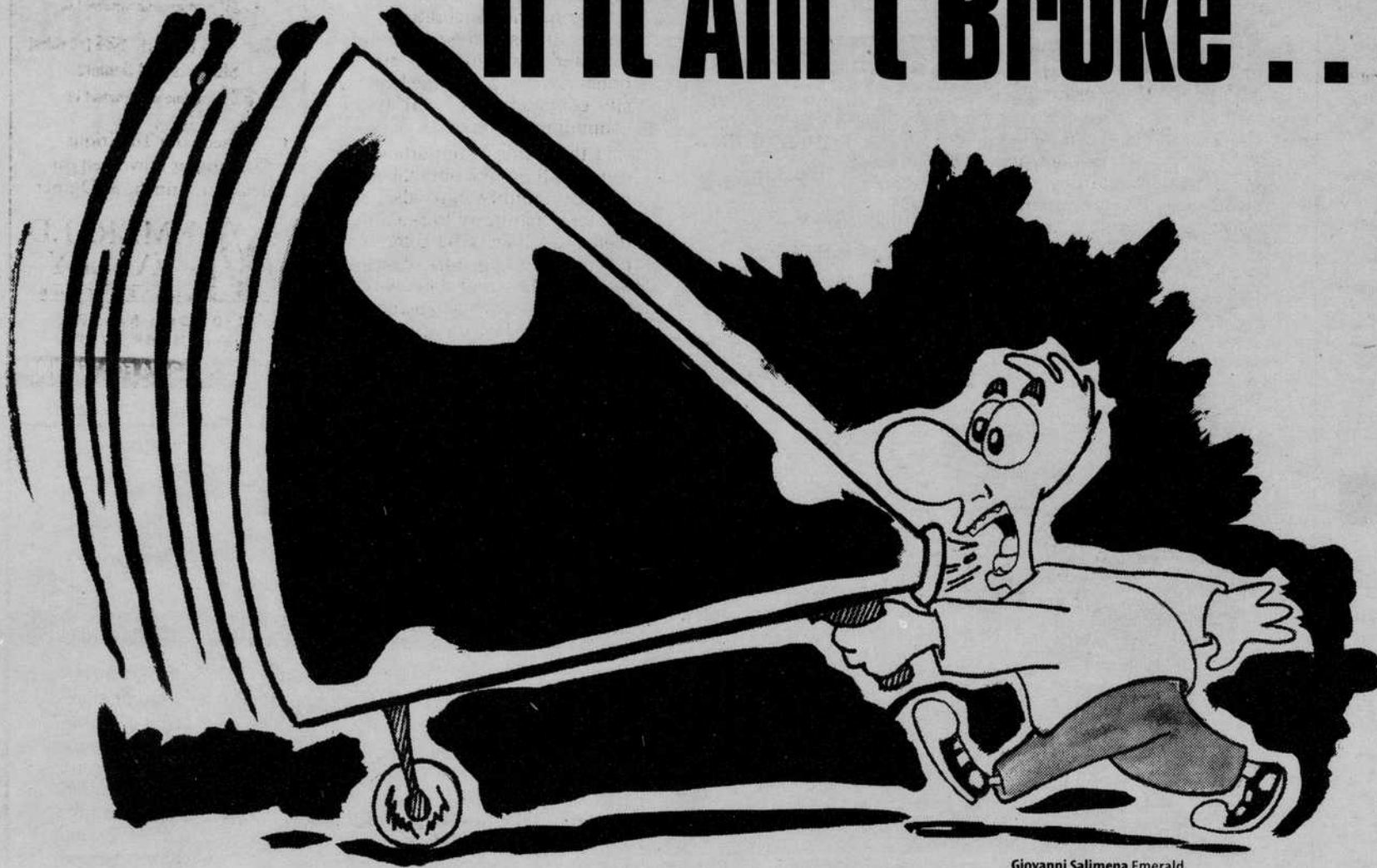


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Perspectives

Oregon Daily
Emerald

If It Ain't Broke . . .



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

While many students desire more voice in the University Senate, granting them decision-making power would create difficulty in taking long-term action

Fact: Students continue to occupy the lawn in front of Johnson Hall.

Fact: They want the University to sign onto the Worker Rights Consortium.

Fact: Today the University Senate will probably recommend to University President Dave Frohnmayer to join the WRC.

Fact: Frohnmayer said Monday he would sign onto the WRC by the end of the week if the senate does make that recommendation.

Fact: Even after the president does this, some students will still be very angry.

Fact: This has to do with the concept of shared governance.

Shared governance is the term used to describe the way the University is run, although many of the student protesters do not agree that there is shared power. Much like our U.S. government, there is a senate, a president and a University Assembly (which convenes at least three times a year and has the power to introduce legislation according to the University Senate Charter). The Univer-

sity Senate is comprised of committees that make recommendations to the University president.

Students do have a voice on this University Senate. Five students are elected each year to sit on the senate, and they have voting rights. Also sitting on the University Senate are faculty and staff, for a total of 48 seats. Students have more say on the University Assembly — this includes 25 members of the ASUO Executive, 18 from the ASUO Student Senate and five from the ASUO Constitution Court.

What some of the protesters in front of Johnson Hall want is a change to this system. They want Frohnmayer to recommend that the University Assembly add more students to the University Senate and to each committee. They think that the committees from the University Senate should have decision-making power rather than always needing the final say of the president.

Student democracy and power is a must in certain situations. But there is such a thing as going too far. We need peo-

ple who are going to be around for more than four years to make crucial long-term decisions. Students just can't do it. They aren't available.

These kinds of long-term plans and ideas about how the University should be run should not be made fleetingly. And, unfortunately, being here as a student for three to five years is pretty fleeting in terms of the bigger picture. We may want legislation that won't even take effect until 2003. And by then, students may have different ideas. The bureaucratic system just isn't conducive to people being around for a short amount of time. That's why, perhaps, senators and congressmen on the national level are re-elected so often: It takes time to get things done, and if the mix of people making decisions changes every couple of years, nothing would get done.

Attitudes change from generation to generation and even within generations. People who are 16 years old now have vastly different experiences and histories than we students now do. They may embrace corpo-

rate greed with a vengeance — and that's their prerogative — but if they undo what we've just done, then there's no consistency for the University. And we need consistency for educational standards and business dealings. That's just the way the world works.

At this University, we have seen shared governance at work. Students voted to adopt the WRC. Students on the University Senate made clear arguments to adopt it. Students on the Licensing Code of Conduct Committee did the same. Some students on that committee have complained that their voices were marginalized, unheard. But those faculty or staff who didn't listen have apparently still recommended the WRC, so what wasn't heard?

By all indications, the University will exercise the will of the students by the end of this week.

Our voices have been heard — and through the proper channels.

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

Suzanne Clark's lack of analysis about how this University's bureaucracy discounts student, faculty and worker voices; and John Condie's inability to know real character and the lack of it.

And as far as the Emerald is concerned, I propose we rename it the Johnson Hall Rag. As a writer and former newspaper columnist, I concluded months ago that Laura Cadiz and crew are positioning themselves for corporate journalism. Good luck to them and the Moseses and Johns of the world — they are in for some hard surprises.

Peter Ferris
Eugene resident

QUOTED

"The biggest thing is, I tell my dad it's a cheap way of not buying him a gift on his birthday."

— Cincinnati Reds star **Ken Griffey Jr.** on homering on his dad's birthday, April 10. Griffey is the youngest player to hit 400 home runs. ESPN.com, April 11.

"You could have bounced a quarter off his bed."

— **Dan Jones**, of Portland, on his son, Seth G. Jones, 18, who died in the Marine aircraft crash Saturday that killed 19 Marines. The Oregonian, April 10.

"We're young. We're cute. We're available. So what are we doing here alone?"

— **Debbie Giacomo**, a third grade teacher in Silicon Valley, complaining about the fact that men outnumber women greatly in the area but that dates are hard to come by. The Register-Guard, April 10.

"I've got both their albums, and I would love to cover one of their songs."

— 1960s and 1970s singer **Tom Jones** on his love for the Backstreet Boys. CNN.com, April 11

Letters to the editor

Tracy Olsen for City Council

I am a 22-year resident of the Eugene area and a working mother of three. I was both pleased and surprised to hear that a longtime friend, Tracy Olsen, announced that he would be running for City Council in Ward 3. I consider myself very lucky to have known Tracy since my family moved here in 1978. Growing up, I was always impressed with Tracy's maturity, integrity and outgoing personality. Tracy has always been a person whom you could trust. I look forward to seeing someone on the City

Council who is interested in hearing all points of view and is willing to work for the good of the community. People who have spent their entire lives in Eugene appreciate the quality of life in this community. I believe that Tracy will work hard to enhance our city government while complementing Eugene's best characteristics and making this a truly great place to live and work. I encourage everyone to get to know him and support his run for City Council.

Veronica Robbins
legal secretary

Involvement is commendable

Compliments are in order for those students who have struggled to learn

about and bring attention to the issues of corporate sweatshops, the current inadequate shared governance at the University, and the fact that we are all implicated as students, workers and consumers in this system. I commend them for having the courage, strength and hope to make a better world by their own efforts.

A dark contrast to those students' efforts was clearly evident on your Perspectives page Tuesday (ODE, April 11). What sad and sobering commentaries we got from other members of the University there; a full blast of columnist Mason West's adolescent cynicism; Moses Messenger's miseducation of real economics;

CORRECTION

In the article "Forum targets community racism issues" (ODE, April 5), Richard Rodriguez' name was misspelled.

The Emerald regrets this error.