

Oregon Daily
Emerald
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Perspectives

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Growing Pains

The EMU is unable to keep pace with student-group growth, as three programs request additional space

If there's one thing we could all use a little bit more of, it's time. But given a second option, we might just answer "space."

The EMU is bursting at the seams these days, and on Wednesday, Designated Driver Shuttle, Kultural Philipinas and the Vietnamese Student Association asked the house subcommittee of the EMU Board for just that: more space. And while the

need is apparent, the answer of how to get it is not.

Such solutions as moving DDS to the ASUO Executive office or asking the VSA to share space with the International Students Association are immediate and sort of viable, but they are not permanent. Like almost any other type of evolution, the student-group presence on campus will grow in time. Cutting and pasting of-

fice space together works for the present but ignores the trend and the future: Soon all student groups will need more space.

To this end, we've proposed some solutions:

1. Fix the EMU. It seems odd that the hub of student activities just recently expanded to include a large, cement amphitheater and several new eateries but left precious few ex-

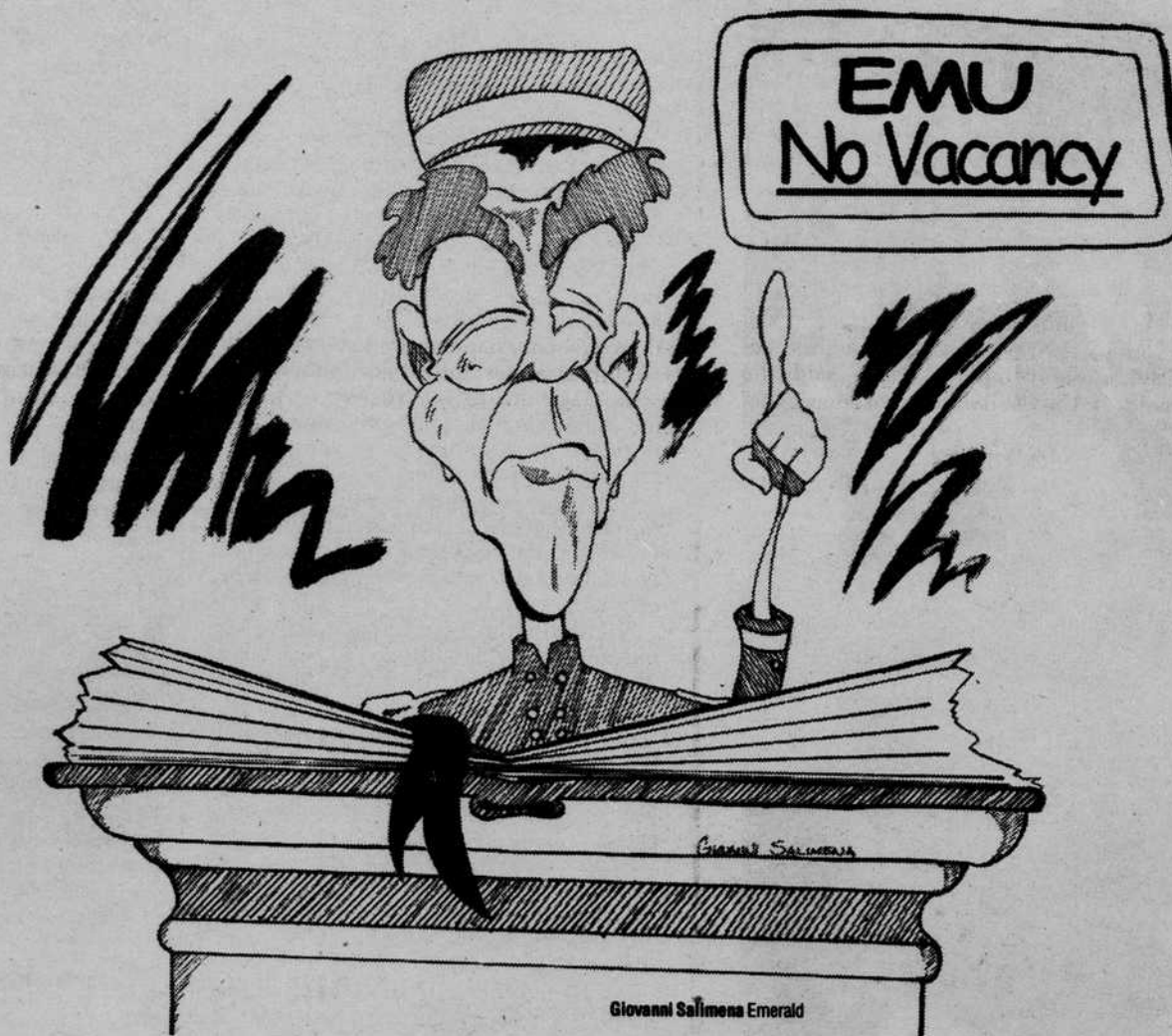
pansion feet for office space. In a time of construction explosion, student groups have been left out. What is left to do is to use existing space to its maximum potential. One idea that leaps to mind is the abundance of space in the EMU for conferences. This space does not go unused, but its use is sporadic. Why leave a place such as the Walnut Room empty for some days, when perhaps student groups could have shelter there? What might work is to allow student groups to use space and set up permanent offices that could be converted to conference space when needed. This would require a large amount of scheduling, but at least the rooms would be used to full potential.

2. Share a lot. Think of the EMU as a time-share condo where certain groups are only allowed specific hours of operation in an office. While it's often uncomfortable to share space because of privacy issues, there can certainly be specific locked file cabinets or desks that belong to certain student groups with sharing taking place in the physical space or with computers. If everyone sucks in some air, we'll all fit for a while longer.

3. Let's talk amongst ourselves. Get a student group committee together to try to maximize space and look for alternatives. If all the groups brainstorm as one, somebody might know of space unused in another building. This committee could be future-oriented, always trying to problem-solve or anticipate problems that might occur from growth. It could lobby for extra space because it would know the need best.

In effect, most of these solutions are cosmetic, but what else to do? What might be needed is yet more construction or additions to the EMU specifically for student groups' office space. And those cost money and require long-term planning. It's challenging. But anything worth doing usually is.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

THUMBS



To kicking the habit

Thursday, the 23rd Annual Great American Smoke-out encouraged smokers everywhere to take a day and see what life without major carcinogens was like. Here's to hoping it was the first day of the rest of their smoke-free lives.

To student retention

The University has had an upsurge in the number of Oregon high schoolers staying in state for college. They seem smarter, too. The new Dean's Scholarship program has reigned in high-achieving students, making the overall picture of incoming freshmen rosier than ever.



To deathtraps

For some years, city officials have known City Hall would be susceptible to a moderate earthquake. Though the chances of a quake are slight, it's disturbing to know that the very resources we would need in such an event are in danger themselves.

To haggling over outer space

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde are trying to get back the famous Willamette Meteorite, which has lived in the American Museum of Natural History for over 100 years. The tribes claim the meteorite was a sacred place to purify water. Since not many links to the past are available to Native Americans, maybe this one should find its way back home.

Letters to the editor

Senators' offenses differ

I thought the Emeralds' opinion (ODE, Nov. 8) concerning the senators in question and the allegations of abuse of power and non-fulfillment of duties was rather unique, but it ignores several key precepts in law.

First, although Sen. Michael Dixon's offenses may indeed have been greater in the abstract than those of the summer-session senators, there does exist a vast chasm between the two in terms of black-letter law. Dixon committed no offense in his role as a senator but rather broke the law as a regular citizen. As such, Oregon Revised Statutes stipulates that he cannot be removed from his position of leadership because of that offense unless he is forced to serve jail time at a

state prison and not at a local jail.

On the other hand, the five senators in question for "Austin vs. Timpany et al" are all charged with abusing power and committing "crimes" within their specified roles as senators. Thus your analogy to Dixon is both inaccurate and really rather insulting. The two are by no means analogous and ought not be viewed as such.

Scott D. Austin
 political Science

Money allocated wrongly

\$80 million to seat another 12,000 football fans and the School of Music doesn't have a stage large enough to seat its orchestra adequately. Kinda ridiculous, isn't it?

Sean Williams
 Honors College

Veteran's Day unacknowledged

I am disappointed in the lack of coverage of Veteran's Day. I have been a consistent reader of the Emerald since I started here this fall. I thought your newspaper's goal was to keep students informed of important subjects and events. I am dismayed that not one article appeared to honor this holiday. I'd hope that this was an oversight by your staff and not a disregard of the men and women who have bravely served our country.

All veterans, both living and dead, deserved our thoughts and reflections, if only for a moment, on a day set aside to honor them. Remember, it's not the soldiers who send themselves to war, it is the democratically elected politicians. Is it too much to ask to honor the soldiers one day of the year?

Our generation has inherited a historically peaceful time. We are the beneficiaries of our veterans' unselfish sacrifice of blood, sweat and tears. It's so easy for us to forget why we celebrate this holiday because our freedom was given to us on a silver platter, not a blood-soaked stretcher.

Students and teachers filled University classrooms on Nov. 11, but that doesn't mean that this day should be ignored. Honor those who never came home.

I only hope that none of you ever have to experience a veteran's sacrifice, whether during times of peace or the horrors of war. Next time I'd hope that this and other important days in our nation's history are covered by at least one honorable article and/or reflection by your staff.

Christopher Douglass
 geography