

## Don't make finals harder for teachers

The end of fall term is upon us. This week, all University students will buckle down for finals, trying to survive the last few school days.

On Saturday, when finals are done and through, the Ducks will meet the Tulsa Golden Hurricane in the Independence Bowl. For the first time in 26 years, Oregon will play in a post-season football game.

Even though most people have supported Oregon's acceptance of the bowl bid, it has created a unique set of problems. Because the game comes at the end of finals week, members of the football team, cheerleading squad and marching band will miss the last three days of finals.

Athletes missing classes is nothing new. Teachers regularly reschedule tests for them. It is accepted and rarely debated.

But because it's been 26 years since the last bowl game, never has the current administration had to deal with so many students missing final exams, *en masse*.

In a memo dated Nov. 30, Provost Norman Wessells sent a note to University faculty members, detailing how they could help the band members, football players and cheerleaders take their exams. Wessells outlined several options, including take-home tests, early or make-up exams and allowing students to take tests in Shreveport the day before the game.

However, Wessells said in the interest of fairness, if a take-home or early exam was scheduled for a football player, band member or cheerleader, the option had to be made available to all the students in the class.

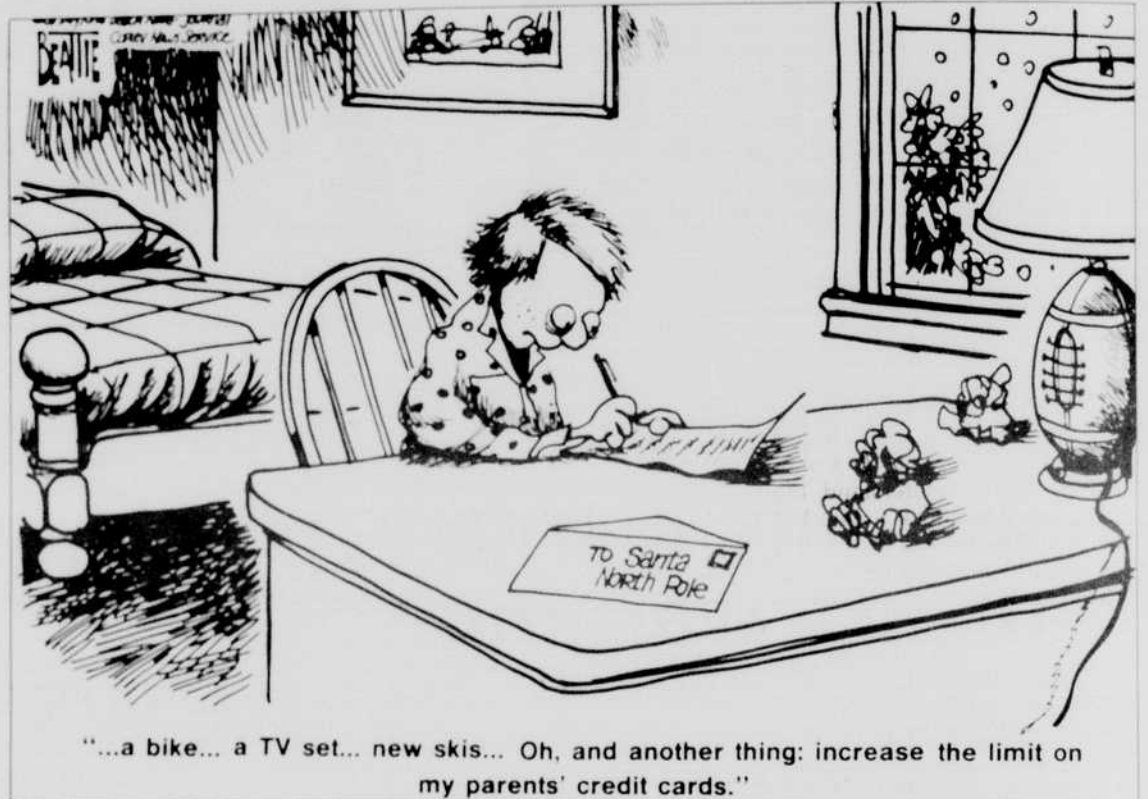
Wessells' concern for fairness is admirable, but his solution is unworkable.

Offering early exams to all class members creates a logistical nightmare for an already overworked faculty staff, who have to make extra versions of tests and arrange for rooms. Professors dislike finals almost as much as students do. It seems unfair to faculty to burden them with more work at their most difficult time of the term.

Wessells' solution doesn't go far enough in making things fair for everybody. What about large classes with multiple sections, some of which have athletes and band members, and some of which don't? You can't get around the issue.

When you consider it, the band, team and cheerleaders only make up 350 students out of a University population of more than 17,000. It's simply not worth it to disrupt the entire University for that few a number. Because only a small percentage of the students will be affected, don't make professors' lives harder than they already are.

Teachers should assist the band members, football players and cheerleaders in their classes in finding a reasonable time to take their finals. Then they should administer the final exam to the rest of the class as if nothing was out of the ordinary.



## Initiative wraps up packaging problems

Last week, the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group and members of the Legislature announced an initiative campaign that would enact strict new recycling standards for packaging materials sold in Oregon.

If approved, this law would be the most extensive recycling law in any state.

As landfills across the nation reach capacity and many states look across their borders to find places to dump their garbage, the need for a more extensive recycling program has grown.

And as more and more state legislatures enact tougher recycling laws, Oregon, which was in the recycling forefront when it passed the nation's first bottle bill in 1971, has fallen far behind other states in progressive recycling laws.

The initiative, if passed, would require packaging to meet one of these three requirements by Jan. 1, 1993:

- Packaging must be made of at least 50 percent (by weight) recycled materials
- Containers must be able to be reused for the same purpose at least five times
- Packaging must be included in an effective recycling program, or must be made of materials that are being effectively recycled (a recycling rate of 15 percent by 1993 and in-

creasing to a 60 percent rate by 2002).

This law finally would begin to deal with the American "throw away" attitude. Many food products are packaged in plastics, plastic foam and aluminum foil. These products, like microwave meals, snack foods and cardboard drink containers, usually are designed for immediate consumption, and the containers and packaging are thrown away after use. "Disposable" containers are rarely recycled and make up a good portion of our garbage.

This new initiative is looked upon with much relief. Oregonians recycle more than many other state, but there are not enough options available for consumers who want to recycle. Consumers need to become more involved and use their buying power to influence manufacturers.

If consumers only purchase products that are packaged in reusable containers and avoid over-packaged and non-reusable containers, it will encourage manufacturers to produce environmentally sound packaging that is reusable and perhaps made out of recycled products.

Supporters want to place the initiative on the November, 1990 ballot, which means they will need to gather 63,578 signatures by July 6, 1990. They believe they can do it; let's hope for our sake they can.

## Letters

### Lemmings

This letter is in response to the letter "Hatred is hatred," printed in the *Emerald* on Nov. 20.

This is concerning the atmosphere of hatred and lies upon your campus. I hate you and you hate me. C'mon and holler it at the top of your lungs. "I hate bugs!" That's right, bugs.

Love is love ... OK. It's not hate to say "Open the refrigerator door now! I need to defrost the fridge!" But wait, when a frat boy says "run faster, you'll catch the bug," I say "Muzzle me before I rant." You know who you are! Why don't you say "I hate you, dumb bug!" and get it off your chest.

Come on, helpless lemmings, let's not be wimpy and deny ourselves. All I hear is "peace man, yeah!" and I know that is all a bunch of mumbo jumbo because I'm arrogant and all-knowing.

Everyone hates everyone, especially me. You hate me and I hate me. Bugs say it loud. The cicadas are humming all around. Hate is "Oh God, I'm coming ... I've got to stop writing ... I enjoy hatred too much ... even better than drugs."

Trent Wood  
Student

### Unresolvable

In response to Jon Wollaider (*ODE*, Dec. 1):

Why do you insist upon arguing an unresolvable conflict? You can argue about abortion until the sun explodes, and people still won't agree. People are different. Inside each person's mind is a whole universe of beliefs and concepts about life.

What makes you think your beliefs are any better than someone else's? Have you been

talking directly with some deity unknown to the rest of us?

Making a law that applies to people you don't even know is not going to solve the problem. There are always going to be women who want and need abortions; we need to make it safe for them. This is not pro-kill, it's pro-choice.

If you and your wife think abortion is wrong, that's fine, but it's none of your business if someone else needs one. I don't see any pro-choice people at your doctor's office, screaming at your wife to abort.

As for all the "vulgar" signs go, they sound fairly appropriate to me, and I am hardly a "radical feminist."

Mark Fink  
Telecommunications and film

### True definition

The *Emerald* is probably the

worst paper I have ever read. It is so biased, and I don't believe I have ever read an article on the first three pages which has not put someone else down, whether it be Rich Brooks or President Bush.

Honestly, if you feel you can do a better job — from coaching football to running our country — I suggest you go out and do it because running a paper has proved to be one of your weak spots.

When I think of liberals, I tend to think of people who represent themselves as those who discourage prejudice and as those who care for others.

The word hypocrite also comes to mind, as the *Emerald* is obviously very liberal, and it is also very prejudiced against any conservative official or cause.

When I first came to this university, I felt that I was at least a little bit liberal. Now I realize I am not. If being liberal is putting everyone else down, without looking at myself first, then I don't want any part of it.

Thank you for helping me realize what seems to be the true definition of liberal — hypocrisy and intolerance.

Marianne Gabrielsen  
Journalism

### Letters Policy

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.