

Evaluations

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Students should take the evaluation process seriously regardless of whether a faculty member is coming up for tenure or not, said ASUO President Kasey Brooks.

But that same presumption also implies that faculty take responsibility for improving their teaching skills after receiving below-average evaluations, Brooks added.

Kiyono Kobayashi, Foreign Students Organization director, rebuts this reasoning. "What we write in the evaluations doesn't necessarily change the professor's way of teaching."

"Even if an instructor has a bad reputation, you may be forced to take his or her class simply because of course requirements," Kobayashi said.

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Whether students have the competence to evaluate professors is a continual discussion among faculty members, said

Charles Cole, the business school's international studies director.

Likewise, "students aren't even necessarily the best judges of what they themselves need," English Professor Stoddard Malarkey asserted.

Richard Hill, provost and vice-president for academic affairs, said he was not aware of any student dissatisfaction with the evaluations, but said he was "concerned."

If University students aren't finding the current system useful, we will work with the ASUO to modify the process, Hill said.

A possible avenue for discussion is the President's Advising Committee if students want to make a change, Hill said.

In 1967 when students demanded access to the faculty evaluation process, it was "more a political struggle than a thirst for knowledge," said

Joseph Wade, director of Academic Advising and Student Services.

Today's students acknowledge themselves as "consumers paying for an education and they have every right to call directly to the attention of the faculty any concerns they have," he said.

"But if students are consumers, then faculty has the right to tell them what to buy," Malarkey rebutted.

There are too many intangibles students use to evaluate a professor, such as the time of the class, amount of classwork required, the professor's sex and even how the instructor dresses, Malarkey continued.

Student viewpoints should be taken seriously but with caution, he said.

"The University is not a completely free market," Malarkey said.

Et al.

MEETINGS

Strategy session concerning the State Board of Higher Education and the future of higher education in Oregon will be held today at 3:30 in the EMU Forum Room.

The UO-UES Sister University Project meets today in EMU Century Room A at 4 p.m.

Student group for United Methodists and other students meets tonight at 6:30 in the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid St.

The Fellowship of Christian Faculty meets today for lunch at 12 noon today in EMU Century Room D.

test workshop today at 3:30 p.m. in Oregon Hall Room 164.

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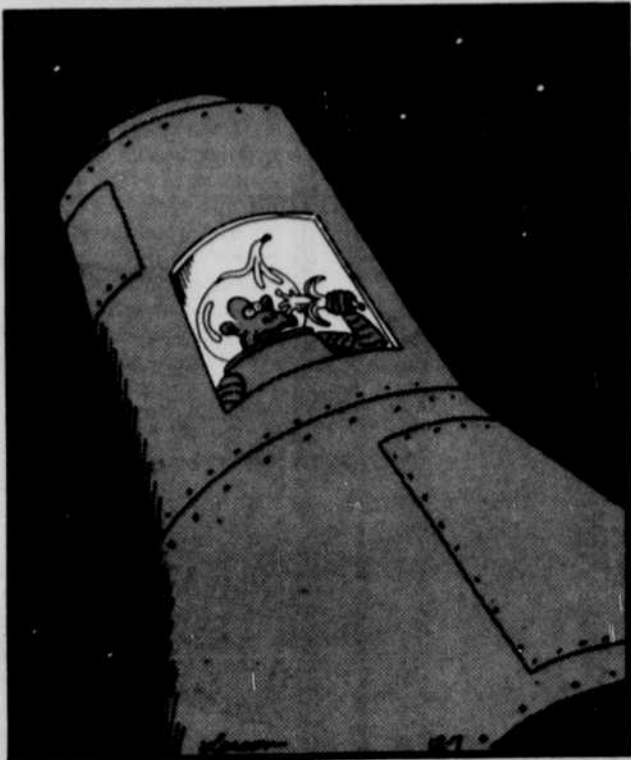
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By GARY LARSON



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