

Let it Snow



JEFF PASLAY/Emerald

FROM THE PAST: The Willamette Valley was hit with a couple inches of snow during January 1992. Campus didn't close even though most of Eugene shut. In the University's 117-year history, campus has closed only twice because of bad weather. The first cancellations were in January 1969 when Eugene was hit with 34 inches of snow during a three-day period. In 1985, classes were canceled Dec. 2 as Thanksgiving break was extended so students would not have to travel back to Eugene over the state's ice-covered highways. In 1928, Thanksgiving break was canceled because of a flu epidemic. The administration just told the students they were not going home for Thanksgiving, and they went to classes.

CHEATING

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extensive in 30 years — 67 percent of the 6,097 students surveyed admitted to some form of academic dishonesty.

The problem of cheating on campus has brought concern among faculty and administrators.

"I'm concerned because we have to be sure that degrees we award are legitimate, and legitimacy in part depends upon the integrity of the academic process," Wessells said.

For a faculty member to process a formal complaint against a student, a hearing is required, which proceeds like a trial. A law student prosecutes the case, the accused student can have a defense lawyer, and evidence is entered in the courtroom.

Because some faculty members have hesitated to participate in that system, the Student Conduct Committee proposed an amendment that would have created an academic dishonesty hearing board and strayed from the legalistic attitude of the present student conduct code. The University Senate defeated the proposal in March 1992.

According to minutes from the Senate meeting, opponents spoke against the the proposal because "the present system was working and did not need fixing." Opponents also said that due process would be placed in jeopardy, and that the proposed motion would have people who weren't legally trained attempt to do legal work.

But Peter Gilkey, former chairman of the Student Conduct Committee, disagreed that the present system is fine.

"The procedures are too complicated and cumbersome, and the faculty don't want to enter the legalistic process," he said. "They're either resolving it outside the system, or ignoring the cheating."

The problem of underreporting is shown in another study by McCabe, in which 67 percent of the 802 faculty members surveyed said they would go to "little or very little effort" to document a cheating incident.

The students who responded to the survey found that troubling, McCabe said in a telephone interview.

"What's most difficult for students to deal with is that they see so much cheating going on, and they observe faculty doing very little about it," McCabe said.

The problem of student cheating will perpetuate if faculty members continue to fail to report such cases, he said.

A system that is too "legalistic," which hinders faculty from reporting cheating and results in a relatively low number of reported cases, continues to trouble some faculty members.

"I think 40 cases out of 17,000 students is unrealistic," said Gilkey, a professor of mathematics. "I'm very uneasy that that's the state of affairs."

"It really worries me. It's a big problem, but I can't prove it's a big problem," he said.

EMERALD

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"If you're going to put a picture of a minority, you should do the same with all people," he said.

One observer who called himself "Africa X" criticized the student paper for editorializing its news stories.

Muhammad said in her speech that the *Emerald* had only one minority on staff. However, the *Emerald's* news department includes six minority students, representing just under one-fifth of the 35-member staff.

"We were not aware of other students of color on the staff," she said.

Kaly Soto, a Latino-American who edits the *Emerald's* entertainment section, said she agrees with the BSU that the three photos were in bad taste, but doesn't take sides with them on how they handled their response.

"There was little thought put into running the photos and even less thought in the response," she said. "I know Jake and work with him and I can't think there is any bad intent behind the fact that those men were African American."

Other *Emerald* staff members agreed with Soto when asked Monday.

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