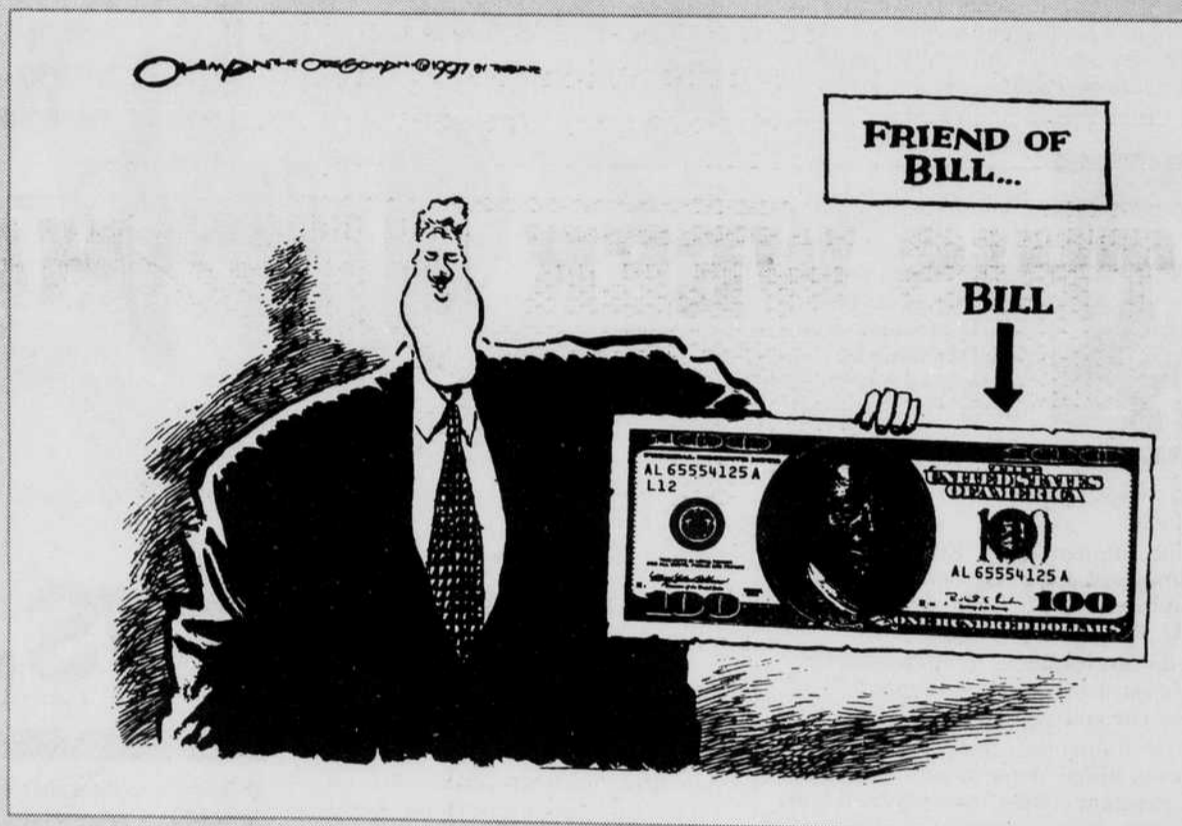
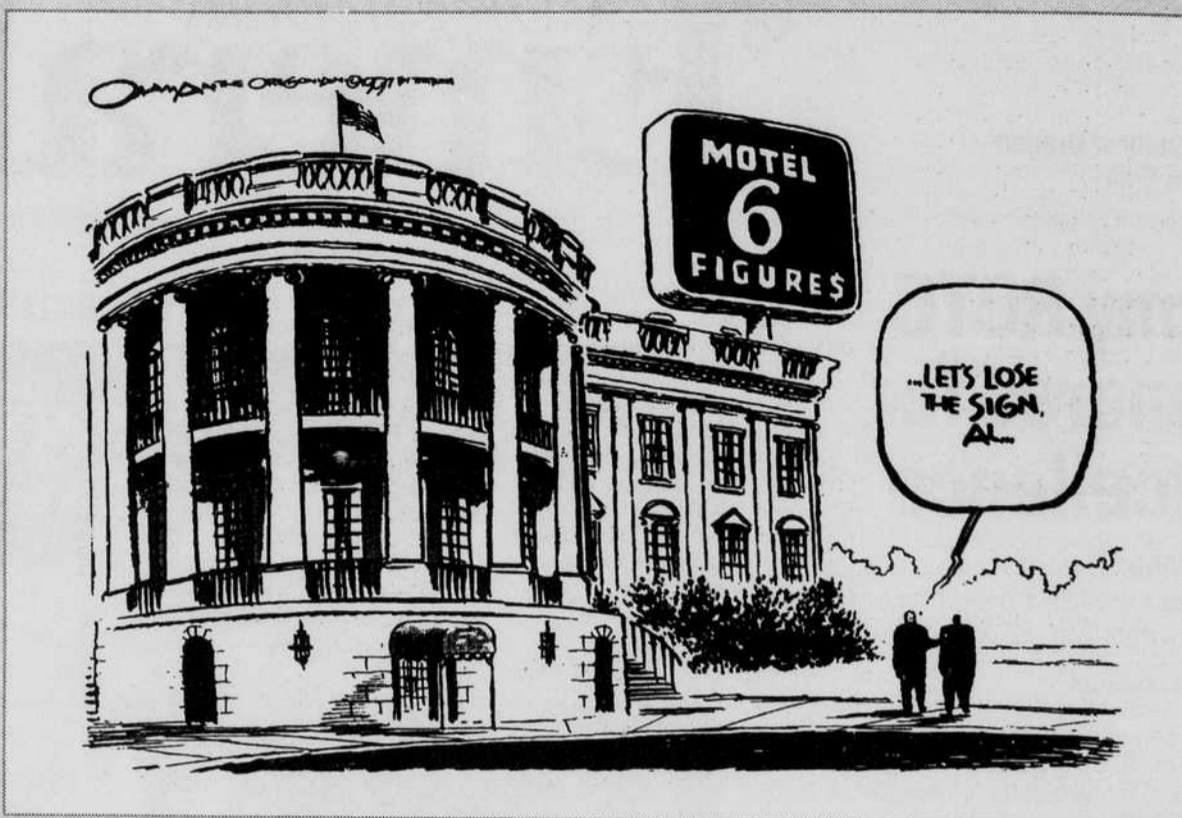
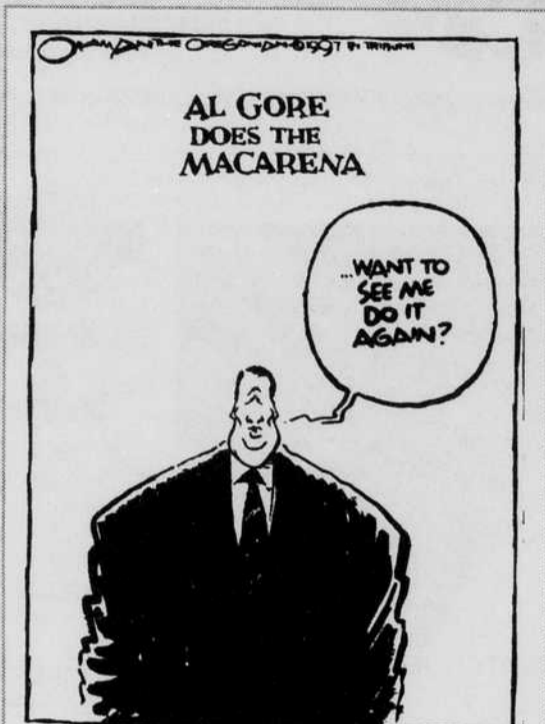


The Drawing Board



LETTERS

Academic censorship

We are writing to alert the community that the University exercises academic censorship. Recently, three candidates the sociology department selected to interview for faculty positions were rejected for interviews because the administration decided they were "inadequate," principally based on their publications appearing in "unrespectable" journals.

We believe that all these candidates were vetoed because of the political orientation of their research. These candidates do work that carries "progressive" political implications: environmental racism, sociology of labor relations and the sociology of race and immigration. This politically motivated decision carries dangerous implications for academic freedom.

The administration's enforcement of "high standards" over the wishes of the department points to a larger structural problem. Hiring faculty who publish in "respectable" journals raises the rankings of the University departments. And higher

rankings mean more grants.

Yes, this limits the range of opinion/research interests expressed by hires to the mainstream. The University wasn't meant to be run like a for-profit company. The selling out of departments for grant money treats education like a product that must appeal to the lowest common denominator: consumption.

Hiring faculty who attract the bucks is the bottom line in the administrations' hiring criteria, leaving the variety of opinion that is at the scholarship carries dire implications for Oregon and all the democracy of the nation as a whole, which relies on voters to be informed by *all* perspectives.

Of course, such censorship also enables the University to avoid addressing questions such as "Where did Phil Knight get that \$25 million he donated to the University last year anyway?"

**Ginger Davidson
 Ben Scribner
 & 17 co-signers
 Sociology**

Living legacy

Blessed be! The command economy has finally reached the University. Our ASUO President, Matthew Scotten, wants to use \$340,000 of student fees from an emergency fund to build an amphitheater in the EMU Courtyard, something the market would never provide. A market failure? Hardly.

Something our spend-happy president has either a) not considered or b) is not willing to consider is that there is already an amphitheater in the University vicinity. Anyone who has ventured out on the pathways near Autzen Stadium know that the city of Eugene has an amphitheater in the Willamette greenway, which is *only used in the summer*. The only need for another is Scotten's want of a living legacy at the University.

Why, then, is this proposal even considered? Because individuals, in their limited mental capacities, cannot accurately determine what is necessary and wanted by a

large number of people who individually serve their own interests.

This is made especially evident by the collapse of the Soviet Union. Ever wonder why you won't find an orthodontist in Trail, OR (pop. 200)? The market doesn't demand it. And I'll be damned if the market would demand a new amphitheater in Eugene, in lieu of the one existing, the EMU Ballroom, Hult Center and WOW Hall.

At \$340,000, they could use that thing 200 times, and it would cost more than \$1,700 per use — not counting the foregone interest. Scotten complains that the money is just sitting there, doing nothing. Hey! \$340,000/17,000 students=\$20 per student. How about putting that money in an account I can draw from with my new student ID card?

Down with the egocentric, living legacy amphitheater for President Scotten!

**Jonathan Collegio
 Economics**