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COMMENTARY

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Monday, November 26, 2001

Editorial

Cascades campus could have waited

After much debate, funding for the Oregon State University-Cascades Campus in Bend will continue, with the branch campus suffering only a \$1.8 million funding reduction. The compromise, reached Tuesday, is a decision we can only half-heartedly support.

The new proposal follows an October mandate issued by Gov. John Kitzhaber that required all state agencies to submit budget reduction plans in order to cover a projected \$290 million deficit in state revenues. Oregon University System officials have said that because they have already spent most of their state funds on the Cascades Campus, they are unable to reduce funding for the project by more than \$1.8 million.

There can be no doubt the Cascades Campus is a good idea and that it will provide a valuable service to the state and the residents of Central Oregon. Also, the more students enrolled at OSU, including the Bend campus, the more federal funding the school is eligible to receive.

But even with the positive effects such a campus would provide, the project needs to be put on hold. There simply isn't enough money to continue such a major undertaking at this time. The State Board of Education should have taken a tougher position to withhold funding for the new campus, and produced a budget that excluded funding for building the branch campus until at least next year, when more state money may be available.

In the meantime, Bend's current OSU outreach program can satisfy the educational needs of those in Central Oregon who wish to take classes, but who are unable or unwilling to travel to Corvallis or Eugene to do so.

The bottom line is that the OUS should be looking after their bottom line. It doesn't make good fiscal sense to spend money on new projects, such as the Bend campus, when we can't even afford to maintain the schools and programs the university system currently offers.

Editorial Policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

Poll Results

Every week, the Emerald prints the results of our online poll and the poll question for next week. The poll can be accessed from the main page of our Web site, www.dailyemerald.com. We encourage you to send us feedback about the poll questions and results.

Last week's poll question:

What is your favorite aspect of Thanksgiving?

Results: 81 total votes

Food — 27 votes, or 33.3 percent

Football — 15 votes, or 18.5 percent

Pilgrims — 15 votes, or 18.5 percent

No class — 20 votes, or 24.7 percent

Don't know — 4 votes, or 4.9 percent

There's no surprise here — food always has been, and always will be, a favorite among college students.

This week's poll question:

In the spirit of the upcoming Civil War, what would be a better mascot for Oregon State University?

The choices:

The accountants

The cow pies

The banana slugs

The jailbirds

Don't know

the anti-liberator

Two weeks ago the University sponsored a woman named Annie Sprinkle's lecture on campus. Sprinkle talked about her "career" in sex, describing herself as a "porn activist." I should mention that I did not attend her show, mostly because I didn't want to support it and also because I wasn't interested in seeing her "bosom ballet." But I have read numerous articles and interviews in which Sprinkle has discussed her "career" and beliefs concerning sexuality. Personally, I think Sprinkle has her bra on backwards.



Tara
Debenham
Columnist

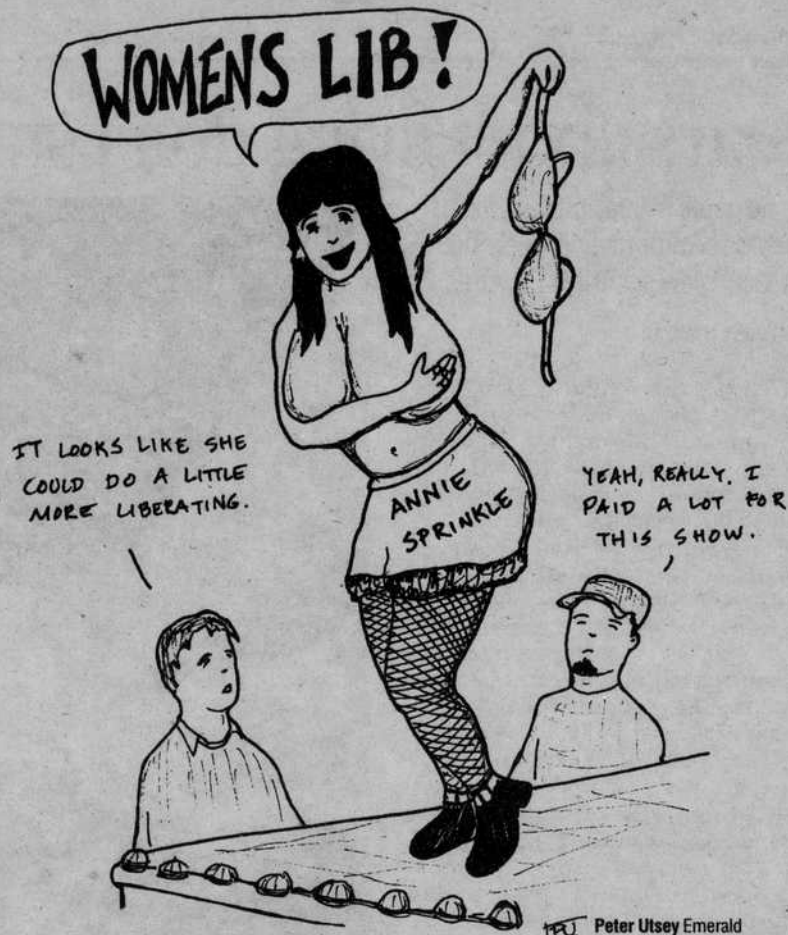
It is true that we, as humans, are innately sexual beings. There is no getting around that fact or any reason to be ashamed of it. We are sexual creatures, but we are also more than that. We are more than just the desires of our bodies. It is our ability to control these appetites that separates us from the rest of the

Earth's species. The way Sprinkle treats sex, one would think people are like stray dogs in heat and sex is nothing more than a self-indulging, biological phenomenon.

Is the purpose of sex just to make one's body feel good, as Sprinkle seems to define it? A momentary pleasure? I guess it depends on who you ask. Biologically, it is to reproduce the species, but many people feel it is a unique experience that offers connection between two people, a connection that can not be found in anything else. Sex is something that ought to be taken seriously. When treated with the sacredness it deserves, sex is the physical expression of love. Unfortunately, in today's society, sex has become the classic joke. One can't watch a TV show without hearing some sort of sexual humor.

Are we evil and wrong to take sex so casually? I say that people who take sex casually outside of marriage will likely take sex casually within marriage. That is to say, they will probably find less satisfaction in one sexual partner and will be more likely to have an affair. Pornography can become a serious obsession. It is an addiction. I have seen relationships destroyed because of pornography. Whether it is a sin or not, it certainly does not benefit us. All it does is add to the many gluttonous activities in which our society engages. Too much of anything is not healthy, and that includes sexual indulgences.

Sprinkle says the body is beautiful, and I couldn't agree more. The human body is an amazing creation and should be treated as one. But someone sticking their breasts out as



an invitation to be squeezed is perverting the simple and natural beauty of the human form.

And let me say, pornography is no feminist movement! The very idea is absurd! Women have been slaves to the sexual appetites of men for centuries. Now, finally, women are being seen as more than baby-producing sex objects. Women are seen for their inner beauty, intelligence, wit and creative talent. Sprinkle says women's sexual appeal can be empowering. But this is a limited and phony sort of power in every sense. Basically, Sprinkle is saying a woman can be powerful if she's beautiful. Most men are not going to lust and drool over an ugly woman. And who defines this beauty? Men!

So fine, Miss Annie, go ahead and "sprinkle" your little jokes about sexual freedom and feminism across the country. I hope people will see through your talk, just like they see through your clothes.

Tara Debenham is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald. She can be reached at taradebenham@dailyemerald.com.

Letters to the editor

Nation should address aggression in children

The fact that high levels of aggression in children and poor school performance go together is relevant to the nationwide debate on education. According to author Timothy A. Cavell, "Currently, the prognosis for aggressive children is poor. Services provided by mental health, education and juvenile justice agencies often have little impact on the downward trajectory of aggressive children."

I found that an effective intervention with exceptionally aggressive ninth-graders was telling these students, still in their formative years, the consequences of their current behavioral course — "a life of crime and a life in jail." However, I was told that saying such things is "taboo in public education." By the time it is not taboo, it's too late.

The consequences affect suburbanites as well as urban communities. Current policies are worse than ineffective. The vast majority of ninth grade mathematics students in urban schools can-

not do the simple addition and subtraction they should have learned in grade school. I observed a class taught by a teacher held out to me as a model. I heard him telling students he would give them "100 percent credit" if, in solving a simple equation, they just showed him the steps, even if their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division were wrong. This is fraud.

I have found the main reason these students do not know simple addition and subtraction or the steps in solving a simple equation is their refusal to learn, which is part of their aggressive behavior.

Satish Chandra
Cambridge, Mass.

Florida election was a fraud

The findings of the recently announced Florida recounts take on new meaning in light of evidence that Gov. Jeb Bush ordered the striking of thousands of legitimate voters from the rolls just months before the fateful 2000 election, in defiance of two Florida Supreme Court injunctions against it.

In a memo issued Sept. 18, 2000, Bush ordered counties to require ex-felons to file for restoration of civil

rights, a direct violation of both a Florida statute and the Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause, which requires every state to accept the legal rulings of other states. Bush was asking ex-felons to apply for clemency to restore the voting rights they already had. A documented 13,141 voters were wrongfully purged from the rolls, and an estimated additional 50,000 to 100,000 were struck as well.

Recount or not, given the 500-vote margin of difference between Bush and Gore in the official election results, the implications of Gov. Bush's illegal orders are clear: The Florida election was fraudulent, and the Bush "victory" is highly suspect.

It is a travesty that this occurred and an outrage that the mainstream media has not brought these facts to light, so the people could put pressure on Congress to demand a full federal investigation. This is the real Election 2000 story, and until the "powers-that-ought-not-be" and the illegal acts they are willing to commit to secure and remain in power are exposed, our country is the poorer.

Char Heitman
Eugene