

## English minor's loss not students' gain

No one would argue that the budget-constricting effects of 1990's Ballot Measure 5 haven't taken their toll on the educational opportunities available at the University.

But who would've expected them to destroy the University's understanding of logic, too?

"The program is overwhelmingly popular, so we must abandon it."

Such is the reasoning behind the English department's recent proposal to eliminate the English minor as of spring 1994. Because so many students have chosen to minor in English, there isn't room enough in the program to support both the minoring students' needs and the needs of those students who are majoring in English.

**...The first programs to go should be those that are the least popular, not the most.**

Therefore, the minor will not be available to students after the end of this academic year.

This decision raises the question of how effectively the University is distributing the ever-decreasing amount of available funds. It stands to reason that the first programs to go should be those that are the least popular, not the most. And if a popular program is dropped, then it should be in spite of its popularity, not because of it.

The English department is not completely (nor even primarily) to blame for this turn of events. It can hardly be condemned for simply trying to protect its majors. But the absence of an easy scapegoat doesn't make the mistake any less of a mistake.

The effects of the decision will be felt all over the University, because a minor in English is compatible with so many other disciplines.

The English department should be applauded for making the efforts it has to warn students about the minor's dissolution, and to accommodate those seniors who've been planning to minor but haven't formally declared that intention. It is unfortunate, however, that those students who do complete the minor requirements before spring 1994, but won't actually graduate until after that, will not be officially considered English minors.

If the loss of the English minor sets a precedent for other departments, it poses a serious threat to the very availability of broad-based liberal arts education at the University. If other minors are lost in the defense of beleaguered majors, it can only discourage students in their attempt to study areas outside their primary academic focus. Specialization will be enhanced, but the exchange of multidisciplinary ideas, which is a hallmark of a great university, will be compromised in the process.



## LETTERS

### Bikers vs. EPD

Eugene police department: In your aggressive pursuit of dangerous bicycle criminals and evil jaywalkers, you succeeded in destroying any shred of a peaceful relationship with the community that employs you.

Bicyclists are not polluting the air, causing any Persian Gulf wars, destroying any public roads, and when is the last time you heard of a bicyclist smashing into a school bus and killing the children inside?

I'm sorry you missed out on Nazi Germany, and perhaps your childhoods weren't the happiest, but your power trips will only temporarily fill those huge empty spaces inside. Public animosity toward you will snowball with each erection of your pen and only you can stop yourself. If you just can't seem to quit, then I suggest you buy more riot gear.

A. Sederlin  
Eugene

### Access rare

Kim Challis-Roth's article, "Computer access increasing" (ODE, Oct. 12), was clearly meant to give the users the idea that the University is expanding students' access to the so-called "information superhighway." The reality, however, is quite the reverse.

Two years ago, any student could walk into Room 107 of the Computing Center and, after removing nothing more from his or her wallet than a student ID card, obtain a VAX account. This account not only gave the user Internet mail access, it also allowed the user to read Usenet newsgroups and to use file transfer protocol to download programs and other files from computers all over the planet.

This year, however, it cost \$10 merely to get mail privileges. To obtain full Internet access, an undergraduate must now stand-and-deliver a \$75 dollar deposit to cover user fees. (Not surprisingly, those oh-so-god-like graduate students can

still get full privileges free.)

I don't want to hear any complaints from the University officials the next time some hacker breaks into one of the University's computer systems. The University's current policies restricting access to the Internet invite just that sort of activity.

Colin Caulkins  
Student

### Death squad

Judging from the recent report about a Brazilian death squad killing seven homeless street children in front of a church in Rio de Janeiro, it should be increasingly obvious what the face of the emerging new world order is really like.

It is the face of fascism. Don't attempt to help poor people. If they become too annoying or too big of an eyesore or if children are so desperate that they steal — just kill them!

Don't rest easy! This third-world Brazilian model of the future is coming gradually to the United States. The tremendous crime wave, the LA rebellion, the homeless, the sorry state of public education, the cuts in public service, etc. are all indicators of this. We can stop it only if ordinary American citizens become educated about the causes of these things and organize to confront the rich and powerful!

Gary Sudborough  
Bellflower, Calif.

### Euro-studies

As a student interested in area studies of Africa and Latin America, I am very disappointed with the University. It basically caters to Europe and East Asia.

Students interested in European studies and East Asian studies are overwhelmed with opportunities of courses offered in various departments. Also available to such students is the International Student Exchange Office, which is oriented toward Europe and East Asia. There are no study abroad programs to

Africa and only one to Latin America. In the foreign language departments, while four Germanic languages are offered, no native African languages are available.

Furthermore, as far as African studies courses are concerned, the majority of the ones offered are in the anthropology department. Course such as Ethnology of Tribal Societies (ANTH 302) and Ethnology of Hunters and Gatherers (ANTH 301) satisfy major requirements. But few, if any, courses are offered on modern African politics and societies. The same holds true for Latin America studies.

In conclusion, the international studies department isn't really international. Perhaps it would be more honest if it is called the European studies and East Asian studies department.

Ricardo Davico  
Undeclared

### Jer-USA-lem

After being banished from Jer-USA-lem's media for 16 years, Christ threw in the towel and gave the pen to the Holy Ghost to carry on, saying that the First Amendment is an ugly lie, in that freedom of speech has become the Devil's evil empire to fulfill the Biblical prophecy of Sodom's great end.

Look at your copy of the media's own *World Almanac and Book of Facts* and locate the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Preceding the Bill of Rights is its "preamble." All of your school teachers and lawyers join in for the reading of the law and discover therein: "individual and state rights."

How would business advertise its products? With the consent of the people, not their representatives who've sold their soul to run the nation's debt up to \$9 billion more per month. What that translates into is local law, but which can only free citizens when a state-nation secedes from the union.

John-Wayne Johnson  
San Diego, Calif.

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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