

COMMENTARY

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Friday, January 11, 2002

Yesteryear's Editorial

ASUO Salary Reductions Recommended

Although they function more or less as a separate corporation, the Associated Students of the University are in reality a ramification of Oregon's educational system, and their employees should be subject to a sliding-scale salary reduction identical to that recently imposed upon faculty members by the state board of higher education.

No time should be wasted by the finance committee and executive council in passing an order to this effect. The latter group recently restricted the Emerald, baseball and track in order to reduce expenses, so it should welcome with open arms an additional opportunity to trim the budget.

University of Oregon

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Originally published on January 11, 1933

ate reductions should not be imposed upon the graduate managers and others hired by the associated students. If the executive council reacts favorably to the Emerald's suggestion, the editor of the paper and several other executives of the publication will suffer reductions along with the rest. However, that matters not, and at least those connected with the editorial side of the Emerald are glad to take the initiative in recommending such a move.

These are troublesome times. A period of economic transition and adjustment has engulfed civilization and no group can afford to demand higher proportionate salaries than its contemporaries. Many learned men, scholars who occupied long years and spent thousands of dollars preparing themselves for careers in education, have received drastic salary cuts this year. It is no more than fair that the employees of the ASUO should sustain reductions parallel to those suffered by these individuals.

We now await action by the executive council in this matter. It should not await action by the executive council in this matter. It should not be long in forthcoming. The state board of higher education minced no words in reducing the pay of its workers.

Editor's note: This editorial was taken from the Jan. 11, 1933 edition of the Oregon Daily Emerald to commemorate the University's 125th anniversary.

Letters to the Editor and Guest Commentaries Policy

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.

Students: Let's prove we can do 'it'

GUEST COMMENTARY

Joy Nair

Winter term has to be the most difficult term to go through. It's cold outside, you won't see the sun for 10 weeks, and everyone adds a little more sarcasm and anger to their attitudes. So what does the entire University decide to do to compensate for the cold weather and miserable attitudes? They use more energy and drive our consumption levels over the top. Many ask why this is necessary. Why do we use more than we need?

In actuality, everyone knows that we have a lot more fun "Doing It In the Dark." There are many reasons to do "it" — meaning energy conservation — in the dark. The ASUO asks that you consider these three reasons before you do "it":

- What could you do with the \$80 energy fee charged over the year? You could buy a book for class, a plane ticket for spring break, or even drinks for a date. There are endless possibilities. By turning off a few lights and turning down the temperature a couple degrees, each student could easily save \$80 off

their tuition. Sounds too easy? Well, it is. Turn things off when you aren't using them, and tell your friends, too. We could all have a little more in our pockets.

- The administration charged us this "shady" energy fee because they thought students couldn't conserve enough energy to combat increasing energy costs. Now it is time for students to come together and let them know that we are more than disposable income. If they had included us in this process when they first found out about this three years ago, we wouldn't have been unfairly taxed and facing such a problem.

- And lastly, we need to conserve energy because, well, it's the right thing to do. In a time when our population is growing in exponential numbers, and our heating and electricity resources are becoming scarce by

the minute, it is important for us to do our part in the global community. We need to protect what we have and share what is available, instead of depleting our resources and killing the planet.

The ASUO is running a huge campaign this year to get the student body to conserve energy, called "Doing It In the Dark." Our goal is to lower energy consumption by 5 percent compared to last year. We hope that you do your part in the conservation efforts. Whether you want to save some money, show up the administration, or do it because it's best for us and the environment, let's band together to conserve the scarce resources we do have in this community. Turn off things you aren't using, put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat, and beat those winter term blues by doing "it" in the dark. If you want to do more for the conservation campaign, stop by the ASUO office in the EMU.

Joy Nair is the ASUO vice president.

Emerald needs to see harsh reality of tribunals

GUEST COMMENTARY

Mark Grant

In the Dec. 3 editorial, the Emerald editorial board laments President Bush's position "that military tribunals can be used instead of full-fledged public trials" ("Special tribunals, evidence must be made public," ODE, 12/03). They argue, "We have the right to know who these suspects are, what charges are being brought against them and further details of their individual cases."

More correctly, we "usually" have this right. It's often challenged by circumstance. This is always the basic formula for constitutional arguments: Do we limit freedom in case X or let ourselves be totally unhindered? Take, for example, our right to free expression. I can't stand up in the middle of a class and start talking about my childhood, can I? If I do, I'll be physically removed by police. Society decides this type of restriction is okay in this case. Should I be allowed to carry on, Emerald editorial board? Or should my right to free expression be taken away in this instance?

The case for secret tribunals is that the survival of the state that brought us all these constitutional rights depends on it. Let the press into the picture when it comes to those like the Taliban, and you'll be assured the

terrorists will learn many things, like how our intelligence operates in trying to stop them, what we know, and so on. With that information, they'll become harder to find and defend against. The likelihood that thousands of people will die in more terrorist incidents will rise.

The Emerald editorial board knows this. Yet they decide not to make any mention of this side of the discussion. They seem to want to speak only in platitudes, content to turn away from the glare of certain harsh realities. Is that journalism?

To insist that the press should be allowed to be front and center in "all" criminal cases is an argument based on childish delusion, one probably fueled by tenured professors at the department of journalism, as well as all those big-bucks, mainstream press icons whose job is to make sure the public is entertained more than truly informed.

Whether the Emerald realizes it yet, or is

even prepared to admit to this, the press's only real interest is in trying to provide copy people will "consume," so they can sell ads and make money. Too often, this attitude takes priority over their so-called interest in journalistic fairness. It seems likely that certain ambitious journalists would be more than happy to divulge a national secret or two if it looked like it might lead to career advancement.

We all want as much freedom of the press as possible. To that end, society is willing to put up with a lot from the press, as we are in many areas of life where our freedoms are at stake. But there are times when the potential for journalistic abuse has to be accounted for, in order to ensure that certain rare individuals and their associates are restricted as much as possible.

President Bush is right. Secret tribunals are a necessary evil begotten by evil persons like Osama bin Laden and his fellow murderers. If you're not willing to face that reality, you should move out of the world of journalism and off to Fantasy Island.

Mark Grant is a 1985 graduate of the University of Oregon. He lives in Victoria, British Columbia.

Letter to the editor

File for financial aid in January

New Year's Day marked the kick-off of financial aid season. About 30,000 students will graduate from Oregon high schools in 2002. This is the time of year when families begin asking themselves how they can afford to pay college costs.

The financial aid process can seem very confusing, but there is a simple message for students and families seeking financial aid for next year: File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid in January. Then complete your Oregon Student Assistance Commission scholarship application before March 1.

The FAFSA determines eligibility for scholarships, loans, grants and work-study programs. Filing the FAFSA form in January is the most important action you can take. The FAFSA is available in hard

copy form and online. If you do a good job on the form, the rest of the financial aid process sort of takes care of itself.

If you're looking for even more money for college, the OSAC scholarship application offers \$8.5 million in privately funded scholarships based on all kinds of qualifications. More than 3,000 Oregon students received scholarships through the program this year. The application is available in hardcopy form and online, and must be post-marked by March 1.

Check with your high school counselor, local college or university financial aid office or log on to the OSAC Web site at www.osac.state.or.us for more information. And if you know a family facing college cost "sticker shock," pass this information along to them.

Gene J. Evans
Public Information Director
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Assistance Commission

Peter Utsey Emerald

