

Editorial

Olum's resignation inappropriate request

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education should be severely reprimanded for its plans to replace University President Paul Olum. The action is uncalled for and should not be tolerated.

Olum, who has been president since 1981, requested 1992 as a retirement date. He said many University projects will not be completed until then.

But the board turned down this request in favor of an earlier retirement on June 30, 1989. It argues that it needs to have a definite date to plan a search for a replacement, and that the June 1989 date was decided upon to avoid conflict with the 1991-92 biennium budget process.

"The issue here is not one of dissatisfaction or anything like that; it's an issue of orderly transition," board Chairman James Peterson told the Oregonian.

However, an "orderly transition" can be achieved with the 1992 date as well. The board is disregarding Olum's contributions to the University and his integrity by denying his proposed retirement.

Olum has often clashed with the board on several issues, but this should not influence the board's decision. Also, there is no mandatory retirement age so this should not be considered.

The board should base its decision on Olum's effectiveness and capabilities to administrate. He has proven to be a great asset to the University and community. This should not be ignored.

The board is insulting Olum by asking him to retire early. It is sending out a message that it does not believe he is effective. This is not true, however, and its decision should not be taken in stride.

With right state of mind, Halloween can be fun, safe

In the wake of poisoned Tylenol and booby-trapped candy, Halloween has lost its carefree, holiday appeal over the years. But it does not have to remain a spooky, potentially dangerous night.

Respecting others' property and their right to have fun should be kept in mind during the evening's activities. This includes children out trick-or-treating.

Parents would be wise to take their children out early and stay away from the University areas. Most college students will be preoccupied with other events. In any case, students should not forget to be kind to trick-or-treaters, as well.

Unfortunately, the age-old tradition of trick-or-treating has suffered in recent years, due largely to the fear of poisoned treats. Like Charlie Brown, more children are getting rocks instead of cookies.

Parties are taking the place of the candy-gathering ritual but they also should be restrained.

Halloween can be a safe, fun holiday if people approach it with the right attitude. With a friendly state-of-mind, hopefully nobody will get the fuzzy end of the lollypop.



Letters

Mistakes

Last year, I wrote several letters to the editor of this newspaper. Almost every one was botched in some way by the Emerald. Words were misspelled, sentences rearranged ungrammatically, and incorrect capitalization inserted. Almost every letter was re-paragraphed according to the rule: count two sentences, then begin a new paragraph. Even a classified ad I bought had the word "privilege" in my original changed to "privelege" when the ad ran.

The writer of the Tuesday, October 13, editorial managed to use only one sentence to give a glaring example of a dangling participle and to demonstrate that he/she hadn't the vaguest notion of what the word "mitigate" means.

The issue of October 22 contained:

1. The headline, "Measures Dissociate Greeks With Alcohol".
2. The statement that "a considerate number of students were treated" at Serenity Lane.
3. A comment about "a person who spends their college career drinking heavily".

4. The following gem from that day's editorial: "Portland and Oregon can be known as a liveable city...." — with the word "livable" similarly misspelled later.

If you don't see anything wrong with the phrases quoted above, I'm sure any Writing 121 instructor will be glad to help you. Indeed, I suggest that a passing grade in Writing 121 be made a prerequisite for any responsible position on the Emerald. I realize my suggestion would cause a 100% turnover in your staff, but at least this university would no longer produce a paper which would embarrass any high school.

Stan Vernooy
GTF, Math

Shocked

Referring to Timothy Cushing's (Chairman, University College Republicans) letter (ODE, Oct. 20).

The College Republicans are a group of students who are meant to be role models and leaders in our society. As such, they must exhibit manners expected of future leaders. It shocks me that they would hang such a biased and close-minded statement on their front door of all places. If you insist upon hanging the damn thing up, then kindly do so in the privacy of your own bedroom and not in an area open to the public.

I also fail to see how the second sentence, "No Russian Attack Permitted" makes the first sentence, "Soviet Free Zone" any better. It only adds to the derogatory overtones of the first. Two wrongs do not make a right.

I am a foreigner to your splendid country and I believe Americans are a good and sincere people. Thus, it saddens and shames me to see such a close-minded and racist statement against a foreign nation. Why don't you add "No Chinese, Arabs, and South Americans" to your \$25 poster? Maybe someone will offer you \$35 for it.

I would like to buy your poster and keep it as a reminder to me that people like you are destroying the future of this great country by undermining the very principle it was built on: liberty for all.

Sanj and Dean Inouye
Students

Correction

I wish to correct the article concerning the University's center for Gerontology (ODE, Oct. 15). Dr. Frances G. Scott, professor emeritus as of 1982, was asked in 1968 by University President Arthur Flemming to work with a multi-disciplinary faculty committee to establish a center for gerontology.

The mission of the center was to offer a multi-disciplinary undergraduate and graduate training program in gerontology with funding from the U.S. Administration on Aging. The priority of the funding agency was training in gerontology and the center early became one of the top three training centers in the nation, along with the University of Michigan and the University of Southern California.

Professor Scott wrote the grant proposal that was accepted by the AOA, after an initial draft written by Professors Dorwin Gillespie and Robert Kime of the Health Education Department was referred back for revision. Professor Gillespie died before the successful proposal was approved. Dr. Scott was the Center's director until she retired.

I had no hand in the founding of the Center for Gerontology. The confusion in the October 15 article was with my role in beginning the Confrontations of Death course, which Dr. Scott and I founded and which we taught for many years. This course, which featured an experiential learning format, received nationwide recognition as well as popularity on the campus.

Saul Toobert
University Counseling Center
Friday, October 30, 1987

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.

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