

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High: 59 Low: 44 Precip: 20%	High: 55 Low: 43 Precip: 50%	High: 54 Low: 42 Precip: 30%

INBOX

Exaggerated claims hinder valid argument

Let me first point out a few twisted truths I found in Monday's editorial. The author claims the Emerald had the greatest monetary budget cut so far this year, but fails to point out that the initial budget was so much larger than many other organizations. The \$8,451 cut represents only 6.9 percent of the budget. What about the Muslim Student Association, which suffered a 19 percent budget cut? I'm sure the association felt that more than the Emerald felt its cut. If you take a look at all the different budget changes for this year, you'll find the cut the Emerald suffered was nothing awful.

Also, the author's claim that there is some sort of First Amendment relation here is ridiculous. The First Amendment protects us from government censorship. Any private organization can censor as much as it wants to without any violations of the law. My general point is that I do agree that the ASUO handled its retreat situation horribly, and I do agree that the Emerald is important to this school and its students, but please do not blow things out of proportion.

Rex Davidson
Eugene

Guest commentary

PFC's asinine reasoning not surprising

As a University graduate and proud alumni of the Emerald news staff, I was sickened to learn that Programs Finance Committee members continue to wield unchecked power to stifle free speech and use faulty logic to attack campus media. That said, I wasn't completely surprised, either.

Last year, while I was the managing editor of the Emerald, the paper's budget was assaulted by the ASUO Executive, which argued that the Emerald shouldn't receive student money because non-students might pick up a copy of the paper. That asinine reasoning was quickly shot down, however, by a simple analogy: The Executive also recommended an increase for other groups, such as OSPIRG, that partake in campaigns that don't directly benefit all students (cleaning up the Willamette River, for instance).

This year, the PFC had the

audacity to call for complete defunding of the paper based on the clear genius of Mason "viewpoint neutral" Quiroz, who made the profound assessment that extra newspapers are left in the Emerald boxes at the end of the day. Scandalous! From this astute observation, Quiroz was somehow able to conclude from one stack of leftover papers that students didn't read the Emerald — at all! (Quiroz said: "students shouldn't have to pay ... for a paper that isn't read.")

I surely hope, for the sake of all other student groups, that this isn't the defining logic of the PFC.

Whether you agree with its editorial stance or coverage, the Emerald is an award-winning, more than 100-year-old student-run publication that has produced and continues to boast many outstanding journalists. The PFC would be hard pressed to find a finer group of student journalists. At the Emerald, dedication is an

understatement when you are juggling a full class schedule and working countless hours to produce daily content. In the end, it isn't the money that drives Emerald news staff — it's the paper's mission of informing students and providing an open forum for the free flow of ideas (clearly something with which the PFC isn't familiar).

Given that, any fan and fighter of the First Amendment will recognize the obvious absurdity of a government body controlling the budgets of the same campus media that serve as watchdogs to student government. Is it simply coincidence that PFC has attempted to silence both the Oregon Commentator and the Emerald, two publications with the most exposure on campus, at a time that PFC has come under scrutiny for illegal actions, such as smoking pot and vandalizing private property at a student-sponsored event? Is it not a travesty in the face

of American free speech that both publications have exercised their rights to be critical of elected leaders, only to be attacked by those same leaders at a budgetary level? It stinks of censorship, and if Quiroz, who suggested defunding, thinks he can go through life silencing any entity that criticizes him as a public figure, then I'm eager to witness the day he wakes up to realize he is sorely mistaken.

The proud history of the Emerald spans far beyond the short sight of Quiroz and his cronies. Just ask Drex Heikes or Mike Fancher — successful editors of the Los Angeles Times Magazine and The Seattle Times, respectively, and both Emerald alumni. I think they'd agree that Quiroz's arms aren't nearly long enough to box with the First Amendment.

Jan Tobias Montry was 2003-04 managing editor of the Emerald

Editorial: Circulation argument is merely a smokescreen

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beforehand as mandated by ASUO rules. It is now painfully obvious why: Martell knew we would tear his formula to pieces and expose his performance for the farce that it was.

The truly amusing thing about the ASUO suggesting the Emerald

prints too many papers is that the 2004-05 signed contract between the ASUO and the Emerald stipulates, "To ensure student access to printed copies of the newspaper, ODE shall distribute a minimum of 8,500 newspapers."

During the months of September and October, the Emerald printed

9,000 papers per day on average. In November and December, that number fell to 8,500 papers per day, the minimum amount as set by the ASUO. Yet still the ASUO says we print too many copies. The ASUO is asking us to print less than they have contractually obligated us to print; an amount they admit would fail to

ensure student access to the paper.

The ASUO's arguments about our circulation amount to nothing more than a smoke screen; an attempt to cover up their true motivation: revenge for our coverage. The ASUO can threaten the Emerald all it wants, but we will never be intimidated into covering up the truth.

Oregon Daily Emerald. A campus tradition – over 100 years of publication.



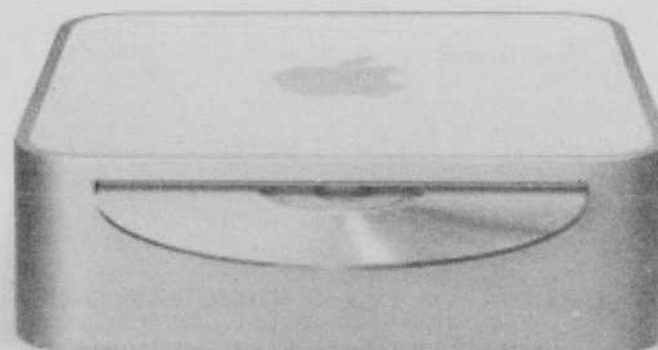
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