

Editorial

Student Senate must define active role

The controversy that has surrounded the Student Senate's confirmation process is a sign that the senate needs to re-examine its role in confirmations and design strong guidelines for the procedure.

In February, the senate designed a set of guidelines to follow for confirming ASUO Executive appointments. But problems have occurred because of the vague wording.

According to the process, the senate reserves the right to call a candidate before the senate when it believes there may be a conflict of interest on the part of the applicant or question the applicant's competence.

But in the recent confirmation of new IFC and Constitution Court members, the definition of these terms was debated within the senate.

This entire debate could be settled through explicitly worded guidelines. The conflicts and debate of the senate's role accomplished very little and only slowed down the process of appointing new members to committees.

Senate Vice Chairwoman Karen Frymoyer proposed the idea of closed sessions as a way to avoid senate members' personal views influencing overall decisions. She believed the sessions should be closed until the confirmation process was cleaned up. Most senators disagreed with closing the sessions to the public but believed the process needed reworking.

The senate needs to take the initiative to become a more responsible body. Because the policies and procedures for the senate's appointee confirmation are not directly stated, it is important for the senate to determine its role within the student government and design guidelines to define this process.

As long as the senate is unsure of its confirmation role, the government is impaired. The senate is on the right track with its original guidelines. They only need to follow through with a more strictly defined process that does not leave itself open to potential abuse.

Higher education promoted in budget

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's new changes to the budget for higher education is a victory for the colleges and universities of Oregon. It emphasizes a need for stronger, quality education.

Goldschmidt recommended a \$1.4 million increase in state support Monday. This increase will help cover costs expected due to increased enrollment.

The new increase will help pay for more professors at the institutions. This is very beneficial because it keeps the ratio of professors to students level.

The budget also allots funds to increase employment and maintain Centers of Excellence at the colleges. Centers of excellence help universities develop the strong aspects of certain fields. This, in turn, upgrades their quality and promotes the concept of higher education.

Although a 3 percent increase in tuition is needed to cover some of the new expenses, this is justifiable. Education should be supported.

Goldschmidt should be commended on his budget proposals. They promote the positive side of Oregon's education system and work toward solving existing problems.

SKELLEY
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CONSTITUTIONAL POLICE



Letters

Buying power

In his State of the Union address, President Reagan compared our government with repressive regimes like the Soviet Union and proudly declared "in America, the people are in charge."

He's right. Our democracy is a marvel of history. But our sacred freedom must be continually won.

Today, the people's supremacy is threatened by the growing influence of money in political campaigns. It's hard to believe the people prevail when special interests play a key role in choosing our leaders.

In six years, the Reagan administration has done nothing to restore the system's integrity.

In fact President Reagan has benefited from spending advantages made possible by corporations and political action committees. It's easier to be a "great communicator" when your war chest is stocked.

Our democracy shouldn't be measured against totalitarian regimes like the Soviet Union. Many governments would look good by comparison.

We must hold our govern-

ment to the high standards of the men who wrote our Constitution. Our founding fathers didn't envision a system in which power could be bought.

Jeff Bullock
Phoenixville, PA

At the movies

In response to Dan Goulet's defense of "Amerika" (ODE, Feb. 25), his interpretation of "Dr. Strangelove" illustrates a profound misunderstanding of its message. "Dr. Strangelove" is not an "anti-communist film of the 1950s," at least not as Mr. Goulet means it.

The characters played by George C. Scott, Peter Sellers, et al., weren't serious, Dan, they were doing what is called parody. "Dr. Strangelove" was a comedy which brilliantly poked fun at the mentality of the U.S./Soviet nuclear madness. I fear you have taken the script literally, despite the fact that everyone around you in the theater was laughing.

"Dr. Strangelove" celebrated the paranoid, tainted reasoning of the superpowers, something you chose to defend with your enthusiastic support of "Amerika."

Regarding your defense of "Amerika's" depiction of Russians as "reality," it's interesting to note that the writer of the mini-series, Mr. Wrye, went to great lengths in Ted Koppel's "Viewpoint" to stress that the actions of the Russians were merely a literary device used solely for the purpose of seeing how Americans would react to a fictional situation. He denied that he believed the depiction of Russians in his movie as having any semblance to reality.

I give him a little credit for this. Your arguments, however, deserve no credit in my mind as they lack enough understanding of the issues to even be called simplistic.

Scott E. Baldwin
Political Science

God not drugs

The same mind-altering change that takes place in a religious experience can also be achieved by using drugs, so says Sandra Francisconi (ODE, Feb. 25). Francisconi says Christianity has had a far more negative influence than drugs. Experiencing both, I can't say that is true for me.

Cocaine gave me a false and puffed up idea of myself.

Mushrooms made my moods swing every five minutes and made me insecure.

PCP, speed and pot made me cool and accepted by my peers, when actually it was destroying my mind and body.

Alcohol made me think that my goal in life was to find someone of the opposite sex to spend the night with.

Drugs were mind-altering! So was my religious experience!

Faith in Christ helped me to see myself as I really am. I discovered my accurate identity, not a false fantasy.

Jesus gave me peace and confidence not based on circumstances, result: not as many mood swings.

God's love for me was unconditional — I didn't have to earn acceptance or love. I didn't need dope.

The Lord showed me people were not objects to be used selfishly, but fellow human beings to be loved and cared for.

As far as your hatred or irritation with Christianity, are you accusing Jesus Christ himself or the people that represent Him? People will always make mistakes and let you down. So, if you are accusing Jesus as the largest cause of human suffering, that's unfair.

Jesus' purpose of coming to earth was to provide hope and solid answers to the weak and suffering.

Sean McCartin
Eugene

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