there is an escape hatch: We can balance the national budget all out of military spending, without hurting defense or the economy.

Of course, the producer states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and

Oregon would benefit at the expense of the military welfare states of California, Washington, Texas and Massachusetts.

But this would complete the Reagan revolution in government spending on the ultimate in economic waste, the pseudo-industrial "black hole" of heretofore sacrosanct military spending.

Gorbachev is willing to deal to help his economy; why don't we both work out a mutually properous arrangement that includes conventional forces as well as nuclear? We could triple our economic growth rate.

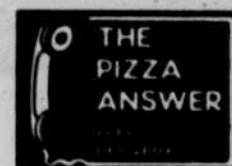
Robert W. Reuschlein
"Peace Economics" author

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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