

# PERSPECTIVES

## Talkin' about a revolution

*Intellectuals must realize that the task of changing the world falls to themselves*

Two weeks ago I told you about Chuck. Chuck, now defunct, was a top friend of mine who died because he did nothing to halt his hideous gorging habits. He kept gobbling up burger after burger, swelling like a pig; and one day, after an oily feed session at home, he wound up snorting blood from internal decay, collapsing on the kitchen floor, dead, prostrate between the can opener and the microwavable burrito, lifeless between the grade AA butter and the unctuous ice cream scoop.

Chuck died, I told you two weeks ago, because he did nothing to stop his self-destructing eating habits. Despite the warnings, he kept pigging out on grease, and the excess of lard killed the prick. Did nothing and died.

Just like the intellectuals in this country, I said two weeks ago.

So you, intellectuals out there, because of your social inactivity, because of your indolent actions, because of your consenting attitude toward society — you are just like fat Chuck.

And before you explode in a volcanic outburst of rage and fury, let me tell you something straight out: We, the always-very-professional people at the Emerald, are no different. Just like Chuck and the intelligentsia, the good folk here at the Emerald are also a flock of semi-useless, pseudo-intellectual, greedy, competitive, unprincipled and wicked fat scavengers whose commitment to the establishment is as great as that of any you out there.

### Opinion



Vince Medeiros

So I'm not saying we're any different. We're not. But we should be.

And now you're probably asking: Is that it? Just because we don't do a whole lot to transform stuff you're gonna go on calling us all a useless, egotistical, overfed, pseudo-intelligent, immoral and evil mob who only care about ourselves?

You betcha.

That's it.

And here's why.

Thing is: The intellectuals, the thinking elites of this country, are the ones who possess the capability of understanding society, of perceiving its most enigmatic problems, of better comprehending the workings of the system. Ultimately, the academics are the ones who hold the keys to the most hidden and complex secrets of the universe. Therefore, they are the ones who should perform the role of democratizing knowledge, of promoting awareness, of exposing the deep, rotten wounds of our false democracy.

They, the academics, are the ones who should help promote change.

Yet the intellectuals appear to be oblivious to the fact that almost two-thirds of the world population is excluded from the "wonders" of the free market, blind to the reality that rickety, hunger-stricken Africans are shown daily on our sadistic TV sets and ignorant of the fact that thousands of people wander homeless in the streets of



New York City every day.

While the world screams for help, academia shows absolute passiveness, contemplative conformity, quiescent acceptance.

This is so because the university is just another piece of the intricate superstructure the system relies on to perpetuate its existence.

OK, OK, we are a free society and all people are allowed to think and say what they want. Fine. But it is exactly for this reason, because we are a democratic society of some sort, that the state cannot control the flow of ideas by force. But listen to this, reader, it can control the ideas themselves, it can control the very content of what you

think.

And the experts in cunningly controlling the ideas that prevail in our society, the masters of legitimizing the system, the geniuses of making what people in power do seem fair and just are ... who? who? You got it: The educated elite. Us, fellas.

Journalists, public relations people, advertisers, business administrators, professors, people with university degrees: we who have accepted the indoctrination and mythically, fabulously, with faith even, have come to believe we are telling the truth and promoting the good. Our task: To create a system of belief, to engineer acceptance, to promote maintenance.

But if only we opened our eyes to the fact that things are not perfect and that we can, really, if we want, think independently and critically and act to democratize knowledge and promote improvements. If we could do that, I'd be stoked.

*Vince Medeiros is a columnist for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Special election was a fraud

I thought you might like to know what I encountered today while voting in the "special" election. At the voting booth there was one other student voting. He asked the ASUO workers at the booth

how the current grievance process works. One of the students working at the booth proceeded to tell him that the current grievance process is run by the Constitution Court, and they take a really long time to handle grievances.

Last year, she said,

they were still working on grievances in June. The new process, she told him, would be much faster and better handled. The new process is better, she concluded. Maybe this ASUO worker didn't understand that she isn't supposed to campaign or try to sway

votes while she is working at the booth. I think this event I witnessed is just another example of how right the Emerald is in denouncing this special election. It is nothing but a fraud and stinks of corruption.

**Courtney Konopacky**  
Political Science/History

### Gender defender questions letter

In response to Tony Fox's letter to the editor, "Transfers Unfair," (ODE, March 1). I have a question: Should all the female athletes also "suck it up and be a man"?

**Molly E. Newcomb**  
Sociology/Journalism

### LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Letters must be limited to 250 words. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, clarity, grammar, style and libel. Letters may be dropped off at EMU Suite 300.