

Letters

Apology

After reading about the horrible treatment of Victor Adonri in the Emerald (ODE, Oct. 28), I was forced to re-evaluate my idealistic opinion of this community.

In these seemingly progressive cities of Eugene and Springfield, it is depressing to discover that such heinous prejudices still exist. Apparently some of us have never stepped outside of this big "white ghetto."

On behalf of the civilized members of the Eugene/Springfield community, I would like to extend my sincere apology to Mr. Adonri. I hope these incidents will not dominate your impression of this community.

As for those who still wish to cling to archaic racist attitudes, I'm sure you would be most welcome in rural Louisiana. Please go. We don't need people like you here.

John Tapogna
Alumnus

Keep Olum

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education has decided that President Olum is too old to continue serving as president.

"Olum is not being fired," however, board President James Peterson of La Grande said Wednesday. "The decision has to do with proper planning for the future and not with the president's job performance." (R-G, Oct. 29).

"Peterson said the board doesn't believe that Olum is getting too old for the job — he's 69 — but another board member said the president's age was a contributing factor leading to discussions about possible retirement from the job." (R-G, Oct. 29).

If President Olum was five years younger would this action still be taken?

I also question whether the board's decision is in the best interest of the students here at the University and of this campus.

During my nearly two years in student government I had the pleasure of meeting with President Olum on many occasions. I admire his sincere ability as a student advocate. Our student government here at the University is unique in its autonomy and ability to influence decisions. President Olum has ensured that right which he, at any time, could severely curtail.

President Olum would like to retire in 1992. I think he should

be given this opportunity. I, for one, will be writing to Oregon State Board of Higher Education President James Peterson, board member and ASUO President Kasey Brooks to ask that they reconsider this untimely decision and I encourage your letters also.

James Randall
Accounting

Bad decision

If you are also concerned about the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's decision to change the leadership at the University, please let me know. What the board has planned is a disorderly transition.

This is the worst possible time for the University to undergo the unsettling fallout from a decision of the State Board. I wish to be among those who would work to reverse this decision.

Dr. Paul Olum is a leader for our times and need not be subject to an apparently misguided effort to end his term as president of the University — for whatever reason!

Frank J. Geltner, Jr.
Associate director, EMU

Pride

Like Robert Hanks, I also was a graduate student at the University from 1983-85. Hanks wrote to express how rooting for the perpetually losing football team was a "bittersweet experience." (ODE, Oct. 29).

I never rooted for the Ducks, and I didn't root against them — it was stupid, dumb football, so I just didn't care. However, I was continually amazed how details of every game of one of the losingest teams in college football — at that time — were in the Emerald every Monday morning.

Meanwhile, the success of the forensics (speech) team, which I assisted as part of my fellowship and which has often been nationally ranked over the past 10 years, went virtually ignored.

It seems to me that a school newspaper should have given at least as much recognition to an academic activity that brought pride to the University as it did to a non-academic activity that did not.

Tell me, has the Emerald changed over the few years? I hope so, but I fear not.

David Sterns
Eugene

Giving

Although the headline and subhead on your Eugene Mission story suggest that a Christian rescue mission should "guarantee happiness" for those it helped (ODE, Oct. 26), the story didn't give even one example of the many whose lives have been radically changed at the Mission.

In fact the tone of the story seems to be less that of understanding the heartbreaking plight of the homeless than of criticizing the Mission. (Stephen Maher's story and Sherlyn Bjorkgren's photos do help those of us with a roof, food and an opportunity to be educated at a university rather than on the street to realize that there, but for the grace of God, go we...for the moment at least. Some of those 180,000 meals a year are eaten by college graduates!)

What kind of Christians would Ernie Unger and his team of unsung heroes be if they dished out temporal "grool" (and we should remember that the quantity and quality of these meals depends on our financial support) and kept only for themselves the living water and bread that satisfy the whole man?

Maybe somewhere in that compulsory "earbanging," Roadranger will discover what motivates the folks at the Mission to devote their entire lives to serving the Roadrangers of this troubled world. He'd be speechless if he had any idea of the good things God intends for him. Like the good things at the Mission, they're paid for by someone other than the recipient.

Stephen Maher, use your gifted pen to tell us about someone who arrived at the Mission a frustrated, angry, hopelessly lonely taker and was transformed by Ernie Unger's Jesus into a loving, hardworking, hopeful, grateful giver because that's what the Eugene Mission is all about.

Ann Applegarth
Junior

Right to speak

I would like to respond to Dean and Sanj Inouye.

First, the term "Soviet" has absolutely no racial connotations whatsoever. The term "Soviet" relates to a form of government.

Second, I am appalled by your suggestion that we add the Chinese, Arabs, and South Americans" to the poster

"HELLO, CONGRESS? HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHY DON'T YOU DROP AROUND? BY THE
WAY — BRING ALONG A WRENCH"



because the College Republicans is an anti-racist group. Are you going to accuse us of being racist when we make statements about Democrats or Socialists? (When we make anti-Nazi statements against the atrocities of that government are we being anti-German?)

Third, I am angered by your suggestion that we not make any statements in public. That poster was making a statement about Nuclear-Free Zones, and according to the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, we are guaranteed the rights of freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom of assembly. These rights are guaranteed to all citizens. Enroll in an American government class and you will learn

this.

And finally, I have no idea what you are referring to when you say "manners." I have kept this office open and have been willing to discuss any and all issues with anyone. Where were your manners in coming to our office to discuss your problems with the poster and your misconceptions?

Any College Republican member is allowed to express his or her views on any issue, as long as he or she abides by the Republican principles. I may not agree with what the other members may say, but I will defend to the death their right to say it.

Timothy Cushing
Chair, College Republicans

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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Entry Fee: \$4.00

For more information contact Sue Pedersen, 686-3711
Sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League and the Association of College Unions-International.

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