

University isn't able to serve 2,000 more

On the surface, it seems like the ideal solution: the University would increase student enrollment while maintaining the same number of faculty members while (hopefully) keeping tuition increases at a minimum, while (get this) improving the prestige and attractiveness of the University.

Sound like a pipe dream? Well, it probably is.

In an address to the University Assembly last week, University President Myles Brand described a scenario for preserving the University during the next biennium's budget cuts. In that scenario, the productivity of the University would be increased to such a degree as to accommodate 2,000 (or more) additional students.

This section of the plan, while doubtful, is not impossible. The use of new technologies (such as video recordings or instruction by computer) might allow the University to instruct a few more students; increasing the average class size might make room for a few more. Finally, if more students were able to graduate within four years (instead of five or six), that too might increase the University's capacity.

If we are prepared to be optimistic, we might even agree that these methods would be enough to handle 2,000 or more additional students.

However, the idea that all this could be achieved while simultaneously *improving* the quality and attractiveness of education at the University is nothing short of fantasy.

For many universities, maintaining a low student-teacher ratio is a sure-fire way to attract students; conversely, a high ratio can scare them away. This university is no different.

Relying too much on technology, particularly as a means of compensating for an imbalance in the student-teacher ratio, is likely to produce a backlash. High school students may be thankful for a filmstrip to break up the monotony of lectures, but college students are paying for their education. Most people perceive human instruction as superior to the alternatives, and that perception, right or wrong, is enough to make many students shy away from a university whose ratio is too imbalanced.

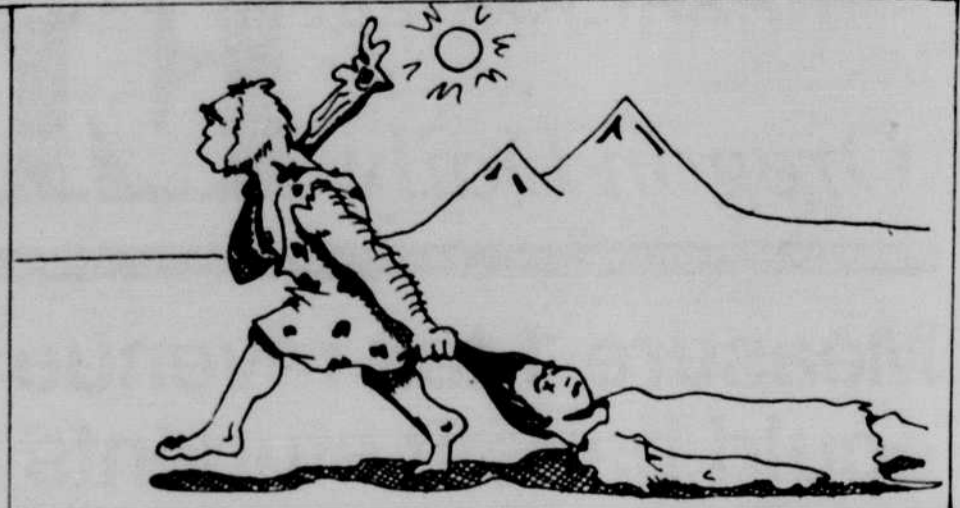
Increasing class sizes won't improve that ratio either, and will almost certainly reduce the quality of instruction.

Finally, making it easier for students to graduate in four years by reducing graduation requirements could be seen as a "watering down" of the degrees offered. That especially could have disastrous effects on the ability of the University to recruit and retain new students.

Some students, particularly those from within the state, will come to this University no matter what. But many out-of-state students, upon which much of the University's survival depends, would find a lot less reason to come here if the University tries to take on 2,000 more students without signing on an appropriate number of new faculty members to teach them. Especially if their tuition keeps rising all the while.

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LETTERS

Profit kills

In response to Damon Cole's letter (*ODE*, Oct. 22), supporting Ayn Rand's rational egoism and laissez-faire capitalism, there is an important point that Cole fails to address.

Nowhere in Rand's ideal capitalism does she consider its inevitable effect on the environment. (She wrote in the 1950s, remember?) Is Cole suggesting that we should abandon a government that subsidizes multinational corporate exploitation of the world's resources for one that simply allows the corporations to do it on their own?

Although Rand had a clear understanding of the U.S. government's violation of the first cardinal rule of capitalism, operating at a loss through subsidiary programs, she perceived the governments involved to be counterproductive to corporate profits. In actuality, U.S. policy (particularly military) has resulted in tremendous profits for multinational corporations.

(All under the guise of spreading democracy, I might add; communism may have actually worked somewhere on this planet if it weren't for the United States' systematic and very thorough extermination of it.) As far as the environment is concerned, we are in danger of losing virtually every natural habitat left. And to what? Corporate profits!

I am not a communist; I am a capitalist in Ayn Rand's ideal sense of the word. However, on their "enlightened age," we must realize that a corporation's profit motive, if left unchecked, will have irreversible repercussions on the environment.

I add this appendage to Rand's oath of the profit motive: "I swear by my life and my love of it. That I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine," yet I will live for the sake of this planet as a whole, which my life is entirely dependent upon.

**Paul Iverson
Eugene**

Exorcism

Nov. 2 is Election Day in the United States, which will reaffirm the corruption of the U.S. Constitution by the people's elected representatives who have transferred individual rights to profit-making and tax-collecting institutions. But this betrayal of the U.S. Supreme Court demands that all nine justices resign.

Freedom of speech only applies to a single individual in order that he or she might address his or her community regarding its welfare and longevity. An individual also had the right to have his or her concerns broadcast per freedom of the press. Both are individual rights and cannot apply to a group.

Again, religious belief is an individual right, not applying to a group. Individuals have the right to assemble, not in a representing group, but only themselves. So the time has come for everyone, especially preachers, to rise up out of their group graves and be born again. I did long ago. Anyone now?

The (John 16:11 / Jude 16,11) 1611 King James Bible was spiritually fulfilled during this generation, and an example of group demonizing is found in Matthew 8:32 where greed entered into a group of lawyers and they ran down a steep place and perished in the sea of laws that destroy individualism.

My one-man crusade to exorcise demonized America began Feb. 17, 1972, and on Easter Sunday of April 10, 1977, I got a partner with a photo in the Salem newspaper with a saying, "if all (Wo-men) stayed home, we'd see: 1. Full employment; 2. No crime; 3. Jesus; for Christ's Rev. 19:7 marriage.

**John-Wayne Johnson
San Diego, Calif.**

We'll listen

In response to Michael Swatzel's letter (*ODE*, Oct. 22), if you need someone to talk to, call

465-4832. Anyone here will talk with you.

**James Slagle
Eugene**

Baha'ism

The American Baha'i community has recently reported about the destruction of the Baha'i gravesites in Iran and a secret government plan to suppress and destroy their "cultural roots." That is deplorable. But that's not the full story.

Culturally, most of the traditions in Baha'ism are in total conflict with and far away from the Iranian traditions and values. The encouraging of young women to employ all means possible to solicit and recruit new members is not only utterly offensive but reprehensible to traditional Iranian values.

The so-called emergence of Baha'ism is viewed by Iranians with suspicion and skepticism, since the very precept of Baha'ism is shrouded in political intrigues rather than spiritual enlightenment.

Politically, contrary to Baha'i claims, its leaders have always been engaged in reactionary politics detrimental to Iran and its people. Ironically, the very basis of Baha'i foundation was political; it came into being in the 19th century when Iran was politically in turmoil and weak, and Baha'ism was used to divide and exploit an already fragile country. Iranians have found the close ties between Baha'ism and Zionism an unholy one. (The world headquarters of Baha'ism is located in Haifa.)

Prior to the 1979 Iranian revolution, Baha'is invested millions of dollars in Israel. Furthermore, some of the prominent Iranian Baha'is were involved in the Shah's regime: in the much-hated SAVAK as well as other agencies of the government that brought pain and agony to the masses in Iran.

And this is the rest of the story.

**T.J. Fooladi
Eugene**

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.
The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.
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