

LETTERS

Dead wrong

In regard to John Higgins' letter "Deadly Cuts" (ODE, Nov. 12): While I don't necessarily agree with the Grateful Dead being banned, there are some facts you need to get straight. The athletic department has a large impact on our school and most other large universities.

The University is in the Pacific-10 Athletic Conference. It is a conference full of prestigious schools. If it were not for our athletic department we would have to drop out of the Pac-10 and would be known on the same level as schools like Portland State and the University of North Dakota.

Now, I am not knocking those schools, but I don't believe those schools are known as well academically, even though they have their strong points.

However, we are presently in the same conference with teams such as Stanford, Berkeley, Washington, UCLA and USC — all excellent universities.

Now, about our football program. Higgins stated, "Autzen rarely fills to capacity while our classrooms are overcrowded to pay for football scholarships." The extra student enrollment this year is due mainly to the shortfall in last year's enrollment, not to pay for football scholarships.

The University's football program has a \$2 million profit per year and the men's basketball program has a \$1 million profit. Those sports pay for themselves, plus they help support non-revenue sports such as women's basketball, volleyball, golf, etc.

Plus, this year we broke a single season attendance record, and in 1989 we averaged 40,000 people per game.

Be proud of our school, as well as our football program. The University's athletic department had nothing to do with the banning.

Oh yeah, *No football=No Autzen=No place for the Dead to play in the first place.*

Paul Regali
Student

Cop out

I would like to set the record straight in regard to the *Emerald's* headline "ASUO closes in one-day protest." (ODE, Nov. 15)

This headline was misleading in that it was assumed all branches of the ASUO government shut down. This was not the case. The Incidental Fee Committee is a distinctly separate branch from the Executive. We did not, nor will we in the future, engage in "visual statements" that harm the effective operations of the student groups we are empowered to serve. Such a tactic is not in the best interests of the student body either.

The shut down was a cop out by the ASUO Executive. The Executive wanted people to "reflect on the consequences of what has happened and of what all of us can do to head off the impending crisis." This shows just how perplexed the ASUO Executive leadership really is.

Why weren't the co-presidents reflecting on the consequences and coming out with immediate reaction(s)? Well, probably because they chose to shut the doors rather than open

them and attempt to address the problem in a constructive and straight-forward way. Leadership is about addressing issues and taking a stand.

So, what's it going to be? Either lead, follow or get out of the way! Let's get back to where substance can rein over imagery. Let's get down to work and serve the students well. And that includes keeping the doors of government open to everyone.

Michael S. Colson
ASUO
Incidental Fee Committee
Chairman

Don't miss it

Don't make the mistake of missing the photography exhibition, "Contact: Photojournalism Since Vietnam," at the University's Museum of Art. After viewing this work, perhaps you will become more aware of the world crises and less focused on your own personal problems. The exhibit ends Dec. 26.

Annette Holden
Art history

Steam

Boy, am I steamed! The subject, of course, is over the University vending machines. Sidestepping widely the whole South Africa/Pepsi/Coke issue — I'm talking about cost.

Last year I decided that the going price (65 cents) was way too much for my favorite non-alcoholic beverage, so I stopped buying from the machines. But when the price actually increased by a nickel last week, it was too much.

The way I figure it, the vending company has the entire student body in a virtual chokehold. Several thousand students with no time or energy are victims of the easy meal and seek comfort from the big red refrigerators. With such a situation, I would think that a company could make a healthy profit using a reasonable markup of 100 percent over the cost they pay for the product. But what's the markup on 70-cent can of soda? 250 percent?

300 percent? More?

This is outrageous. Boycott, I say. Boycott! Walk down to the convenience store and buy a drink. Bring in a twelve-pack and steal some fridge space. Go on a hunger strike, even. But boycott the vending machines.

I am using drinks as my example, but the same argument applies to the food machines, where the price has also just increased, and you can spend 50 cents for an ounce of potato chips. In fact, while I'm on a roll, I could also mention the low cost/performance ratio of most of the EMU food — another case of a captive audience flagrantly ignored and trodden over. But I digress.

Chet S. Haase
CIS Department

How secure

Is Autzen Stadium security for real? They protected a football from some unruly spectator who was merely throwing the ball after a kick.

They attempted to stop ecstatic fans from hurting the poor goal post by beating them back. After seeing all of this courage displayed, one would think they would do anything to protect a fan from bodily harm. Not!!

Amy Hope found out the hard way that they are more interested in saving the athletic department's money than stopping the intimidation of "seat stealers." What would we do without these guardians of our safety?

Rod Gallagher
Sociology
Lewis Elliott
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Sociology

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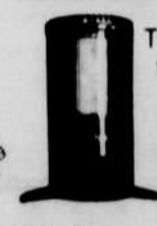
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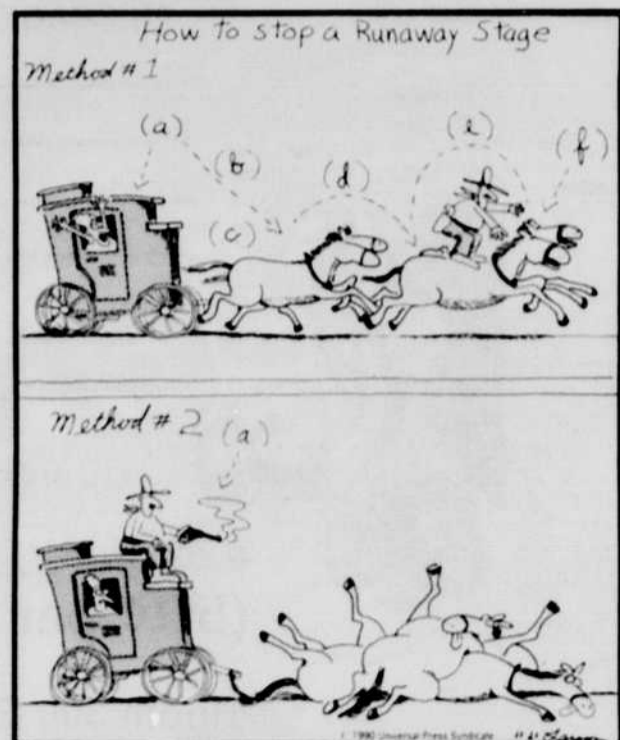
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By GARY LARSON



From the book "Guide to Western Stuff."