

# Editorial

## Holland's testimony not representative

Maurice Holland, the dean of the law school, testified for Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork Tuesday despite opposition from a majority of law school professors and students.

While it is within his rights to express his views as an individual, he should have respected the opinions of the people he represents and not have testified personally. By announcing his title as dean of the law school, he carries the prestige and reputation of the school and his Oregon constituents into the hearings.

But both his colleagues and students do not favor Bork's nomination.

The Student Bar Association circulated a petition opposing the nomination and urging the Senate to deny confirmation after Holland announced his plans to testify for Bork. The bar collected 280 signatures — more than half the students enrolled in the law school.

SBA President Leslie Garrison said the petition was prompted by Holland's testimony. She will send the signatures to Oregon Senators Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood, as well as committee chairman Senator Joseph Biden.

Law school professors also oppose Bork's confirmation. In another petition signed by 23 of the 28 faculty members, they state: "Although Judge Bork has been a colleague in the teaching of law, we oppose the nomination because of a concern that overrides matters of credentials or personal consideration."

Both groups disagree with Bork's interpretation of judicial restraint and believe he will reverse laws protecting civil liberties.

"We agree that there is room on the Supreme Court for differences of opinion based on principled judicial thought," the SBA petition states. "However, we believe that Judge Bork's record has clearly demonstrated an unprincipled bias in the approach he has taken to our Constitution."

These are the beliefs of the majority of University law school students and teachers. As their dean, their representative, Holland should acknowledge their point of view.

Granted, Holland is an individual and should be able to express his opinions. But these opinions should be separate from the University.

In his prepared statement, however, Holland introduces himself as the law school dean. He then adds the disclaimer that he is appearing on his own behalf and not on the behalf of the University. Nonetheless, his credentials are based at the University and he will undoubtedly be associated with it.

This could have negative ramifications on what is currently considered a liberal law school.

On a national level, Holland's testimony will have little impact on the committee. He is one of many deans and professors testifying in favor of Bork. But to the people of Oregon he represents the University law school. His appearance will influence the opinions in the local community and have an impact on their opinions of the University. The fact that he went to Washington to testify, as opposed to a written endorsement, makes his opinion all the more powerful.

It is important that the views of the people of Oregon are understood by Hatfield, Packwood and the rest of the Senate. They should not be overshadowed by Holland's personal appearance.

Copyright © 1987  
THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
COPY NEWS SERVICE



# Commentary

## Learning to learn key to education

Welcome to the University of Oregon. Some say that when you walk in the door of a modern American university you step onto a conveyor belt carrying your dimly ill-prepared little mind through pallid, unthreatening coursework, culminating in the degree of Bachelor of Schlitz.

Commentary by  
Alan Contreras

Others claim you are the cream of wheat, chaf left at the gate, here to engage in an orgy of cultural enrichment and personal growth unmatched in time and place.

You are yourself. You will get from your university experience what you choose to get. Aside from the ritual drudgery of grades, the University will rarely judge or prod you.

At times it will seem a two-dimensional monochrome battleground peopled with thousands of blank-faced teenagers and fire-eyed graduate students.

Some days it will seem a blissful, pastoral peninsula only tenuously attached to worldly cares.

Whether you are a seeker or a sitter, the University will serve your needs. For seekers there are endless trails to follow and wildernesses to explore.

If you are a sitter, remember that the University is like a giant computer terminal. If you are seen sitting in front of it long enough, people will assume you know what you're doing.

You end up with a degree whether you are a seeker or a sitter, so the choice is less a matter of strategy for quantifiable success than of personal style.

The University can't inculcate values by requiring a course, said University of Michigan Law School Dean Terrace Sandlow, recently. Whether you come as a seeker or a sitter, if you are steeped in hate and greed, the University won't attempt to make you Mother Theresa or even Thomas Jefferson, although it will insist that you play by its rules.

You will grow older and perhaps wiser here, but how you change as a person won't be entered in the University's computer.

What, then, will the University of Oregon do for all the money and time you shovel into it?

It should provide a setting for true academic dialogue, the atmosphere of mutual respect between students and faculty that Provost Richard Hill praised in his summer commencement address.

### Commentary Policy

The Emerald is interested in printing commentaries on topics of interest to the University community.

Commentaries dealing with a subject that the author has expertise in and has researched will be given preference.

It should provide the intellectual tools with which you can strive to understand your world for the rest of your life.

It should teach you to create, not just memorize; to ask, not just receive. It should give you flexibility, but not abandon its standards.

If it does not consistently do these things, complain until it does. Some of the faculty and most of the administration will actually listen, and we often act on student suggestions.

The University has course requirements, the floor beneath which no student may descend and receive a degree. That's all they are, a floor. Basing your academic choices on the goal of merely meeting the minimal requirements is like carefully planning a four-year trek out of the basement to ground level.

It not only accomplishes little, it's a boring exercise in educational bean counting.

Some of you are here to get in, get out, get a job and get away. Just for fun, try a little learning while you are here. It's a refreshing change from the usual tangle of slinging together papers and finals to tally another class over the side.

Buy a text for a class you are not taking and read it for fun. Go to an odd-sounding evening lecture before hitting the nearest watering hole.

The University is a place to try new things without fear, to question things you don't understand and challenge things you don't like.

Learn as much as you can from your university experience, but go forth from here realizing that learning is a lifelong process and no one is ever fully educated.

Learn how to learn. Get that from your university experience and your mind will be able to expand forever.

Helping you learn is the University's greatest role. It is the essence of education, and in that spirit the University of Oregon welcomes you.

## 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.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

### General Staff

Advertising Director Susan Thelen  
Production Manager Michele Ross  
Classified Manager Kelli Mason  
Assistant to the Publisher Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Teri Boring, Gary DeLossa, Tom Leech, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Laura McKinney, Heather Mull, Joann Nelson, Julie Paul, Barbara Rogers, Scott Thorkildson, Joan Wildermuth

News and Editorial 686-5511  
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712  
Classified Advertising 686-4343  
Letter Perfect Graphics 686-5511  
Production 686-4381  
Circulation 686-5511

Editor Stanley Nelson  
Managing Editor Scott Maben  
News Editor Eden Godbey  
Editorial Page Editors Angela Muniz/Steven Hoenisch  
Sports Editor Aaron Knox  
Photo Editor Shu-Shing Chen  
Graphic Design Editor Lorraine Rath  
Special Issues Editor Kelly Kortekaas  
Entertainment/Sports Segment Editor H.C. Hutto  
Night Editor Stephen Maher

### Associate Editors

Community Stephen Maher  
Higher Education/Administration Michael Drummond  
Student Government/Activities Carolyn Lamberson  
General Assignment/Entertainment Will Holbert

Reporters: Craig Harris, Gary Henley, Andrew LaMar, Jeff Morgan, Ingrid Petersen, Cami Swanson, Kelvin Wee

Photographers: Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Maria Corvallis, Andy Cripe, Dusty Etzel, Derrel Hewitt, John Giustina, Bobbie Lo, Ross Martin, Andre Ranieri, Dan Wheeler, Michael Wilhelm

Production: Sandra Dailer / Ad Coordinator  
Kelly Alexandre, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Stephanie Drynan, Dolores Ferreo, Shannon Gaither, Lisa Haggerty, Stephanie Holland, Dierdre Kelly, Elliot Knight, Jung Lee, Bobbie Lo, James Mason, Angie Muniz, Ted Shepler, Lisa Svanevik, Ingrid White, Kelli Williams, Serena Williams, X. Kang Xie