

Editorial

Now that it's official, ending strike is a must

It's now official. Eugene School District's 1,200 teachers and other school employees have gone on strike. We had hoped the Eugene School District and the Eugene Education Association could have hashed out a deal before it came to this. No doubt so do they.

The strike probably will lack the violence and bitter feelings that marked the teacher strike of 1979. Although the battle lines are somewhat different this time out, the same issue of salaries and benefits still remain at the fore.

This strike, like the one in 1979, is a result of inflexibility on both sides. And as with all negotiations, compromise will be the key to this impasse.

It's doubtful the EEA will get its requested 19 percent salary increases. There doesn't seem to be enough support from the community to go along with such a request. But by the same token, the district will have to give a little more than they have been willing to offer.

But the real losers in all of this, of course, are the 4-J School District's students. Precious little has been said in their behalf. Regardless of the strike's outcome, students will have suffered, particularly high school seniors. These students' education is especially compromised because preparation for college entrance exams will be delayed.

Both the board and the EEA should keep these facts in mind. But now that the strike has started, it needs to be ended as soon as possible.

It takes more than a name to become a real university

Southern Oregon State College wants to change its name; it wants to become Southern Oregon State University. That's fine and well — if it changes its curriculum and educational mission, too.

The State Board of Higher Education ruled that SOSOC cannot change its name. But supporters of a bill that would override the State Board's decision claim the name change would bring in extra bucks to the region. Specifically, members of the Jackson County Economic Development Council say that the name "university" carries more clout when it comes to drawing in business interests than does the name "college."

Maybe, but where's the integrity of changing the name and nothing else? The State Board currently defines universities as institutions that award doctorate degrees and where research is conducted. SOSOC does neither.

Supporters for the SOSOC name change counter this argument by charging PSU of not meeting the federal Department of Education's definition of "university." The Department of Education defines an institution as being a university if it awards at least 30 doctorate degrees. Last year PSU only awarded 22.

But this argument is weak. True, PSU didn't award the minimum of 30 doctorate degrees last year, but at least it was in the ballpark. SOSOC on the other hand was not.

Moreover, SOSOC is not willing to change its educational mission to include research. All the other Oregon universities, including PSU, do. If those in favor of changing the name of SOSOC to SOSU are sincere, then they should be willing to go the distance and make substantive changes as well.



POPE JOHN PAUL GETTING THE RED CARPET TREATMENT, PINOCHET STYLE.

Letters

Viable baby

Some while back, I attended a college debate on the subject of abortion between the Lane County Right to Life president and then state Sen. Margie Hendrickson (the has-been darling of the local militant lesbian-left, and sister of Eugene abortionist, Sarah Hendrickson).

Ms. Hendrickson zealously took the "pro-choice" to kill position.

During the questions from the audience, I asked both debaters, "At what point in a pregnancy do you consider the fetus to be a human being?"

Ms. Hendrickson refused to answer. She couldn't. She knew any answer she could give would too clearly expose the barbaric logic of her position.

She knew that abortions are legally allowed at any and all times prior to delivery. She knew that at some point, her "abortion-on-demand" mentality is actually killing a real live "viable" baby.

Possibly, one could sympathize with the uninformed, but certainly not with the Ms. Hendricksons of the world. They know better, and still eagerly promote "pro-choice" to kill.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Good faith

For the skeptical agnostic, there is no demonstrative, Euclidean proof of Christianity, nor of the existence of matter, nor of the good will of your closest friend.

People marry on faith, exchanging vows without proof that they will be carried out. I write a check... the cashier accepts it with faith that it is good. Is this foolish?

Roosevelt made the mistake of waiting for proof of Pearl Harbor's vulnerability. It proved to be a preventable disaster!

Every act of volition requires faith. The agnostic claims he needs proof, yet this proof is not necessary for other decisions which he makes in life.

For example, one cannot swim unless one can support oneself in water, and one cannot support oneself in water unless one can swim. So, is it possible to swim?

Many have done so on faith. To say, "I must have faith to believe and have proof to have faith" is endless frivol. If we had no faith without proof, we could not survive.

The problem with skeptical agnostics, then, is not the lack of ability to have faith without proof. "Proof" is conveniently needed for that which he would rather "wish away."

God's existence most likely provides a moral accountability and a dilemma with which they would rather not deal. God probably is not even interested in the kind of theism which wins logical arguments.

He loves us incredibly, and He wants our trust, the very same trust we give others without absolute proof!

Brandon Shepard
Graduate

Damn shame

The current Constitution Court case against OSPIRG is ludicrous! For 16 years OSPIRG has received funding for a broad range of activities — cultural, educational and political.

This attack, as a denied personal vendetta, clearly must be one! OSPIRG clearly offers

students an opportunity to learn skills that she/he can use later on in life.

Those of us involved in OSPIRG are concerned with a wide spectrum of activities that concern students. These issues attract diverse students, whether they be conservative or liberal. They are students who are concerned with important issues.

Mr. Randall, Mr. Munion, and Ms. Romano seem to think OSPIRG does not serve the student population, and therefore shouldn't receive IFC funding. Quite the contrary, it does!

Students run OSPIRG. Through the OSPIRG State Board, students choose what issues OSPIRG should work on and budget priorities.

OSPIRG offers students a chance to be involved in a broad range of activities, such as internships, toxics issues, world hunger, utility issues, consumer issues and directing voter registration. For example, students operate and coordinate (as I did fall term) the OSPIRG Consumer Hotline that help people with consumer problems.

Students support OSPIRG. Last year, the ASUO voted to KEEP OSPIRG on campus, and to INCREASE funding. Through OSPIRG, students can make a difference and DO make a difference on campus. If Ms. Romano, Mr. Randall and Mr. Munion want to take away this student power, then it's a damn shame!

Alicia Sloan
OSPIRG State Board

Pathetic

This is a note to all the beer-willin', sun-soakin' frat boys at the Damma Scamma Chode house on Kincaid last Thursday:

If you're so pathetically infantile that you have to launch water balloons at a hapless UPS delivery man trying to do his job, maybe your daddies should make their checks out to LCC....

Eric H. Moore
English senior
Thursday, April 9, 1987

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