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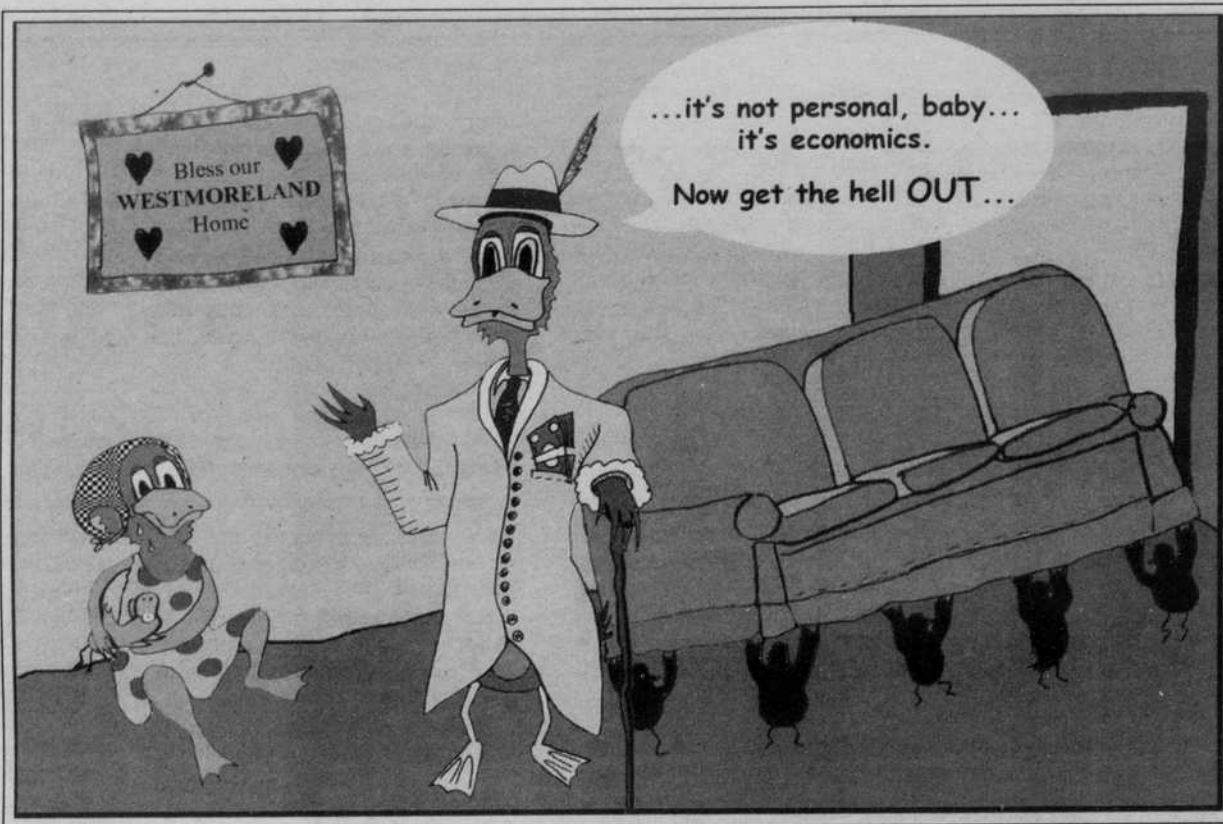
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AARON DUCHATEAU | ILLUSTRATOR

■ Guest commentary

RRC is unnecessary bureaucracy

The Multicultural Center objects to the sudden creation of the Recognition Review Committee because it is overreaching and a potential abuse of power by the ASUO Executive. It appointed a five-member committee that can summarily derecognize student groups. The MCC believes that students did not elect the ASUO Exec to decide whether a student organization has the right to exist and receive funds. RRC Chairman and Programs Administrator David Goward has made repeated statements that the RRC does not exist to defund organizations deemed not worthy of recognition. This reassurance is completely disingenuous because a vote of ASUO non-recognition obviously results in complete ineligibility for ASUO funding.

The MCC believes that the ASUO Exec and the RRC have not created transparent review and appeal processes. Also problematic is the ASUO Executive's recent add-on appointment of the ASUO vice president as a member of the RRC without an election process.

This is clearly inconsistent with former ASUO President Adam Petkun's original memo that the ASUO Exec relies on in forming the RRC.

In addition, the RRC continues to organize in nonpublic manner; holding meetings without notifying all of the ASUO programs.

Furthermore, it is our understanding that it is the Program Finance Committee's role to examine the missions and goals of various organizations. Neither the Exec nor Goward have clarified why the PFC's power to review these groups is being supplanted by a new RRC.

A memo by Goward states: "When the concept of duplication of services arises, I want to emphasize that it mainly pertains to the approval of new groups." Goward and other EMU administrators, however, have mentioned to students the proposal of merging several existing student groups of color without understanding or knowing the specific and different needs and interests that various groups address, disguising a thinly

veiled institutionalized cultural incompetence under the general rubric of "duplication of services."

The MCC believes that these political appointments may reflect a biased cultural lens as to what is recognized as the actual programming needs for underrepresented students, potentially nullifying students' ability to exercise their right to self-determination in organizing campus community groups.

Any discussion of forming such a committee should have had the majority support of fee-funded groups and the student body, and should be subject to campus community input. We hope the ASUO Constitutional Court and campus community agree that the RRC is harmful to community-building, has powers that are overreaching and its purported duty to review program mission statements is already delegated by the Green Book to the PFC, which has done a more than adequate job of recognizing and supporting student organizations.

The Multicultural Center

INBOX

UO sale of Westmoreland is unconscionable

In an early interview after the proposed sale of Westmoreland was made public, University Housing director Mike Eyster stated, "I don't know that it will be a terrible shock."

I've lived here for nearly five years, made friends and been grateful for the low rent that makes living on my income possible. Now I'm losing this. Of course I'm shocked.

I'm not sure which is more shocking, the news of the Westmoreland sale

or the way the University has chosen to handle matters.

Officials show little concern for those who live here. "Families" (defined as those with children) are to be given "priority" in housing, but that is it. Even assuming that the existing housing is able to hold all of the families and that the families can afford the higher rent, which is unlikely, that leaves the rest of the residents house hunting in an increasingly expensive market. Why such "non-families" are deemed beneath concern is quite beyond me.

In a meeting with residents, Eyster

said this is for the good of the University, and for long-term benefits, sometimes people have to be hurt in the short term.

How is this action of selling Westmoreland going to benefit the University, either in the short or long term? After all, GTFs are part of "the University." As students we bring in tuition money, and as instructors we teach many of the introductory freshman courses. Short-term or long-term, depriving us of affordable housing is a bad move.

*Jessica Greenlee
Graduate Teaching Fellow*

■ Editorial

Measure would hold city police accountable

Eugene is currently in the middle of a special election that could determine the future of community relations with city police: Measure 20-106.

If passed Nov. 8, Measure 20-106 would "amend the (city) charter to allow the city council to hire and supervise an independent police auditor, and to appoint a civilian review board, to investigate or oversee investigations of complaints involving police employees."

Those in favor of Measure 20-106 argue that, considering a string of sexual harassment issues within the Eugene Police Department, an auditor and review board outside of the department are necessary to analyze how the city investigates and responds to complaints.

Those opposed to the measure claim that 20-106 should not pass because it violates the city charter by mandating that the Eugene City Council, not the city manager, hire the auditor and review board. They also claim the measure's costs are prohibitive.

Although potentially costly, granting the council this narrow exception to the council-manager model of city government is necessary to ensure a police review process that is truly open and independent of city administration. Moreover, we must prevent momentum on this much-needed legislation from dwindling.

We must ensure that the police properly deal with departmental issues such as sexual harassment and racial discrimination. Passing Measure 20-106 will help guarantee the police department responds to our complaints.

■ Quacks and Smacks

Student Government Edition

Quacks: To the Student Senate for petitioning the Constitution Court to remove Senator Rahmat Rahmat, who has not attended any of the six Senate meetings or held office hours. Although any student could petition, the Senate shows merit by working for students instead of protecting one of its own.

Smacks: To the Student Senate for holding executive sessions to discuss the merits of candidates running for Senate treasurer. There is no need for these discussions, which do not center on academic or medical records, to be held behind closed doors this year.

Quacks: To the ASUO Executive for adjusting its Recognition Review Committee's practices and bylaws in response to student suggestions.

Smacks: To the RRC, a well-intentioned but seemingly useless experiment that has used hours of meetings simply to adjust groups' missions and goal statements to fit the proper template. Discussion among RRC members has been scarce, with RRC Chairman David Goward doing most of the talking. This process needs to be streamlined.

Quacks: To the Student Senate for addressing "unclassy" fan conduct. Although measures may not be taken this year, addressing this problem now will save headaches, jostles and witnessing bears lit on fire in the future.

Smacks: To student groups for voicing last-minute concerns about the stipend model to the Senate rather than at earlier workshops held by the Executive.

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