

# EMU conference in Hawaii was beneficial to those attending

By Frank Geltner

Common decency would suggest that an editor who has allowed a prejudicial story run through the pages of his publication would allow that readers be allowed to hear another side of the story. One of my favorite writers, Mary Baker Eddy, wrote: "When needed tell the truth concerning the lie." Aristotle wrote, "What does a man gain by telling a lie? Not to be believed when he speaks the truth."

ASUO President Eric Bowen was given to stretching the truth last month when he encouraged *Emerald* reporter, Edward Klopfenstein, to write a piece implicating EMU staff in some kind of misconduct—attending a professional conference (in Hawaii). Even though the story was innocent enough, it was the kind of story which should have never been written. In discussing the story with me, Mr. Klopfenstein admitted it was a non-story. So, why write it in the first place? That is what has prompted me to write this piece.

The fact is that Mr. Klopfenstein did not set out to write a story about EMU officials attending a conference. Rather, it was "dropped" into his lap by the sly Mr. Bowen. And Mr. Klopfenstein was quick to surround a few comments offered by Mr. Bowen, seeing an expose of expense-paid vacations to a tropical paradise. Have you ever been to downtown Honolulu?

After all, what could have been so hard about finding out whether Mr. Bowen's quote

even meant anything? It would be hard too hard discover his true motive. Here is the quote: "It's terribly ironic and just too perfect that they are going to Hawaii on some conference."

Ah, the rhetoric of innuendo! In spite of the fact that Mr. Klopfenstein was able to determine that the EMU Board and the Incidental Fee Committee allocated funds for staff development, he still went with the non-story. In spite of the fact that Mr. Bowen knew that the EMU staff were attending this conference in Hawaii, he let the limited information make it sound like EMU staff were doing something dishonest (wink, wink), or, that such activities are not deserving of Incidental Fee funding.

Was he suggesting that fee support for employee development be questioned? In fact, the proper forum for the discussion is the EMU budget process.

This was not a story about how wonderful it was that EMU staff went to an excellent conference; attending sessions on such topics as cross-cultural communications, communicating without bias, and how to be a multi-cultural trainer. Nor was it a story about keynote speaker, Millani Trask, who began her presentation by congratulating Association of College Union, International delegates for having the courage to bring their conference to Hawaii.

Mr. Bowen was ignorant of the importance of understanding our Pacific state and the myths surrounding it as a place to do,

or not to do, business. Had Mr. Klopfenstein done his research, he would have discovered that a Hawaii-based conference is something that costs the same or less than a Washington D.C.-based conference, a favorite destination for our budget-conscious student leaders.

Dozens of University students have attended United States Student Senate Association meeting in Washington D.C. over the past several years. Therefore, the lie that students groups cannot afford Hawaii based conferences because of their cost is poppycock. And, what about the impression this leaves with all the University students that live in Hawaii? "It's all right to travel to other states to engage in conference activities, but just don't go to Hawaii."

Imagine you are 2,500 miles from home in the bowels of a conference hotel (it could be any hotel) and you get word that the student body president finds it ironic that several years before he dreamed of running for student body president the leadership of the ACU-I, scheduled Honolulu, Hawaii for their 1994 conference. Where is the irony?

The real irony was the honest Mr. Bowen's creating the impression of impropriety. What could he gain by this ploy? Political tactic? Practical joke? He could deceive his fellow students into believing that "EMU officials" were engaged in what: Embezzlement? Cheating? Disimulation?

Both Mr. Bowen and Mr. Klopfenstein lose "style" points

on this one. Mr. Klopfenstein fell for believing that he had a story. Mr. Bowen implicated EMU staff in some kind of misconduct.

And, while it was a non-story, it explained things as if these folks working in the EMU were doing something wrong and they were in need of correction.

And, so insidious was the side effect that (for the first time in my 17 years) other staff, EMU Board members, and the administrators actually began questioning attendance at this annual student conference. Or was dissension Mr. Bowen's goal?

Mr. Bowen has done a great disservice to himself and to the EMU staff, who diligently went about their business, as many have done over the history of the EMU. And, what was learned from all of this? The EMU budget has a number of line items supporting professional development through conference attendance. The ACU-I picks the sight of this conference years ahead of time. And, native Hawaiian attorney, Millani Trask, congratulates ACU-I for having the courage to bring their delegates to Hawaii.

Mr. Bowen believes he had nothing to do with the appearance of the story which prompted this headline—"Bowen questions funding of EMU officials' conference." (*ODE*, April 13). It must be concluded that he further believes that there are no consequences for engaging in "planting such stories." It is that very belief which motivated this story.

I hope I speak for all members

**Therefore, the lie that students groups cannot afford Hawaii-based conferences because of their cost is poppycock.**

of the campus community whose effort, character and reputation are undermined by this and other forms of sleazy innuendo. So, Mr. Bowen, think twice before you act so casually in the future. And, to the student press, think twice before being lured into writing such things, which upon reflection merit little or no consideration.

By the way, the 1995 ACU-I Conference will be in San Antonio! As in the past, EMU staff will be presenting and attending sessions as part of their professional development.

Having said all of this, I want it known that I personally believe Eric Bowen has been one of our most diligent and effective student body presidents. He had a tremendous amount of stuff to deal with this year. To his credit he proved a strong and reliable student advocate. I wish him well in his endeavors.

*Frank Geltner is Associate Director of the EMU, President of The Very Little Theater, a member of the ACU-I and the National Association of Parliaments.*

# Panhandlers don't seem to appreciate tavern's classical music

By Meg Dedolph  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

It's nothing like the music that's usually played at New Max's Tavern on 13th Avenue. There's no electric guitars, drums or howling plaid-clad singers — just violins, flutes and occasional French horns. And instead of enticing passers-by in, it's meant to keep people from loitering on the sidewalk.

Tavern owner Chase Fairbairn began playing classical-sounding Muzak on an outward-facing speaker last weekend in hopes of discouraging loiterers and panhandlers from settling down in front of his business or in the adjacent parking lot.

"It's a proven loitering deterrent," Fairbairn said. "There are people who actually enjoy classical music, but they're not the type who loiter and panhandle."

Fairbairn said convenience stores, especially ones in Southern California, use music like this to discourage loitering.

Since he began playing the music, which he describes as "crappy classical music on a shitty speaker," he said the amount of sidewalk traffic has decreased noticeably. There were no groups of people in front of his business or in the parking lot next door.

"It avoids me having to go out and confront people,"

he said. "It saves a lot of time and trouble because they're not predisposed to enjoy the music and I'm not predisposed to go and chase them off the sidewalk."

Fairbairn said the reason he is interested in discouraging loiterers and panhandlers is that the Oregon Liquor Control Commission holds him, as a tavern owner, responsible for the activities not only in his business, but for those activities in the area surrounding it.

Furthermore, he said he believed having panhandlers outside his business was making potential customers nervous about entering.

Fairbairn said the music is rarely audible from inside the bar, but when it can be heard, he enjoys it, as do some of his clients.

"It doesn't annoy people who are coming and going, but it clears the sidewalk," he said.

The music plays from about 2 or 3 p.m. until 1 a.m., and he said he is still trying to find a volume that is effective in keeping people from congregating on the sidewalk, yet quiet enough so it doesn't disturb neighbors.

So far, he said he had only one complaint about the volume.

He receives the music from a cable service that provides different types of commercial-free music, ranging

from classical to country and rock.

Kun Sik Kim, the owner of Little's Market, which is next door to Max's, said he believed the music worked "because people just don't want to hang around and listen to that music."

But, he said that even though the music worked, he believed it had more to do with the volume than with the type of music being played.

"If it's loud," he said, "it doesn't really matter what kind of music is being played. Also, if they're intoxicated or drunk, they don't care."

Last summer, Kim said large crowds of people would gather in front of the store and camp. "They'd be drinking, sleeping and begging and basically bothering people outside," he said. "All the customers would complain and say it was hard to get into the store."

But on Thursday afternoon, Junkie and Shane, two panhandlers sitting in front of Little's Market, weren't very appreciative of the music.

"I'd like to puke on the manager for playing that music," Junkie said, who added that he used to frequent Max's before it changed owners.

"It doesn't keep people from loitering on sidewalks," Shane said. "I'm loitering on the sidewalk. It's just making us annoyed."

**Summer Japanese Study**  
Intensive 6-week program in Portland, OR, July 18-Aug 28. Earn 12 quarter hours. Study language (all levels) and culture with Japanese students on theme "Nature & the Environment." Three-day wilderness program included. Prior language study not required.  
Oregon/Japan Summer Program  
222 SW Columbia, Suite 1750  
Portland, OR 97201  
Tel. (503) 223-7938 Fax (503) 223-7946

**BIKE BARN**  
465 Coburg Road TEL 542-5757  
NORCO MARO B.C.A. Robinson GT/DMNO REDLINE  
Professional Service Parts & Accessories Monthly Specials New & Used Bikes  
May Special: FREE ACCESSORIES 10% off New Big Power Value → SPRING TUNE-UP SPECIAL \$5.00 OFF REGULAR PRICE  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

**Sy's PIZZA** SERVING DELICIOUS NEW YORK PIZZA 7 DAYS A WEEK  
We will be open Memorial Day weekend, including Monday.  
Come down or call up Sy's and order these great specials.  
**1 FREE SODA** PLUS **10¢ OFF ANY SLICE** OR **\$2.00 OFF ANY LARGE, MEDIUM OR SMALL PIZZA** PLUS **2 FREE LARGE DRINKS**  
Sy's New York Pizza • 1211 Alder on campus • 686-9598  
11:30-Midnight Mon.-Sat. 3:30-Midnight Sun.  
COUPON GOOD THROUGH JUNE 12, 1994

ADVERTISE IN OREGON DAILY EMERALD CLASSIFIEDS 346-4343