

Editors discuss varied ideologies of three University publications

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

Editors of the three University newspapers spoke at a brown bag forum on Wednesday about the ideologies of their publications.

Thirty-five people attended the forum, titled "Campus media: editors and dialogue", which was co-sponsored by the ASUO Executive and the Campus Interfaith Ministry.

The Oregon Daily Emerald has two distinct roles, said Emerald Editor Michelle Brence. The first is to provide the University community with news, she said, and second to train students to become journalists, as well as provide advertising- and production-related work.

The Emerald, which was founded before the turn of the century, is independent from the Journalism School and receives 85 percent of its funding from advertising revenues, with the Incidental Fee Committee providing the remaining 15 percent.

The Oregon Commentator, founded in 1983, was originally started as an alternative to the Emerald, said Commentator Editor Duane Dungannon.

"A handful of reactionary-minded students founded the Commentator," he said. "These people were former members of the Oregon Daily Emerald who felt unwanted up there among leftist politics."

Since then the Commentator has "evolved" he said.

The Commentator staff during the 1985-86 school year was void of journalism students, Dungannon said. Instead the staff was composed of "opinion-oriented people majoring in economics, business or politics," he said.

This year the staff members are journalism students, and the Commentator has adopted a magazine format.

"We often get right-wing people come into the office asking why we aren't after the Emerald — well we aren't after anyone," Dungannon said.

The Record, the ASUO Executive publication founded in 1983, often reflects the issues most important to the Executive.

"This year we were determined to put out an alternative to the Emerald and the Commentator, covering as many in-depth stories as possible, and helping students learn different issues," said Record Editor Lisa Loving.

However, she noted that The Record is always open to any story ideas people may have.

It is necessary to keep the three publications at the University separate in order to maintain a variety, Brence said.

"Our philosophies are different enough that I think it is important there are three different publications."

Dan Thoma, assistant Record

editor, agreed.

"It is important from the student's point of view; if they do not trust the perspective of the Emerald or the Record they can look to an alternative source to get more information," he said.

The Commentator has been considered a conservative paper in the past; however it has published features that could be considered libertarian, Dungannon said.

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The bicycle path along the south bank of the Willamette River from Hilyard Street to the Ferry Street Bridge was closed on Tuesday and will remain so until Feb. 12 to allow construction in preparation for the Eugene Water & Electric Board's headquarters area improvements.

Several large holes will be excavated to allow modification and installation of underground utility facilities.

Signs showing the suggested detour — along with hazard warning signs — will be posted at the gates closing off the section of path.

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