

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
 P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
 E-mail: editor@dailyemerald.com
 Online Edition:
 www.dailyemerald.com

COMMENTARY

Editor in Chief:
 Jessica Blanchard
 Managing Editor:
 Jeremy Lang
 Editorial Editor:
 Julie Lauderbaugh
 Assistant Editorial Editor:
 Jacquelyn Lewis

Friday, February 15, 2002

Yesteryear's Editorial

UFW lettuce not available

For several years now, this campus has been besieged with demands that non-union lettuce or teamster lettuce be banished from dormitory dining halls and the EMU. Protesters say the University should purchase only union lettuce — the kind that is picked by the United Farm Workers in California.

This past week has again witnessed a concentrated effort to eliminate what protesters say is "scab" lettuce from campus. Letters to the Emerald, petitions and leaflets are the essence of the current protests, but the final decision, as always, rests with the University students.

University of Oregon

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Originally published on Feb. 15, 1974

President Robert Clark has said in the past that "individuals should have a freedom of choice within the University." He says he fears "political" involvement by the University.

The position advanced by Erb Memorial Union officials is simply this: They will order lettuce based on what students buy or

consume. These officials work on the supply and demand theory.

Protesters have complained that union lettuce has been unavailable in the dorms and the EMU. Evidently, little union lettuce has been trucked to Oregon in the last few months, and some that arrived has been of bad quality. According to the University, the choice will continue whenever adequate supplies of union lettuce are made available.

It must be remembered that there are two unions involved, the United Farmworkers and the Teamsters Union. Both hold contracts with the growers in California, but at the moment the Teamsters are in the best position and hold the largest number of contracts. Sometime this spring, however, political and union action in California may tip the balance back to the UFW.

Because of the Teamster influence and interest, and because all lettuce from California is trucked to Oregon Teamsters, it is obvious that UFW lettuce is a low priority item for hauling. What with the gas shortage and frequent truck strikes, the absence of UFW lettuce is quite understandable.

Ultimately, whether UFW or Teamster lettuce is brought and consumed in the dorms and the EMU will be decided by the students themselves. The University is committed to making a choice available and basing orders for lettuce on the amounts previously consumed. Petitions by Protesters demanding UFW lettuce can help, but the real test will be: Are students eating UFW lettuce? And right now, the University can't even purchase the lettuce with the black eagle on the crate.

This editorial was taken from the Feb. 15, 1974 issue of the Oregon Daily Emerald.

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.

University should build up academics

GUEST COMMENTARY

David Cecil

As most everyone on campus knows, the Oregon football team finished the season ranked second in the nation and winners of the Pacific-10 Conference title. Less well known is how the University of Oregon ranks in terms of education; the University does not appear near the top of many United States college and university rankings. The disparity between these rankings is not a coincidence, but reflects the level of commitment the University gives to these two programs.

It is well established that gridiron success did not happen overnight, but is the result of millions of dollars of investment in facilities and dedication to fielding the best team possible. I am certainly not one to question this investment and dedication (New Year's Day found me in a Tempe, Ariz., end zone cheering on my beloved Ducks), but I do believe that it is time the University made the same commitment to academics that it has made to athletics.

One of the ways the University can show its dedication to academics is by making an investment in academic infrastructure similar to the one made for athletics. On a college campus,

those who do the work of educating students, faculty and graduate students make up the academic infrastructure. Just as the University had to spend money build a quality football team, it must spend money to build a quality academic program.

The Emerald reported in an Oct. 5 story that tenure-track instructors at the University earn 85.7 percent of what their colleagues at comparator schools earn. The University has made a paper commitment to raising faculty salaries, but so far little has been done to honor this agreement. The situation has gotten bad enough that University has had to resort to trumpeting the fact that faculty salaries have not fallen farther behind their comparators in the last few years.

As worrisome as faculty salaries are, the situation for Graduate Teaching Fellows is much worse. Comparing GTF salaries at the University to salaries at the same comparator uni-

versities, Oregon's GTFs ranked sixth out of eight. The University of North Dakota Study on Graduate Assistant Stipends on graduate employee salaries at 41 universities nationwide revealed that Oregon's GTFs take home only 66 percent as much as their colleagues. The University's own 1999 Process for Change Report concluded that an "increase of total (GTF) package by an average of 33 percent would make us competitive but not fat."

With GTF salaries, the University does not have the luxury of arguing that at least we're not falling further behind — we are. The North Dakota study revealed that salaries for graduate employees increased by an average of 14.12 percent over the last four years, but Oregon's salaries have increased only 3.2 percent.

Salaries for instructors at the University of Oregon consistently rank toward the bottom of the Pac-10 and in the middle nationally — just as our football team used to. The University built and bought its way out of this situation athletically; it can and should do the same academically.

David Cecil is a graduate teaching fellow in the history department.

Letters to the editor

Pilliod and Buzbee are strongest candidates

Rachel Pilliod and Ben Buzbee are the best candidates for ASUO Executive. The pair heads into the election bolstered by a strong and, most importantly, relevant background that includes involvement on Constitution Court and Student Senate, as well as a recent appointment as ASUO Health and Wellness Coordinator.

During the recent presidential debate, Rachel and Ben exuded the professionalism necessary to hold Executive office. Together, in answering the questions posed, they exhibited a true mastery of issues most salient in the lives of Oregon students.

Pilliod, specifically, makes it clear she is more than capable of championing student rights as well as issues pertaining to health care. Additionally, I feel comfortable saying that her amazing personality ranks her as one of the most impressive people I have met on this campus. I strongly recommend that students visit Duck Web to cast their votes for Rachel and Ben during February.

Adam Petkun
 freshman
 political science

A penis is not guilt by association

Let me start by commending Frye on her ability to identify a problem and having the courage to stand up and do something about it ("Are students safe from a 'Rape Culture'?" ODE, 02/12). Cheers to you, Lezzie!

Though I agree that rape is horrible and should be stopped, the "Rape Culture" article had some comments that left a bad taste in my mouth. What is "Rape Culture?" Is it a culture that allows, even condones the rape of another human being? If it is, do we actually live in one and I'm just not aware of it?



Secondly, who do we educate on the issue of rape? The population that does not approve, consent or participate in the act of rape? What good does that do? And what do we educate "them" on?

I think the most disturbing comment in the article was Ravits's comment, "... management of men's behavior." All men's behavior? My problem is this:

Lumping the males who do not rape with the ones who do is guilt by having a penis. I am not a rapist, and I do not behave in any manner that condones the rape of another person!

Matt Nye
 senior
 chemistry