

Dead Week should be the last week

It's the week before Finals Week, and it certainly doesn't seem dead around here.

Dead Week is a tradition that is as old as many of the Universities in this country. However the terminology "dead" may not be the most fitting. For many students, Dead Week has been the hardest week of the term — papers, group projects and even finals. For many, it is worse than Finals Week, so let's get rid of Finals Week.

The idea that Dead Week used to be a week of no classes whatsoever is not true, at least at this University. Some universities, however, have been known to cancel classes and spend the week in intense study (what's that?) in preparation for exams that start on Saturday of Dead Week.

University archivist Keith Richard said Dead Week used to be even more alive than dead as many professors used to assign finals during dead week. Some professors would assign papers and projects during the week regardless of what's on the syllabus, if there even was a syllabus.

Mike Prothe, a University student in the 1980s, was tired of being caught off-guard. He introduced legislation that required teachers to determine assignments prior to Dead Week, Richards said. Professors had to incorporate their end-of-the-term assignments into the syllabus to be distributed at the beginning of the term.

This is a bit ironic. There are probably more students that vote at the ASUO elections than students who work in the first week of class on an assignment that is due the last week. At least it provides for some serious use of the word procrastination, and at least students know something is due.

Regardless of the legislation, it seems that many professors evaluate the idea of Dead Week two different ways. Either study for a final, take a final early or turn in an assignment that was known about all term but never touched until the night before in order to eliminate class during Finals Week.

Who's kidding who? Everyone, professors and students alike, have one thing in mind as the term winds to an end — vacation. Certainly pushing a final forward to extend vacation would be in most people's best interest.

Professors should put it in the syllabus now and cancel class during Finals Week in the future. Certainly after a term with students, professors must be able to fairly evaluate a student's performance. Professors could spend the extra time preparing a well thought-out lesson plan for the upcoming term and students could spend the extra time, preferably somewhere warm, forgetting everything they learned the previous term.

As far as the name goes we might as well leave it. Calling it "Dead," for some reason sounds better than the 10th week. Or maybe we could change it to "All Procrastination Must End, All Assignments Are Due and Finals Should Be Given Early Week." Finals Week could be called, "School Appreciation and No One Is There Week." Certainly, many people appreciate school the most when they're not there.



OPINION

Dump Hornbuckle; watch films



MARTIN FISHER

It's about time! Finally, somebody has enough interest in their city's government to do something about Kevin Hornbuckle. Two of Hornbuckle's constituents have decided enough is enough, and that it is time to remove the child from the adults' table.

Hornbuckle was elected in November 1992 as the Eugene City Council representative for Ward 3, which primarily encompasses the University area. Hornbuckle is under the misguided impression that he represents the poor and working class of Eugene. The truth is, he represents nobody but himself.

Time and again, Hornbuckle has failed to support council actions that would bring jobs to the area — reducing the poor and increasing the working class of Eugene. But like I said, Hornbuckle doesn't represent them.

Hornbuckle tends to pursue the school of thought that says voting against the majority is the way to represent the oppressed people of the world. It doesn't matter what the issue is, so long as he votes against the majority, he's doing his job.

His fellow council members are routinely forced to treat him as a child, pleading with him to vote along common sense lines. In one instance, Hornbuckle changed his vote from a nay to a yea during a shorthanded council meeting.

Hornbuckle said he was changing his vote simply because he knew the absent member would vote in favor of the motion next time. Mayor Ruth Bascom responded with a motherly, "Thank you, Kevin."

as if little Kevin had just finished cleaning his room.

Hornbuckle wouldn't know good government if it fell on his head. Being a representative means making compromises. You vote for another representative's programs, and in turn, that representative supports your programs. It may not be perfect, but that's the way it works. Unless you're Hornbuckle.

Hornbuckle seems to believe that if he remains unbending long enough, the rest of the world, or at least the City Council, will suddenly come to its senses and create a workers' paradise, replacing the Eugene city charter with the Communist Manifesto.

Far be it from me to say "we told you so," but, we told you so. Before the November 1992 elections, the Emerald met with Hornbuckle and his opponent, Eben Dobson, to decide which candidate to endorse for office. It was glaringly apparent from that meeting that Hornbuckle was completely incapable of working with others and that he would be nothing but a hindrance to the council's objectives.

In our editorial endorsing Dobson, we said, "... Dobson would be more willing to work with other members of the council than would Hornbuckle."

"Although Hornbuckle's agenda is progressive, he left the impression that he would be unwilling to compromise on issues when necessary. ... Dobson indicates a more open-minded approach to the City Council," we said.

Yup, the warning signs were there, but Ward 3 voters chose to believe the confused ramblings of a disenfranchised socialist rather than the voice of a concerned and intelligent citizen. Go figure.

Speaking of city councils. What's the deal with the folks in Springfield? Apparently the Constitution is simply an inconvenient afterthought that

shouldn't get in the way of family value-driven politics, a la OCA toady Ralf Walters and his thought-puppet Larry Schanz.

The council in November decided to prohibit children less than 16 years old from checking out R-rated videos from the Springfield library. The movie rating system, created by the Motion Picture Association of America, was never intended to be a definitive value system. Rather, it is a numerical system in which occurrences of sex, violence and profane language are added up. The movie's rating depends on where it falls in that scale.

The idea that a city can ban certain videos based on their rating is as absurd as deciding what videos to allow the library to buy, based on how many stars the movie was given by the *Register-Guard*. Both measures are completely subjective and have no bearing on a film's quality or social, cultural and educational values.

Springfield attorneys finally got around to telling the council that its actions were probably illegal, so the council created a new policy where parents can tell the library not to let their children check out R-rated videos.

Springfield attorneys think this is better because it is not the library making the decisions, but rather the parents. This may be OK at video stores, which are private businesses, but still of dubious legality for a public library. The crux of the new policy still relies on the MPAA rating system, and thus is likely still unconstitutional.

A better system is simply to let parents specify which movies they don't want their children to check out. This way, the decision, as well as the basis for that decision, is left entirely to the judgment of the parents, with no influence from the city council or the MPAA.

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