

New drop rule will ease add/drop chaos

Skipping class on the first two sessions of the term may not be the brightest thing to do, but it happens. Because of a new rule, however, there is a good reason for it not to happen.

Certain courses in this year's schedule of classes are marked with an "A," which stands for administrative drop. If a student fails to show up on either the first or second session, the teacher is allowed to drop that student from the roll.

Students who go through the hell of second-day registration at McArthur Court, if they aren't turned away from classes altogether, are sometimes put on waiting lists for the classes they need.

Even a waiting list is no guarantee that a student will get in. The class could be filled with other students who decide the class is for the birds, skip it regularly and then withdraw — after the add deadline. This is disgusting, especially at a crowded university where classes are more precious than gold and cost \$600 (\$1,600 for out of state students) or more per term.

The administrative drop rule will give students caught in this bureaucratic nightmare some hope. There always should have been a law against skipping a class, especially one someone else really needs in order to graduate. Now there is — sort of.

The new rule is a good idea. But for rules to be fair and effective, they need to apply to everybody.

So far the rule applies only to smaller classes, such as literature, foreign language and writing. It would be far more effective if it applied to *all* classes — those held in 200-seat lecture halls as well as in the smaller classrooms of Friendly, Gilbert and Deady. Filled classes and waiting lists are just as common at the 200-seat level as they are in smaller settings.

We admit it would be a bit impractical for a professor to take a verbal roll in a huge class, but there are ways around that — such as having students sign a sheet and pass it in.

The benefits of applying the administrative drop to all classes are obvious. Gone will be the days when people are turned away from a classroom or lecture hall filled only with empty chairs.

In addition, if students know they have to be in a class the first couple of sessions, they may decide they like the class, stick with it and — gasp! — learn something.

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.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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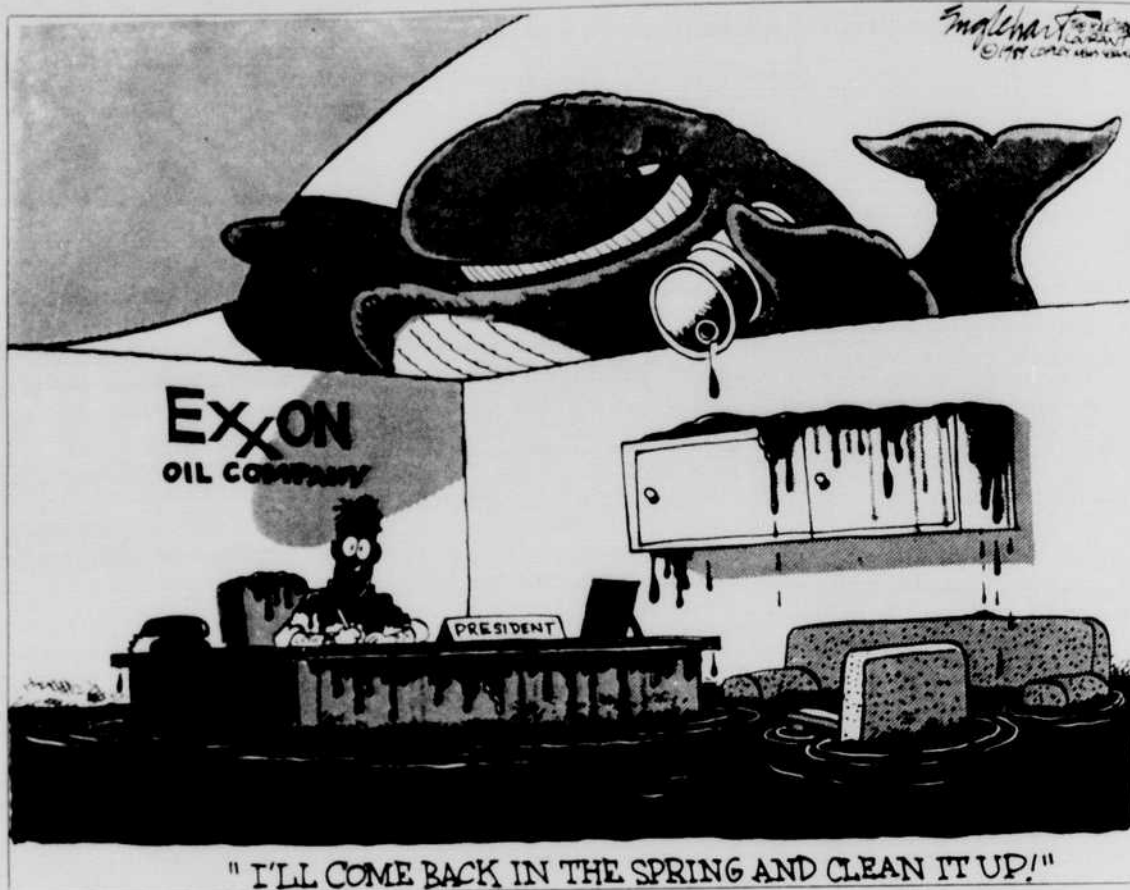
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Public donations much needed resource

In an age where most people would agree that things aren't what they used to be, it's nice to know that some people still keep their promises.

Last year, local media entrepreneur Carolyn Chambers said she would donate \$1 million to the University to establish various faculty positions in the journalism and business schools. Last Tuesday, Chambers lived up to her word, announcing the gift in a Salem press conference.

We applaud Chambers for her generosity, but even more for her savvy. Chambers withheld the donation until the state matched her funding. During this year's legislative session, Gov. Neil Goldschmidt introduced his \$1.2 million "Endowment for Excellence" fund which will match the interest raised on private donations at the University and Oregon State University.

Between Chambers' endowment and the Legislature's grant, the University is about \$100,000 a year better off. The money will be used to create a new chair in the business school, and two professorships in the journalism school.

The endowment won't bump up the size of the current faculty, or give them much-

needed raises, but it is a step in the right direction. Some school administrators have said the money will give the University an opportunity to pursue the best teachers and professors.

Some people might argue private donations should not be accepted at a public institution, but we disagree. The colleges and universities in Oregon are woefully underfunded, and the institutions can no longer rely on the state to adequately support them. Chambers' and other's donations are not only welcome, but necessary.

Chambers is one of many people in the last few years to donate money to the University. Last year, California developer Charles Lundquist donated \$1 million to establish an entrepreneur center in the business school. Also, the school's library was renamed after Phillip Knight, the Nike Inc. co-founder who donated a substantial part of the building's restoration costs.

We'd all like to live in a perfect educational world. But in the meantime, private donations will be needed to make up for what the state doesn't pay. The Legislature's recent generosity comes as a breath of fresh air. Let's hope they just keep it up.

Letters

Conservatism

Consider this proposition: A society will not long thrive that is socialistically structured such as to demand its responsible citizens finance the consequence of its irresponsible citizens.

Accepting this philosophy is basically what separates "Conservatives" from "Liberals."

A fundamental conservative/liberal dividing theme is that of personal responsibility; i.e. should people take responsibility for the consequence of their actions or inactions?

Go down the issue list. Notice who advocates the individual's responsibility, and who advocates society's collective responsibility (as force-fed by strong-arm government):

- Workfare — or just plain work versus welfare.
- Parent child-care versus government day-care.
- Hiring the most qualified versus quota hiring mandates (i.e. affirmative action).
- Committed disease-free monogamous heterosexual marriage versus government financed condoms and AIDS/STD care for unrestricted "value-free" sex.

Free enterprise, supply-and-demand fueled economy and open market-place versus rent control, price control, and "comparable worth."

"Get tough" drug laws versus legalizing drugs, methadone treatment and supplying needles.

Capital punishment and restitution versus criminal furlows and "rehabilitation."

Private insurance (as based on your own risk category; i.e. smoker, alcohol abuser, homosexual, drug user) versus national health coverage and no-fault auto insurance.

Responsible citizens should not finance the consequences of irresponsible citizens. Rampant evasion of individual responsibility bow threatens our nation's existence - whether it's drugs, sexual promiscuity, crime or generational welfare. Join the "personal responsibility" position — the conservative position. America's future is at

stake.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

Pen pal

I am writing to ask you to put my letter on the University's notice board so that the willing students of Oregon can write to me.

I am a 26-year-old Kenyan, a country in Eastern Africa, but I am currently working in the People's Republic of Mozambique.

My only hobby is to make friends with people of different nationalities. I assume that the University of Oregon accommodates people of different countries who I think will do as requested.

My address is: Avenida de Angola No. 746-2 Andar, Maputo, People's Republic of Mozambique.

I remain to await for your letters which I promise to reply to.

Vincent O'Augustino
Student

Monday, September 25, 1989