

Editorial

Retirement decision ignored information

The State Board of Higher Education voted 9-2 to retire University President Paul Olum on June 30, 1989 in a phone conference Wednesday. This decision was made without regard to student, faculty and community input and without sufficient substantiation as to why Olum should be ousted.

The board reiterated its stance of wanting a smooth and orderly transition of presidents ("the future of the University is now") as the reason for asking for the earlier date of 1989, instead of Olum's requested date of 1992.

But the board's stance is old and leaves many questions unanswered. The explanation is, in effect, a generalization used to cover-up more specific reasons.

Board member Arlene Schnitzer argued Olum be presented with a bill of particulars and be given a chance to rebut the reasons given for his retirement. Schnitzer and ASUO President Kasey Brooks were the two dissenting votes.

While Schnitzer agreed with the overall motion to retire Olum in 1989, at least she recognized that the board did not have substantial information. It also is senseless to confront Olum with reasons after a decision has been made.

The board's decision reflects a lack of communication between the board and its constituents, as well as a lack of coordination and dissemination of information. The board completely ignored the overwhelming support demonstrated by University and community members and hid behind a phone conference to avoid public embarrassment. Instead, it succeeded only in exposing a closed mind.

Censorship of school play an unnecessary action

Superintendent Ben Schellenberg's decision to delete certain expletives from the John Steinbeck play "Of Mice and Men," being produced by Rex Putnam High School's drama department, is an unnecessary form of censorship. It only considers a few parents' concerns without looking at the context or importance of the play.

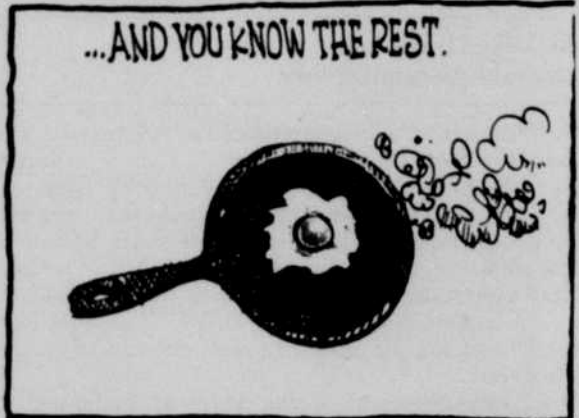
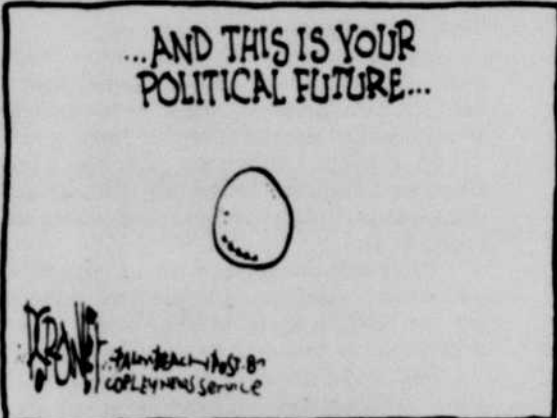
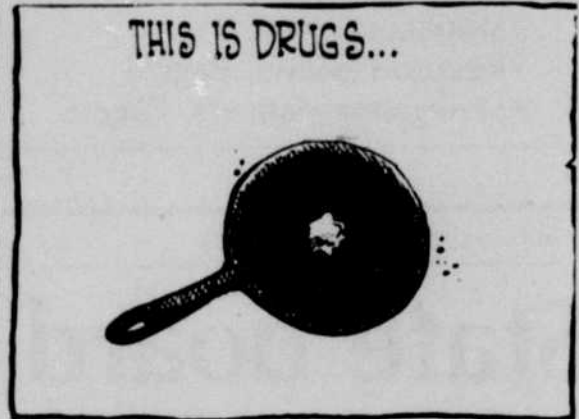
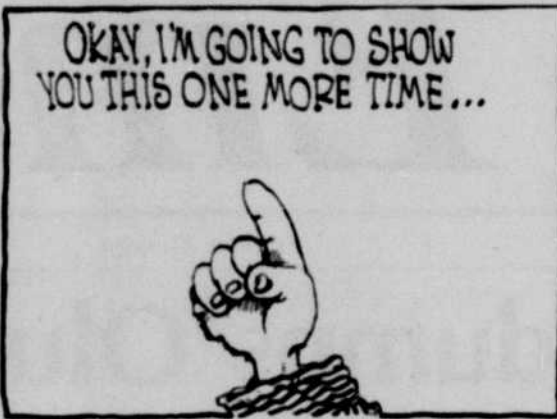
"If we expect students to not use those words in the classroom, it is inappropriate to have those words used on stage," Schellenberg told The Oregonian.

But the play is already taught in ninth-grade language arts classes. Schellenberg's one-dimensional stance neglects the impact of Steinbeck's award-winning play. When taken in context, the words develop the story and give it a realistic tone. They do not encourage students to use that language, but rather stress the intensity of the situation.

Since Schellenberg ordered the words deleted from the play, drama coach Julie Gibson-Wickham has received complaints from parents concerning censorship. Gibson-Wickham also said the decision came to late to have any effect on the students.

They only had two rehearsals without the cuss words and, as a result, the students slipped and used the words several times. But nobody has objected to the language since the Friday night performance.

Words in themselves do not have much meaning — they must be taken in context to the situation. In this instance, the language adds to the reality and overall impact of the story. Schellenberg's decision is a form of unwarranted and unnecessary censorship and should not be tolerated.



Letters

El Salvador

This letter is in response to the Nov. 6 Emerald editorial concerning the Central American peace proposal.

Overall, this piece blames failures of the plan on the FMLN/FDR in El Salvador and the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

This assumption is false as well as the points on which you base the story.

First, there has never been any credible evidence that the FMLN receives material assistance from Cuba. The CIA sent an observer, David Mac-Michael, to Central America in the early 1980's to monitor supposed weapons shipments to the FMLN. He did not find any evidence of outside assistance to the FMLN and the CIA's continued insistence that shipments were occurring caused him to resign.

Second, there is a vast difference between the Contras and the FMLN. The FMLN controls one-third of the territory of El Salvador and operates from bases within that country.

Conversely, the Contras (by the U.S. government's own admission) control no territory in Nicaragua and operate from bases outside Nicaragua with

the support of an extra-regional government (the United States).

Third, it is understandable why the FMLN would withdraw from cease-fire negotiations in protest of the murder of the president of the Salvadoran human rights commission by the government-supported death squads. Especially because the Salvadoran government's recent amnesty law also gives amnesty to the death squads.

How can it be claimed that the Duarte government is a democracy that is capable of reasonable negotiations?

Finally, it is amazing that the government of Nicaragua has agreed to negotiate with the Contras for a cease-fire, why should they even talk to them at all? The Contras are basically a mercenary army financed and directed by the United States.

The basic idea of the plan signed by the Central American presidents in August was to promote peace and democracy by ending outside intervention. With this in mind, the U.S. government is the biggest obstacle to implementation of the plan. Funding for death-squad democracies in El Salvador and Guatemala and Contra mercenaries against Nicaragua has got to stop before real peace can be achieved.

women are the rightful property of men and actually enjoy subjection and rape. Research on the connection between such advertising and violence against women may be obtained through the women studies department.

I would also like to remind Mr. Berryhill that when he came to "sell" the protesters in front of Taylor's Tavern Guardian T-shirts, a comment was made from someone in the crowd regarding a song the Guardians sing called "Beat the Wife and Kids" to which Mr. Berryhill responded, "I don't have a wife and kids, but if I had them, I would beat them." I rest my case.

I therefore encourage a boycott of Taylor's Tavern and the Guardians for their disregard for the welfare and dignity of women. I commend Max's Tavern for their respect for women in canceling the Guardians, and recommend its patronage.

I suggest Mr. Berryhill take introduction to Women's Studies and Elementary Logic. The world would, undoubtedly, be a better place.

Tora Johnson
Senior, Biology

Credit due

I am writing in response to Craig Hoit's review of Michael Cimino's latest effort "The Sicilian" (ODE Nov 5). Granted, "Heaven's Gate" was a financial bomb but this is hardly what Mr. Cimino is best known for.

I would like to inform Craig Hoit that Cimino's first major film was "The Deer Hunter," a film that was nominated for the Oscars (including best director) in 1978. "The Deer Hunter" was so powerful that it is presently used by the American Studies Department here at the University.

Perhaps Cimino's effort in "The Deer Hunter" was merely a fluke, but Craig Hoit should give credit where credit is due.

Michael Welch
Junior, English

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Wayne Iverson
Eugene

Missed the point

This is in response to the letter from Jerome Berryhill, a member of the band, "The Guardians of American Morality" (ODE, Nov. 11).

Mr. Berryhill has missed the point. Regardless of whether he meant it, the flyer in question did promote violence against women. Because the woman in the pictured was naked and on her knees with a fearful expression on her face, and because the caption under the picture referred to women's genitals as being the rightful property of the "wild" men in charge of country music, the poster perpetuates the myth that