

# Editorial

## Strike to support, not to sleep

A student strike will take place Friday to show support for University President Paul Olum and to protest the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's decision to force him into early retirement. University students should strike classes; however, the free time then should be used to protest the State Board's improper decision and not merely to sleep in on his behalf.

The student strike, which officially is opposed by Olum and other members of the faculty, raises the question of whether it is appropriate to support an intellectual by blowing off classes.

But the strike is more than an action directed at supporting Olum; it is also aimed at protesting the board's decision to retire him early.

The strike should serve to bring student concerns to the doorstep of the state board meeting. Students ought to use the time usually spent in class to attend and participate in the state board's public meeting scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13, at 9:30 a.m. in EMU Room 167.

Striking classes, however, might not be enough to change the board's decision. Therefore, students should submit their opinions in written form to the ASUO Executive (EMU Suite 4), which will present student concerns at the meeting.

Let's not be intimidated by the state board's subversive tactics — tactics that put the quality of our education and institution in jeopardy. Don't let the state board push us around.

Get active.

## Rally provides opportunity to oppose Olum retirement

A rally to protest the Oregon State Board of Education's imprudent decision to retire University President Paul Olum will take place today. This rally should be attended by all students who care about the future of the quality of their education and this institution.

The rally will serve not only to galvanize student support for Olum, but also to send a clear message to the stuffed shirts on the board that the student population demands Olum stay until his preferred retirement date of June 30, 1992.

The State Board, which announced that Olum must retire from the presidency on June 30, 1989, has acted entirely without regard for University student or faculty sentiment. In fact, the state board made its decision without consulting either students or faculty.

Furthermore, the state board did not consider the affects of its decision on projects currently underway at the University in which President Olum plays a paramount role.

The student rally will occur today at 12:30 p.m. at the EMU courtyard. Every student studying on this campus is encouraged to attend and to bring signs of protest. After all, if Olum is forced to retire early, it will affect the students on this campus negatively.

If the students want Olum to remain president on this campus until 1992, which they do, then they must make their message heard loud and clear.



Willis...  
COURTESY NEWS SERVICE



## Letters

### Aware of actions

I refer to the decision by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to set an early retirement date for the University President Paul Olum. This seemingly arbitrary action taken without consultation with members of the faculty or the student body reflects gross insensitivity by members of the board to the real needs of the University.

President Olum's record of leadership and commitment to the tertiary education speaks for itself. At this university he has consistently sought to promote academic excellence in all schools and colleges, yet ensuring the true character and integrity of the University are reflected in the diversity of its student population.

If the proposed changes for the University are to be accomplished efficiently, then surely common sense should prevail. I strongly urge the members of the board to reconsider their decision and seek to extend President Olum's tenure until such time as he feels the goals of the University reached.

To the ASUO President Kasey Brooks, I urge you to make the strongest possible representa-

tions to the state board regarding this ill-conceived and untimely action.

There exists at the moment, a veritable groundswell of opposition to this decision from both students, faculty and administrators at the University, as well as members of the public. This opposition is likely to continue until a satisfactory solution to the situation is achieved.

The board members must be made fully aware of the implications of their actions by all concerned.

Michael A. Earl  
Eugene

### Get it straight

Timothy Flippen is annoyed because people are making decisions based on "bad" information and yet states that he would be more apt to trust the CIA than other organizations to get the "big picture" (ODE, Nov. 2).

Wake up and smell the toast burning, Tim! The CIA does not have a history of either correctly informing the public or looking after the best interests of developing nations.

It's curious that you should address the issue of freedom while declining to exercise yours to affect U.S. policy through informed choice.

"Government knows best" seems to be your motto. The CIA will reveal THE TRUTH.

I have spent a year in Central America, mostly in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The facts, Tim, are that

Nicaragua offers its citizens far greater liberties than many of the countries our government refers to as "democracies." In Nicaragua, people who oppose the government can voice their opposition. In "democratic" El Salvador or Guatemala, those people "disappear."

Yes, Tim, our intervention does have a terrible history. It is a continuing history made possible by people like yourself who place great faith in the integrity of our leadership. You, like too many Americans, are manipulated by the buzz-word "communism." Communist equals Soviet equals evil. That, Tim, is naive.

Since you refuse to argue policy "until people start realizing what is really happening down there," I guess we will just have to stumble along doing our own meager fact-finding until we find CIA enlightenment.

Jeff Marks  
GTF, Spanish

### Apology

Each year the Panhellenic Executive Council strives to make fall formal rush as fair as possible for the eleven sororities on campus and the women involved. Unfortunately, that goal was not fully achieved this fall.

One of our members, Alpha Omicron Pi, was not treated with the respect they deserve. Rumors started that hurt them and their rush performance. The Panhellenic Executive Council apologizes for these rumors and the fact it was unable to stop them at the time.

The women of Alpha Omicron Pi are an important part of the University sorority system. They are here to stay, and they will continue to grow. They have shown great perseverance in times of trouble and they should be viewed with admiration and respect. The women of Alpha Omicron Pi are a special group, and we wish them the best of luck.

The Panhellenic Executive Council

Thursday, November 12, 1987

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### 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.