

PERSPECTIVES

Corporate Universities



OSPIRG and Ralph Nader preach the evils of corporate sponsorships that actually help the University

ca at the university level does little more than incite paranoia and discredit the faculty and students. Without Knight and dozens of other benevolent CEOs, the University would be in danger of becoming a second-rate school. And not even Ralph Nader can dispute that.

Duncan McDonald and his University development staff should be commended for their fund-raising work. In Oregon, where state funding for education is minimal, McDonald has helped this school grow in reputation and wealth while public funding has declined.

McDonald also has integrity and cares a great deal about this school. In short, he is not going to sell the Ducks to some corrupt entity that will brainwash the faculty and students.

With financial gifts, however, come concerns regarding corporate influence in academics. Another concern, as voiced in a letter to the editor from Eugene resident George Beres (ODE, May 3), deals with corporations giving gifts to bolster their image. As far as the public relations argument,

who cares? The reason donating money is good for a company's image is because that money helps people. A public relation score for them means a new professor, more computers and better facilities for us.

Concerns about corporate influence are valid, but how powerful can this influence be? Whatever happened to the notion of critical thinking? Am I supposed to believe that law professors won't teach about illegal foreign labor practices because Knight paid for the new law school?

Opinion



Aaron Artman

If that is the case, then students should demand their money back because we are being taught by a bunch of clones.

Professors have an obligation to avoid corrupt practices and remain objective in their teaching. If they fail and go too far toward one extreme, then students must be objective. When both parties hold up their end of the bargain, the University fulfills its need regardless of corporate donations.

There is a simple way of examining the issue. Ask yourself who benefits most from corporate donations.

When we graduate, we have done so at a more prestigious school than those who graduated as Ducks five years ago. Oregon's reputation has improved, not surprisingly, as the school's donations and facilities

ties have improved.

On the other hand, ask yourself who benefits from criminalizing corporate America? Ralph Nader and OSPIRG benefit, just to name a few. It provides Nader with his financial well-being. If capitalism isn't bad and corporations aren't evil, Nader wouldn't be able to tour the country collecting speaker fees — thus forfeiting the thousands of dollars he received from student incidental fees when he spoke on campus two weeks ago.

OSPIRG benefits because it can lure students into believing we need them for protection. Then it turns around and spends more than 70 percent of its \$128,000 budget for offices in Salem and Portland. What students really need to be protected from are organizations that use our money to pay for out-of-town bureaucrats rather than spending our money on campus.

If you still are scared of the evils of corporate America, feel free to study the hidden agendas behind corporate donations in the Knight Library, or better yet, get a degree from the William W. Knight Law School and take somebody to court.

Corporate donations help students more than they harm them. Saying otherwise is an insult to the integrity of the professors and students of the University.

Aaron Artman is an columnist for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

Thank goodness for the return of OSPIRG.

With the rebirth of OSPIRG and its pursuit of corporate integrity, the students of the University of Oregon will once again be saved from the Phil Knights and Charles Lundquists of the world and their attempts at malicious academic manipulation.

Hah!

If you believe that crazy scenario, you are probably one of the few hundred freshmen pressured into voting for OSPIRG because you haven't learned how to avoid petitioners yet. Next time, avoid eye contact. It works every time.

The criminalization of corporate Ameri-

Letters to the Editor

New ideas

Day in and day out, everywhere you go on campus students are expressing themselves on the topic of the Emerald's Perspectives page.

Even now, as I write this letter in an EMU lounge, two girls are ranting about the incompetence and utterly misguided objectivity that never fails to shine through on page two.

Are the Emerald editors deaf to this widespread sentiment? If not, do something about it. Don't be afraid to get rid of the columnists presently employed.

Why not have a different student contribute their perspective each day? Many groups feel that they are poorly represented and would not jump at the chance to get the kind of exposure that the chosen few enjoy each week. In short, let's get some fresh perspectives in the Emerald.

Duncan McFarlane
Philosophy

Tactics questionable

SETA is at it again. As already pointed out in this space, it held a conference to discuss the issue of animal research at this university. Discussing issues in a neutral situ-

ation is worthwhile, especially on an issue that is as emotionally charged as animal rights.

However, SETA destroyed any chance of creating such a neutral situation at this event due to its inability to treat the researchers with the respect that they deserve.

I am referring to the signs that SETA posted that questioned whether the vivisectionists would come to the conference and implied that a no-show would concede that animal research is not defensible in open debate.

This reasoning is an obvious attempt at coercing the appearance of researchers for personal and professional attack.

To make an analogy, suppose a conference on abortion is to be held in the coming weeks. The conference organizers announce that they are inviting the doctors to come and defend themselves. What do you think abortion service providers will do?

I support our researchers in their scientific studies and feel that the stiff-arm tactics used by SETA prevent useful discussion of the issue.

Its views are not legitimized by sheer tactics, which is unfortunate because the protection of animal study subjects is an important issue.

There needs to be talk, not invitation for ridicule and derision. Until the confrontation tactics cease, no meaningful communication between SETA and the researchers will occur, and we will reach no solution.

Walter Weare
General Science

Candidate shows grace

In the letters to the editor (ODE, April 21), ASUO presidential candidate Dan Reid addressed the campus regarding his choice to no longer push forward in the race for the ASUO Executive.

I want to commend Reid for taking a step back and looking out for the students. It is easy during election season to get caught up in the buttons, posters and T-shirts and forget what you're really out there trying to do.

Throughout all the commotion, Reid didn't lose sight of his focus, and that is what makes him a strong campus leader. It took courage and unselfishness for Dan Reid to withdraw himself from the race based on the results the election grievances were causing.

Not only did he realize the harm inflicted on the student body, he also saw the credibility of the executive office losing its ground.

We need more leaders like Dan Reid in student government who choose to put the students first.

Shantell Rice
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.

CORRECTION

In the May 3 article, "Petitioners gathering signatures for medical marijuana initiative," the headline should have read, "Petitioners gathering signatures to legalize marijuana." In the same article, it should have said marijuana is a \$2 billion industry in Oregon. The Emerald regrets the errors.