

■ Guest commentary

Campus Strike For Peace calls for full military disclosure

In the best definition of the role of the press in America, thorough research would provide citizens with the basis for making sound judgments as the primary engines of our system. Unfortunately, the press more often provides fuzzy details of decisions our servants have already made, and fodder for gossip that distracts us from effective participation. Through media, we learn of decisions made by profiteers without our knowledge and consent.

In a microcosm of this national dysfunction, University students are upset with ever-rising tuition costs while their school is profiting, researchers are annoyed by the vague language accompanying their projects, faculty senate members are alarmed by the campus administration's consistently unilateral approach to decision-making and graduate teaching fellows and others are angered by ongoing unfair treatment, low wages, poor benefits and the increasing divide between

what is and what could or should be.

Our military exists to guard us, not to control us or generate profit from our taxes. The United States has supplied more than 200 wars since weapons became its top industry after World War II. Business in America relies on increased profit margins; for the weapons industry, that means permanent conflict.

The issue of military-funded research in our schools is therefore vastly important to our common future. The stated aims of the people now in control of our military go beyond providing a reasonable defense to include domination of the world's resources. America cannot be a great nation as long as its top industry is making and selling weapons. We must take the profit out of war or war will take the life out of us.

Albert Einstein said, "Those who have the privilege to know have the obligation to act." We in our schools are responsible for ensuring

an informed public and determining the way in which research is applied.

The right approach in resolving this glaring fault in our system lies in taking back our country. The priority of weapons profit above human prosperity must change.

Strike for Peace recognizes that in a republic, workers work and students study not to fall into permanent debt, but to secure a safe and better future. We recognize that America's foreign policy is incompatible with the growth and security that education should provide. We recognize that without vigilant participation of the people, assisted by a diligent media, America falls from the grace of a government of, by and for the people.

We call for military funding for research to be frozen at current levels. We call for full disclosure of all aspects of on-campus military-funded agreements in plain language that reveals

their true intent. We call for the language involved in such agreements, including the definitions of "weapon" and "unclassified," to be closely reassessed in an openly democratic fashion. We call for a vigorous and competitive search for alternative funding sources to disconnect institutions of higher learning from the industry of war and reconnect them to pure scientific research. We call for advancements in technology to primarily benefit people and secondarily provide a reasonable defense based on protection rather than profit and the rhetoric of fear. We call for public servants to serve our interests.

Our thanks go out to the many people we spoke with during fall term, and our hopes for a better world extend to all for a safe and refreshing holiday season.

Visit Brian Bogart's Web site at StrikeForPeace.org.

Protest targeted ROTC as well as military policy makers

I am writing in response to Gabe Bradley's article "You call this a protest?" (ODE, Nov. 22). I was shocked that the Emerald would publish such an article that clearly has little, if any, value.

For someone who describes himself as a "huge fan of the First Amendment," it seems strange that he would bash those exercising that right, even if he doesn't agree with it. Bradley's assertion that the protesters "were a world away from the policy makers" is true, except the "policy makers" used coercion and deceit to get us into this debacle, and they have given up on the public.

What other course of action can be taken? We all know you can't have a war without

boots on the ground, and working to keep young men and women from enlisting is, in fact, a way to stop wars and prevent deaths.

Bradley's logic is flawed when he asserts that protesting the ROTC building and a recruitment station is the equivalent of protesting the troops. This protest was against the institutions that help carry out wars, institutions that are controlled by the "policy makers" themselves. No doubt the protesters also agree that the soldiers are brave and choose "the defense of freedom as their profession," but we should help them in this, not stand idly by as our county fights a war quite to the contrary.

As a side note, a vast number of those in our armed services are in Iraq right now as a result

of things such as unemployment, money for school, traveling the world, escaping from a home town, supporting a family and many other reasons. Many join to better their lives, not because they are supportive of the war in Iraq, but as a means to an end as listed above.

I like Bradley's use of the civil rights movement as a measuring stick for this protest; he seems to forget that on the first day of the movement there were not millions, or even thousands in the streets.

The civil rights movement, like almost all others, started with a few who had a vision for all. Bradley himself goes on to belittle those who are fighting by arguing that the civil rights movement was trying to preserve

"God-given dignity," and an anti-war protest does not reach this level. If he truly believes that life and death are such non-issues, I would ask him to re-examine his thinking and maybe stop by the recruitment office tomorrow and catch the earliest plane to Iraq. But this won't happen, even though he has a great fondness for the First Amendment. He will refuse to take a side, by either signing up to go to Iraq, or protesting the fact that we were conned into going. It seems to me the only joke is his article.

Benjamin McKechnie is a political science major at the University and served six years in the Oregon Air National Guard.

Elections Board is Hiring

The ASUO Elections Board is in charge of organizing and overseeing the ASUO elections.

ELECTIONS MANAGER

- Organize Electronic voting process on DuckWeb
- Organize absentee ballot procedures
- Organize voting booths
- Organize the counting of ballots
- Hold 5 office hours/week plus attend weekly Elections Board meetings

Expected hours: 10-15/week; approximately 4-month position

Applicants must be currently enrolled with at least 8 credits

Salary: \$125/month stipend for 4 months

Selection Process: Interview

Reports to: Elections Coordinator

OFFICE MANAGER

- Prepare Elections Packet
- Design and print ballots
- Constitution Court Liaison (investigate elections violations and complaints)
- Hold 5 office hours/week plus attend weekly Elections Board meetings

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR

- Advertise for public hearings, Elections Packet, and elections.
- Determine and implement all elections publicity including, but not limited to, banners, signs, balloons, etc.
- Act as liaison between all campus publications and the Elections Board
- Responsible for the production (design, layout, paste-up and typing) of the Voter's Guide
- Hold 5 office hours/week plus attend weekly Elections Board meetings

VOTER EDUCATION COORDINATOR

- Contact residence halls, Greeks, international students, Student Housing, etc. to promote knowledge and interest in elections
- Schedule and organize debates
- Organize candidate fairs, candidate meetings, etc.
- Act as voter/candidate liaison for Elections Board
- Hold 5 office hours/week plus attend weekly Elections Board meetings

All applications due January 9, 2006
541-346-3749 • <http://asuo.uoregon.edu>

STUDENT SENATE SEAT #18

Grad/ Law Student Seat

Applications due December 9 @ 5:00 p.m.