

LETTERS

Danger warning

I am worried about a dangerous new trend developing on U.S. campuses today.

There seems to be an increasing impulse to censure expression of thought that does not conform to the agenda of the so-called politically correct.

Most of the opposition to this seems to have been coming from the right. I would like to add a voice from the far left. (Not politically correct.)

I am specifically addressing Carey Drayton and Elaine Green (*ODE*, May 6), who have patted themselves on the back for nothing less than a witch-hunt.

I accuse them of self-aggrandizement and of lacking the sophisticated intellect needed for a critical analysis of radical political art.

I am referring to the two allegedly misogynist posters in question which are, in fact, of a radically feminist point of view. I invite Drayton, Green, Myles Brand, the Women's Center or anyone else to personally contact me so that I might aid their feeble intellects in understanding these posters.

I implore the student body and the faculty to oppose both the prosecution of the student suspect and the harassment of further suspects (they have questioned more than 100). If this was a hate crime, it was hatred of war and oppression that stimulated it.

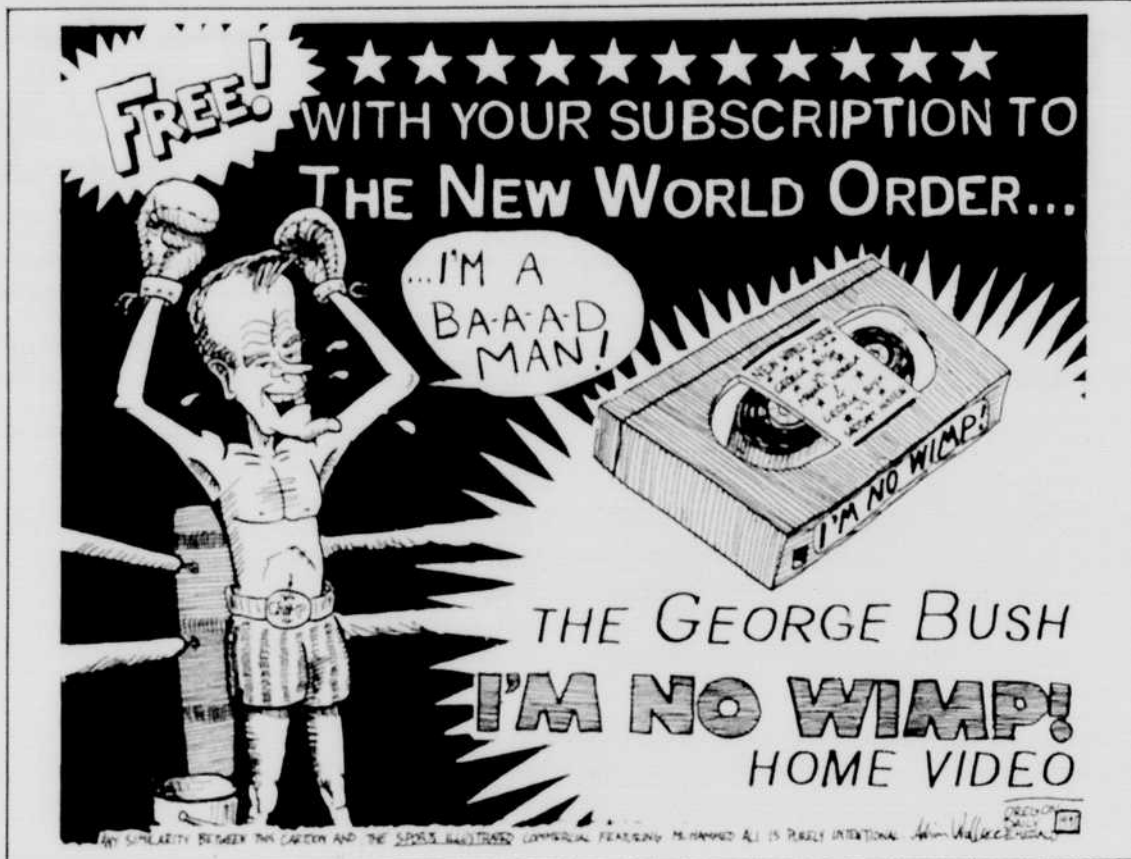
I have always been a supporter of feminism, and I ask that those from the Women's Center who still maintain intellectual integrity oppose this action. Don't let feminism become synonymous with McCarthyism!

Fight the thought police and support free thought and expression.

Aaron Kilber
Arts and letters

Mall plan

Take a minute and imagine our downtown mall. If you're like most people, you only go down there if you have to. Now imagine a new and improved city center; one with automo-



bile and bicycle access as well as pedestrian-only streets; a place where shoppers can get to stores without being drenched in our Oregon rain; a mall with new fountain areas, public restrooms and wide sidewalks.

This image can be realized. You should have received a ballot on redesigning our deteriorating mall. It will be paid for by a combination of urban renewal money and county road funds intended for this kind of improvement. No new taxes will be levied. The proposed changes would benefit students very much. Shopping closer to campus, more employment opportunities and better nightlife. Showing visiting relatives and friends our downtown could be a source of pride, rather than an embarrassment.

A change is needed and wanted. An overwhelming majority of merchants downtown are in favor of this plan. They know the importance of an active downtown. As it is now, the heart of our city is vacant and sometimes even scary. If

you want to know more about the new design, you can view a model of it at the Eugene Public Library. The citizen-designed plan speaks for itself.

When you receive a ballot, think of a new city center that is fun, accessible and reflects the image of Eugene we want to have.

Heidi Reeder
Rhetoric and Communications

Side out

Regarding your coverage of the incident on Monday, April 29, in which a moped driver hit a student who was crossing the street at 13th and University: It seems that though the *Emerald* may consider this a minor news event, you still have the responsibility to practice responsible journalism if you choose to report a story.

Specifically, the *Emerald* failed to report the incident from the perspective of the victim, even though you did manage to report the views of both the moped driver and a witness. By failing to interview the

victim, your coverage gave the impression that had Kim Wuebbenhorst (the victim) been better able to negotiate crossing the street, the incident could have been avoided.

Had you taken time to contact Kim before printing your article, her perspective may have caused us all to wonder why the moped driver was trying to negotiate a turn that was filled with pedestrians at that time.

Although this incident may be small in terms of social, political, environmental or economic concerns, the point is that the *Emerald* violated one of the major principles of responsible journalism: objectiv-

ity in terms of reporting both sides of the story.

Since the *Emerald* thought it important enough to report the same story twice within a week, maybe a follow-up on how Kim is doing and an interview regarding her perspective is in order. That is, if you can catch her between attempts at walking in front of moving vehicles.

Lauri Segel
University staff

No complaints

In response to a letter objecting to a photograph of the recovery of Professor Emmanuel Hatzantonis' body (*ODE*, May 7):

If newspapers published only things that offended no one, their entire content could probably be printed on a 2-by-3-inch page and would probably consist of weather forecasts.

Reality is necessarily as often as ugly as it is beautiful, and our ability to deal with it is not served by concealing the aspects of what we dislike by feeling that if we can't see them, they aren't there.

People who want only the beautiful or the innocuous thrust into their ken are going to be, at best, perpetually disappointed.

A better case might, perhaps, have been made that publishing the photograph in question served no purpose worth the additional pain it may have caused Hatzantonis' family.

In its hyper-offensiveness (to steal Berke Breathed's lovely word) in the face of simple reality, however, the complaining letter is only embarrassing.

Michael E. Stamm
Graduate
Composition History

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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.

FORUM

Low voter turnout result of ASUO's effectiveness

By Christopher Matz

So I'm working in Suite 4 when the call comes over the phone from an outraged student group whose budget hasn't been heard yet, wanting to speak to Kirk Bailey. It seems IFC Chairwoman Jennifer Bills has referred all groups with budget questions to the ASUO Executive until further notice or until May 24 (when Bills takes office as ASUO president), as the Incidental Fee Committee has for the second time in as many months adjourned and left their responsibilities by the wayside.

Commentary

I can't tell whether this is the last straw, in a term of last straws, or if I'll remember to be shocked and appalled when something like this happens again. Indications are that it will — at this point, why not?

As a student of the University and a member of the ASUO Executive (no, I don't think that automatically disqualifies my opinion — I'm quite sure I didn't agree to anything to that effect when I signed on), I'd like to shed some perspective on this ongoing mess.

First, I cannot believe how utterly irresponsible it was for the *Oregon Daily Emerald* to encourage students not to vote. I daresay they already do a rather

good job of that.

As for low voter turnout being the fault of the ASUO Executive, well, we can go around and around, but I would claim that high turnout on this campus occurs when there are negatives involved. I don't believe it's unreasonable to suggest that a roughly average turnout of 15 percent means the Executive is doing its job — the people who always vote did, and nobody else was upset enough to do so.

Advancing the idea that student government is ineffective and thus not worthwhile because we can't get legislators in Salem to give us a break is similarly ludicrous. I seem to remember a fairly visible campaign last fall urging folks to vote down Measure 5 and save us this grief. We tried to head off the crisis and could not; now everyone can see why we were so frantic.

Last, at what point will the IFC — all seven members — be taken to task for playing personal politics and extorting the budget process, not to mention shirking their duties as elected officials? Before or after Salem completely tires of children playing at adults' games and tears up the Clark Document, which gives us the privilege of distributing our incidental fees ourselves?

And if new IFC members, particularly Lydia Lerma (who filed the complaint against then-IFC Chairman Mike Colson that got this ball of mud rolling), are not

willing to pursue the removal of Colson as an issue before the committee, why the hell did the Executive bother with an investigation?

We have better things to do than be the lightning rod for all the personal friction generated in the EMU, not the least of which is to protect student rights with the University administration, state Legislature and the community. This is increasingly difficult when student officials flaunt the ease with which they fail to do their job, and the student daily newspaper suggests that this might be the Executive's fault all along and that perhaps we'd be better off without student government. Thank you for your support.

I'll be the first to admit that the ASUO Executive isn't perfect, but if there wasn't a student government, as with so many other things, someone would just have to invent one. Either way, if the *Emerald* and the other student publications want all the credit as government watchdogs, then they had better be ready to accept at least some of the blame when they say we screwed up.

After all, if only two people came forward to comment on the *Emerald's* anti-ASUO editorial, maybe student government isn't the only thing students don't give a damn about.

Christopher Matz is the ASUO media relations coordinator.