

OREGON COMMENTATOR

Volume I No. 8

Eugene, Oregon

Monday February 27, 1984

Professors helping to remake Globe



Robert Grudin is one of two University English professors involved in a project to rebuild the Globe Theater in England.

Photo: Robert Davis

By Daniel McMillan
Contributing Editor

"The fearful fire began above,
A wonder strange and true...
And burnt downe beame and snagg
And did not spare the silken flag."
—From "A Sonnet upon the pittifull
burneing of the Globe playhouse in
London"

On June 29, 1613, a fire destroyed the Globe Theater in London during a performance of *Henry the Eighth* in what might have been the first "special effects" disaster.

Some kind of ammunition was exploded to mark the arrival of King Henry, and a piece of burning shrapnel ignited the thatched roof of the galleries and started the blaze. Amazingly, nobody was hurt, although one man's burning trousers had to be extinguished with ale.

Now, 271 years later, University English professors Thelma Greenfield and Robert Grudin are involved in the Shakespeare Globe Center project to rebuild the theater.

Project members plan to build an historically accurate reconstruction in the Bankside area of Southwark within a few hundred yards of the original location, in what Grudin describes as "one of the most ambitious public and commercial projects ever undertaken."

"One of the things that is really thrilling is the variety of people that are joining in this from industry, royalty, the academe and Hollywood," he says.

Industrialist Armand Hammer is the project's chairman of the board. Sam Wanamaker, a Chicago-born actor who lives in Southwark, is president of the board and is the project's chief missionary.

Other notables on the board include Richard Burton, Douglass Fairbanks, Jr., Cary Grant, Charleton Heston and Leonard Nimoy. Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, is the project's official patron, and the British government is actively

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Demos criticize policies; Reagan officials defend

By Richard Burr
Editor

Representatives of two Democratic presidential candidates said President Ronald Reagan's foreign policy is riddled with failures and misperceptions, while White House officials defended it at briefings with alternative student journalists in Washington, DC, Feb. 6.

Reagan administration critics have said the death of Yuri Andropov, the Soviet Union's leader, provides Reagan with a chance to salvage his nuclear arms policy by getting off to a good start with Konstantin Chernenko, the new leader.

But John Lenczowski, director of European and Soviet Affairs for the National Security Council, said several misperceptions exist about the Soviets.

"You hear a lot of slogans in the papers that ideology is dead, that there are new enlightened leaders," Lenczowski told the audience in the Old Executive Office Building. Soviet leaders are perceived as just going through Marxist-Leninist motions as a ritual, he said.

Such notions are based on mirror-image perceptions, Lenczowski said. It is more

comfortable for Americans to think they are dealing with pragmatists, he said.

The justification for Soviet expansion is that the communists are carrying on the traditional imperial expansion of the czars, Lenczowski said. However, a communist government must have unlimited sphere of influence to accomplish their internationalist agenda, whereas the czars' expansion was more limited, he said.

In addition, the American and Soviet societies supposedly are being taken over by technocrats who are administering the societies, Lenczowski said. But such analyses fail to explain why the ideologies of each system exist, he said.

At the time of the briefing there was much speculation about the impending death of Andropov and who his successor would be. When pressed for his speculation, Lenczowski said he thought Defense Minister Dmitri Ustinov probably would become leader if Andropov died.

But he said people should concentrate more on the characteristics of the system than on the individual's characteristics.

"When you are dealing with a Soviet leader, you are not dealing with a human being," Lenczowski said.

The notion that an individual makes the Soviets' decisions is part of the motivation for the call for an Andropov-Reagan summit meeting, he said. Although there is a "potential utility" of such a meeting, Lenczowski said an appeal to Andropov's sense of common humanity would be futile.

"He can't act upon that sense of decency because he is a prisoner of a state of conformity," he said.

But Madeline Albright, a foreign policy adviser to Walter Mondale, blamed the Reagan administration's antagonism toward the Soviet Union for failures to reach agreements with the Soviets.

"The truth is, even in your personal lives you have to deal with your enemies," Albright said. Mondale thinks the United States must continue to talk with the Soviet Union for common survival, she said.

Cutting off talks is dangerous because the Soviet Union is isolated and paranoid, Albright said.

Because of Reagan's stands on nuclear arms, Soviet-U.S. relations have reached an "action-reaction" cycle in which the deployment of new missiles sparks the other side to deploy a more modern generation of missiles, she said.

Some journalists questioned the intentions of the Soviets in negotiations, citing several recent disclosures that the Soviets had violated provisions of SALT I and SALT II. Despite the apparent violations, the United States still should try to negotiate an agreement, Albright said.

Such responses prompted some audience members to ask whether Mondale has a realistic view of the Soviet Union.

"Fritz Mondale has no illusions about the Soviet Union," Albright said. The Soviet Union is a police state, she said, adding, "Andropov is not head of the Moscow United Way."

When asked about a comparison of Mondale, who was vice president under Jimmy Carter, and Carter, Albright said Mondale has a more consistent view of the Soviet Union. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had Carter's heart, while the national security adviser had Carter's head, she said.

Carl Ford, John Glenn's senior foreign policy adviser, said the candidate thinks the United States should pursue violations in private with the Soviet Union instead of

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IFC reevaluates newspapers; two to be on ballot

By Thomas Mann
Contributor

Newspapers subsidized with student fees have drawn more attention this year because of an Incidental Fee Committee that is reviewing traditional funding practices and the appearance of two new campus publications.

A result is that the **Oregon Daily Emerald** and the **Oregon Commentator**, a new biweekly publication, will be on the April student body elections ballot so students may decide if they want to fund the publications' requests. The **Emerald** is requesting \$84,960, and the **Commentator** is requesting \$10,823.

The **Commentator**, which never has received a student subsidy, and the **Emerald**, which received a \$77,900 student "subscription" from the committee last year, apparently will be placed on the ballot as separate, non-binding questions, meaning both could request the IFC fund them if they fail at the polls.

But the ballot method elicits mixed feelings from IFC members.

Although going "through the IFC is good" for most issues, says committee member Mary Shrauger, the students have the right to vote every few years on publications.

But IFC Vice Chairwoman Sheila Schain says she has some misgivings about putting newspapers on the ballot, although she voted to place the **Commentator** there. The **Emerald's** IFC hearing is set for Tuesday.

Students are not informed enough and have no way of knowing all the pertinent facts to make an intelligent decision,

Schain says.

"The students have already voted on the issue when they voted for the IFC members," she says.

The current system of having elected student officials decide the allocation amounts "as a whole is good one," Schain says. The ballot would cost more money to initiate than it is worth, she says.

"We would be charging (students) for asking their opinion which they don't have the facts on."

But IFC Chairwoman Julie Davis says the publications should stand on their merits, and the ballot system does that. The problem with such a system is that the IFC's function as a "central funding mechanism" is diminished by a ballot "menu budgeting," she says.

The placement of the **Commentator** on the ballot, however, is not favored by **Commentator** Publisher Dane Claussen, who says having the publication on the ballot so soon after it began publishing in October is a wrong move.

Claussen told the IFC at the **Commentator's** Feb. 10 budget hearing that it should exercise its stewardship role to provide students with a diverse range of opinions. The political climate on campus will hurt the **Commentator's** chances of being funded as an alternative publication, he said. The **Commentator** has a moderate to conservative editorial tone.

The ASUO Executive office, which is held by the Students for a Progressive Agenda student political party, is opposed to the **Commentator**, Claussen adds. The publication has criticized ASUO President Mary Hotchkiss and her administration several times.

On the other hand, **Emerald** Editor

Debbie Howlett suggested to the IFC that the daily newspaper be on the ballot.

Howlett says the ideal situation would be to get a "normal subscription," which students would pay directly to the **Emerald** for the newspaper, but that is not possible.

Instead, Howlett proposed in a recent letter to Dan Williams, University vice president of administration, that students vote one term each year on a form in their registration packets whether to fund the **Emerald**. The suggestion is being investigated by Williams.

Students would pay \$1.75 each term for the subscription, which traditionally has covered the newspaper's printing costs.

Students with strong convictions against the newspaper could receive a refund directly from the **Emerald** office, Howlett says. At last Wednesday's **Emerald** board of directors meeting, she told board members other refund methods are being investigated by Williams.

The registration vote would get the newspaper away from the IFC determining an allocation amount, which Howlett says has become too "political." The **Emerald's** IFC-approved subscription has decreased the last two years.

But until an acceptable registration voting method can be worked out, Howlett says the ballot measure during the student body elections should be binding, meaning the **Emerald** could not appeal to the IFC for funding if the students reject the newspaper's request.

"If you can't get enough support," then a school newspaper should not publish, she says.

Another new publication, the ASUO Executive's "**Off the Record**," has caught the IFC's eye. The committee allocated the

student body president's office \$9,700 on the premise that it would publish "program advertising." But Shrauger, who was on last year's committee, says the publication has not fulfilled the objective.

The newspaper is doing the job promised, although it had a rough start, says Bill Hallmark, ASUO coordinator of administration and finance.

The publication is receiving articles submitted by many programs, and the publication is within its right to publish what it has, Hallmark says. Part of "**Off the Record's**" content is political articles from a liberal perspective.

Claussen, last year's ASUO press officer, says the IFC did not plan to fund a political publication that accepted commercial advertising to help support it. The publication was supposed to offer free advertising for programs and articles about the ASUO, EMU and student events, he said.

Former ASUO President C.J. Balfe said last year that he suggested the publication to compensate for the lack of **Emerald** coverage of student government and its related agencies and programs.

The publication has "more than enough money" and does not "need advertising," Claussen says.

"**Off the Record**" is one of four student publications that are not being placed on the ballot because they are viewed as newsletters of the programs from which they receive funding.

The IFC approved for next year \$1,271 for **AVENU**, the allied arts and architecture students' publication; \$2,000 for **The Advocate**, published by the Survival Center, an environmental group; \$1,020 for **The Dissent** of the Student Bar Association.

SPEW

Our ASUO president tells a bedtime story, while in the process reaffirming the vital role that the non sequitur plays in political discussion:

"...Hotchkiss recalled an incident where a non-English speaking woman attended a church service in the company of an English-fluent man....'When the woman heard the word, "businessman," she asked if that included her, too, and was told it did,' Hotchkiss said. 'When she heard the word, "mankind," she asked if that meant her, and she was told it did. So when the sermon was over, she walked straight into a men's room.'"

The Oregonian, 2-7

One of those giggling girls in the student affairs division, Ruth Buehler by name, lets loose a salvo of devastating wit in the letters section of the **Oregon Daily Emerald**, although citizens of Poland, Lithuania, Tibet, Kampuchea and Cuba, as well as residents of greater Ho Chi Minh City and a few dozen other locales, may be a bit hard-pressed to find the humor:

"One of the truly grand things Pres. Ronald Reagan has done for the American people and most particularly for old gals like myself is this: he has placed a communist under every one of our beds. But I am brave, and I wasn't scared. I have, in fact, been thinking, Me? My bed, too? Oh, goody. With every passing day, I confess I've been growing more and more interested—(why don't I just come out with it?)—titillated, excited in a way totally unbecoming to my age and wickedly reminiscent of my misspent youth....All right, a communist, I thought. Still he might be handsome, mightn't he?....My friends, last night I could hold out no longer and looked under my bed. I found a lost pair of bloomers whose disappearance four years

ago, I had reported to the police as a theft by sex perverts, three pennies, six newspapers dated 1967, an empty can of tuna fish, and dust, heaps of dust. Even so, I can't believe that my president, the 142nd fastest gun in the West, a man who talks to God like an equal, would lie to us—to me, unless there just weren't enough communists to go around."

2-22

Ms. Sherri Schultz discovers, to her horror, that there are actually people who disagree with her, reminding us in the process how important the "princess mentality" can be in the development of a left-wing mentality:

"You can see the effect we're having by the actions and policies of the opposition. If we weren't effective, they would just stand back. But by the irresponsibility of Students for Bestiality and the childish editorials of **The Commentator** (sic) you can see that they are being forced to defend their positions..."

ODE, 2-13

Carmen Pecheone, student of speech, in a letter to the **Emerald**, offers a living example of the vital role many left-wing intellectuals have played in conducting ground-breaking research on the relationship of halitosis to political theory:

"Pres. Ronald Reagan has bad breath. It is this stench one detects between exhalations of platitudes and policy statements. It is the smell, to borrow a phrase from Celine, behind even teech and clear white smile.... Time has passed but the smell remains. It trickles down from lofty ranches and private mens clubs to infest busted unions and church basement soup kitchens....Can we endure four more years of this smell?"

2-13

Mr. Kevin Barclay, Birkenstock Bolshevik, displays the polished prose style, quick wit and political awareness one develops

while being a sociology/women's studies major:

"Once again the prevailing winds of change have been buffeted by faltering romantic conservatives. The progression of history should not be ushered in by nostalgic notions of the past but by realistic views of the future....Recently ASUO Pres. Mary Hotchkiss and University Pres. Paul Olum have been criticized for envisioning a non-sexist future. The criticism has come from the knee-jerk reactionism (sic) of the **Commentator** and activist academics of our University....The Students for a Public Agenda (sic) ran with Mary Hotchkiss as president and won by democratic process. It won on a platform of feminism, student activism and social change...."

ODE, 2-14

David Herman, having coined the phrase "creeping Orwellianism," expounds further on the subject to the **Emerald's** Costas Christ, whom **Commentator** readers will remember as a distinguished Orwell scholar:

"One doesn't have to look far to find aspects of Orwell's '1984' happening in America today. Our Government's (sic) association with Nazi-like death squads in El Salvador under the cloak of telling Americans that we are there to build democracy is a clear example of 'Double Speak'...."

ODE, 2-22

The right-wing death squads make their appearance on the University campus, where previously political vandalism, heckling of speakers, stealing of newspapers and censorship by student government were unknown:

"... During the past week between 50 to 70 of the posters put up by the ASUO to advertise the films have been ripped down....'Except for some immature conservatives on campus I can't imagine who

else would do this,' (David) Herman says. 'Some of the posters had to be pulled down piece by piece because of all the staples I put in them. My question is, who fears students going to see these films?'"

Mona Buckley gets her name in print again!!!!:

"...I refer to the Sunday feature entitled, 'The Journal of a Freshman' (1-22). Let me hasten to point out that my intent is neither to criticize nor judge any individual or race. I am simply using your forum, as others do, to express my viewpoint....My dismay arises over the unnecessarily negative portrayal of the University of Oregon. I think I speak for many when I say that this account of university life is not 'typical' of the life of a freshman....The journal was selectively edited; I cannot help but wonder if this editing was done objectively—or in a subjective, sensational manner not befitting my chosen profession or a highly respected newspaper of the R-G's caliber....Again, I do not write to criticize the writer, I simply feel compelled to defend the reputations of my school and my fellow students."

Register-Guard, 1-31

An impressive display of bilingualism from an opponent of U.S. policy in Central America in the R-G's letters column:

"... It is time for American citizens to say 'Basta!', 'enough of these crimes, time for us to cry out to our government that this support of criminals must cease, and military aid to monsters be withheld.'"

R-G, 1-31

Comforting news for the Miskito Indians from Nicaraguan Council of State member Magda Enriquez:

"Three days after the Sandinista victory the new government forbid the use of a woman's body as a sexual object in advertising," Enriquez said." **ODE**, 2-17

Globe reconstruction involves prominent actors

Continued from Page 1
supporting the project.

Building costs for the entire project are estimated, according to a 1983 *London Times* article, at 12 million pounds, of which 4.3 will go toward building the Globe and 1.5 million toward an indoor theater.

An on-site museum will be constructed for 1.5 million pounds. The remaining 5.2 million pounds will be used to construct a pub, bar, restaurant and a block of 17 apartments. After construction, 6.7 million pounds will be needed for an endowment fund.

A pound is currently worth \$1.45.

At the time of the July 12, 1983, ceremony that officially started the project, 4 million pounds had been contributed or promised. Tourist traffic, along with an influx of teachers, students, scholars and actors, is expected to be the center's main source of revenue. A feasibility study in progress is expected to show that visitors should provide a gross income of about 2.5 to 3.5 million pounds annually.

Greenfield says she doubts a dependence on tourist trade will create a conflict between the commercial and

academic aspects of the project. "One of the things everybody is perfectly acquainted with is Shakespeare is big business."

Using the Ashland Shakespeare festival as an example, Greenfield says 15 years ago not many of her students ever had seen a Shakespearean play, whereas now many have.

Grudin's and Greenfield's roles in the project have not yet been defined clearly, but Grudin says the scholars will be used as a "knowledge base upon which the (project directors) can decide fine points of their presentation, program and entire organization.

Presentations may be helped by a Globe replica. Although performing Shakespeare's plays in an authentic theater probably will shed no new light on the content of the plays, Grudin says a replica is important because "when you play Shakespeare in an authentic Shakespeare playhouse, it may help you with how he intended various scenes should be presented and perhaps whole plays."

The continuity of Shakespeare's plays also will be preserved, Greenfield says. Performing plays in an open theater during the day—performances in the

original Globe usually started at 2 p.m.—will help audiences better understand how Shakespeare used language, rather than lighting and effects, to create the atmosphere and setting he wanted, she says.

The greatest problem facing the project now could be deciding how to build the theater.

"I think that is where the fun will begin because various scholars have varying positions on what the Globe really looked like," Grudin says. "There will be, I think, a various amount of discussion and controversy over the blueprints. I do know that people will vigorously disagree."

He says his specialty is "plays as literature and theater," not architecture.

The project is not simply intended to serve as a theater that scholars and actors can use to study Shakespearean drama. "It is basically for (the public)," Grudin says. "They are going to be able to attend a great number of enjoyable performances."

And if Wanamaker's dream comes true, the center will be a springboard for a complete renewal of the Bankside area. Grudin says this will not be detrimental

to the project and says the two efforts would be complementary.

"Shakespeare came from the city; the city made him happy, and he helped make the city happy. He should do the same again."

"We have dozens of little Globes around the world, but none in London," Grudin adds.

The project will, at the very least, promote an active interest in Shakespeare, he says.

"People all over the world, regardless even of their political beliefs, are fond of Shakespeare. He has been translated into virtually every language. People are intensely interested not only in his texts, but in his performances, and Shakespeare as a character, and his English background."

Grudin also says the center will get funding for the arts and humanities.

"Projects like this can't help but increase support for Shakespeare studies and Renaissance studies in general," he says. "As more people get interested, a number of new projects will spring up connected with the center. They will be funded where they wouldn't have been funded before."

Reagan's foreign policy elicits varied appraisals

Continued on Page 3

publicly embarrassing them. Glenn wants treaties negotiated without loopholes so the Soviets cannot violate the intent of treaties, Ford said.

There were few questions and comments about the Soviet Union from the Glenn representatives. But they talked extensively about Central American policy.

Vietnam provided the lesson for Glenn that the United States either should intervene and try to win or get out of a country, which the United States mostly should do, Ford said. The reaction from Vietnam also was that economic and military programs were solidifying the economic and military elite, he said.

The lesson of Vietnam is that there is a lack of desire to intervene elsewhere, Albright said. Regional powers should solve regional problems, she said.

But Otto Reich, coordinator of public diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean, who was born in Havana, Cuba, said Vietnam and the crisis in Central America are much different.

"Vietnam was half a world away," Reich said. "You can drive to Central America."

"We've gotten to the point where if you see a helicopter and a palm tree, it's Vietnam," he said.

The situation in Central America had been improving until the guerilla movements of the late 1970s, Reich said. From 1960 to 1979, socio-economic indicators such as literacy and death rates have improved from 20 to 50 percent, he said.

The land reform has helped more than 10 percent of the workers in El Salvador, Reich said.

And the United States has not contributed to the human rights problems in the region because it trains just 15 to 20

percent of El Salvador's forces, he said.

But Reagan has militarized and radicalized the situation in Central America, Albright said. The best idea is to be concerned with human rights, she said.

The Reagan administration shows its misunderstanding of the situation when it points its finger at the communists, said Glenn representative Pat Buckheit. Poverty and social injustice provide the fertile ground for revolution, she said.

the concern with military aid is wrong because the proportion of economic aid to military aid was 3-1 last year, Reich said. The ratio should increase to 7-1 next year, he said.

The military also is essential to implement the administration's policies in politics, economics and diplomacy, he said.

The administration is trying to help the governments build democratic institutions, Reich said. Providing military assistance

helps to protect the institutions from the violence of the far left and far right, he said.

The revolutionary movements are not indigenous but are movements supplied by Cuba, Reich said. More than 25 percent of Cuba's gross national product is subsidized directly or indirectly, freeing Cuban leader Fidel Castro to interfere in Central America to tilt the outcome, he said.

"Our enemies are counting on the fact that Americans are going to get impatient and want us to pull out," Reich added.

But while the Reagan administration condemns the Cuban and Soviet supplying of Nicaragua, it supplies the Contras to overthrow the Sandinistas, Buckheit said.

The United States should not operate by the standards of the Soviet Union and should concentrate on human rights to differentiate itself from other countries, Albright said.

LETTERS

Pinko

The central logical fault in the thesis advanced by Mr. Brandon Shepard is that, in fact, he has not been "forced" to do anything. The state has used no force nor power of law to mandate Shepard attend the University of Oregon. As an adult (apparently), Shepard has reached the decision to attend the University of Oregon on his own.

Certainly Shepard had every opportunity to evaluate the University prior to enrollment, providing of course he can read English. And, after enrollment, he found things to his disliking. He is free to go out into the free market and attend a university that does not "violate" his "faith."

Why does Shepard chose to withhold his dime from Students for a Nuclear Free Future and Gay and Lesbian Alliance can

only be known to him. The logical conclusion, however, is that he supports all of the other groups for which he did not withhold funds. What about it Brandon?

Furthermore, I have surmised that Shepard lives in the University of Oregon dormitories from his address as published in the Eugene *Register-Guard*.

I can only wonder if he really isn't a little "pinko" after all living in socialist housing. Come on Brandon, why don't you stick up for your principles and get out of the state-supported housing and get into the free market?

When it comes tax time, someone could ask all Oregonians to ask to deduct all of their tax money going to support Shepard's education and housing. Why should anyone pay for something they don't believe in, especially when the waste is evident.

John Silvertooth-Stewart
'75, UO [Political Science]

Childbirth

Richard Burr's article, "Poll indicates Oregonians don't fit pro-abortion myths," in the Jan. 30 *Commentator* drew its conclusions from misleading statements regarding induced abortion and the trimesters of pregnancy. It begins, "Oregonians favor changing laws that allow abortion through the ninth month of pregnancy" and later states, "only 4 percent (of those polled) believe that abortion should be permitted in the third trimester."

Dear friends! May I inform "you" that there is no such thing! Third trimester termination of pregnancy is not abortion but childbirth. May I quote from page 2 of Miller and Keane's *Encyclopedia and Dictionary of Medicine and Nursing*. "Abortion—Termination of pregnancy be-

fore the fetus is viable....(generally before 20 weeks of gestation. When a live infant is born between the 20th and 35th weeks of pregnancy the term premature birth is used."

Therefore, to conclude that Oregonians are against abortion because only 4 percent believe "abortion" in the final three months of pregnancy should be permitted, is really out in left field.

Is this the kind of thinking your whole publication is based on?

Marion L. Toepke
certified nurse-midwife

Editor's Note: The article was about the conclusions of a poll and was not an opinion piece. We in the publications industry call it a straight news story. But I do not consider the delivery of murdered fetus to be a "childbirth."

"When all are thinking alike, no one is thinking...very much."—Walter J. Lippman

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Heed linguist

Today is D-Day for the EMU Board as it decides either to give in to ASUO President Mary Hotchkiss' and her supporters' demands to remove the EMU sign immediately or handle the issue more responsibly.

The issue concerns two statements on the wall near the student lobby that say the University is a "guardian of the noble in man's aspirations for the humane society" and a "leader in the quest of the good life for all men."

Hotchkiss says these are sexist and adds that if the statements were racist, they would have been removed long ago.

But just one word in each message is allegedly improper, not the message. And if the words "colored" or "Negro" appeared on the sign, the sign would not necessarily be racist. It appears from Hotchkiss' logic that she might consider the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the United Negro College Fund racist.

Another of Hotchkiss' mental exercises concluded that the messages have no intrinsic value because they originally were intended just to fill space. Apparently if the Constitution had been placed there, it too would be devoid of intrinsic value.

In addition, William Jones, who wrote the sign, didn't seem to think it was just to fill space because he requested that the sign either be kept intact or removed entirely. By honoring that request, we are honoring the intrinsic value he saw in the sign.

Moreover, any part of the University that has stood for 30 years must surely gain some value as a part of the University's history. Unlike Hotchkiss, most students are not ashamed of that history, and are not willing to efface and forget it, much less rewrite it.

Hotchkiss also has attempted to belittle her opposition. At an EMU Housing Committee meeting, she said most of the opposition results from ignorance, citing the obscene phone calls she has received. Although outrageous, those acts are peripheral. It is the arguments that count.

And when a committee member suggested a decision be delayed until the opposition testified—so the committee or board could make an educated and informed decision—Hotchkiss, a believer in fair play and student opinion, said, "They had that chance."

But instead of listening to our tolerant and eloquent president, the board should consider the words of Tom Givon, head of the linguistics department who spoke to the *Commentator* as an individual linguist.

There is not necessarily a correlation between a male chauvinist society and language, Givon said. For example, the Swahili-speaking society is deeply male chauvinistic, but Swahili has no sex-specific pronouns. Swahili has a neutral word "person" that is used widely the way Americans use "man" to mean "person."

Language reflects the social realities of the day, Givon said. All societies he has seen are male-dominated.

But social realities change, so people must understand the social environment in which something is written. People use the idiom of their day with which they are most comfortable.

Givon also said the intent of the person is extremely important when attempting to judge something as sexist.

He said he prefers the matter be handled factually instead of politically. Women may be scientifically polled to see if they are offended by the message and messages with similar use of "man" to see if a legitimate issue exists. If a sizeable group is offended, the sign may be removed, Givon said.

He adds that one cannot successfully engineer language. Givon interprets George Orwell's 1984 to have a similar message.

One can legislate language without affecting social realities. It is much easier to change societies through political action, Givon said.



LETTERS

Capitalist education

It's a pity that the editors of the *Commentator* need a lesson in entrepreneurship from an avowed socialist, but here it comes.

When a business is deciding whether or not to mount a venture, it does not, and cannot, undertake those which cannot lose money. It screens for ventures where the risk is commensurate with the probable gains and, most importantly, where a worst-case loss will not do unacceptable damage to the business or to the owner(s).

ASUO sponsorship of Underdog Transport, while not undertaken for profit gains, required the same kind of planning and decision-making as does any other business venture. Subsidizing the buses with student fees was considered unacceptable, and for the ASUO Executive would have been politically suicidal. So the whole thing was planned with a flexibility that could accommodate anything from five to 25 buses, and where each bus run would be individually self-financing.

I had been at a university where the student union runs buses to the major metropolitan centers every Christmas. Underdog was based on that very popular self-financing model. But no one here had ever done this and we didn't know what to expect in terms of demand or of why students would or wouldn't buy tickets.

We made one serious mistake: we underestimated the effect of doing most of the advertising and all the ticket-selling during exam week. When it came time to decide which buses to run, the first was not yet self-financing. But to not run it would inconvenience 30 people and could have set off a chain reaction that would probably leave more inconvenienced people on the other buses. The worst case if we run that bus would have been a loss of \$100.

We decided taking that risk was better than ditching everyone, and maybe we'd be able to sell some more tickets for that run.

At the same time, two of us working on Underdog

promised to try to get contributions from our unions if we did end up with a deficit. ASUO Vice President Kevin Kouns did not identify us—in what you called his "burst of evasiveness"—because as individuals we did not then have the right to speak for our organizations. My union, the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, has since voted to contribute to that deficit.

As the editors well know, even a self-financing ASUO activity need the support of ASUO funds. I would imagine that the *Oregon Commentator* hopes eventually to be self-financing (with perhaps the occasional help from some friends). I can see you doing that without depending too much on the "free labor" (students supported by government or parents), which no newspaper can depend on over the long run. But you couldn't have got the thing flying so smoothly without subsidies from somewhere.

The editors assert that supporting the Greyhound workers is not an appropriate activity for the ASUO. Underdog's appeal for the ASUO Executive was the chance to link support for the Greyhound workers to the provision of a useful service for students.

The editors also imply that students, if polled, would not have supported this action. I will grant that, given the novelty of this kind of politics, this is probably true. There is a fine line between what individual members of an organization would have you do if asked their opinion on each isolated issue (this is the fictional basis of our democratic practices), and the general mandate that the electing majority gives to its elected leaders.

The ASUO Executive has a mandate to *integrate* being a student with being responsible citizens concerned about the future of our society and of the world. I know that they take this mandate *and its limitations*, very seriously.

Ken Summers
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Eugene

Contributions or letters to the editor may be sent to *Oregon Commentator*, Box 11533, Eugene, OR 97440, or submitted at the *Commentator's* office at 203 EMU. The office phone number is 686-3721. Subscription inquiries should be addressed to the publisher. An annual subscription costs \$10. Checks should be made payable to *Oregon Commentator*.

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Journalists stumble, but headed in right direction

By Richard E. Burr
Editor

I never had seen a right-wing conspiracy in action, so it was with great trepidation that I approached a conference of alternative student editors in Washington, DC, on Feb. 5 and 6.

I was afraid my reporter's training would penetrate my colleagues' alleged layer of superficiality to make "the invisible swastikas on their wimpy shoulders evermore conceivable," as the *Emerald's* Doug Nash recently described the College Republicans. But after rubbing shoulders with them, I found they had more substance than many college newspaper articles.

My colleagues were well-versed in the issues of the day, which became evident later when they engaged in classical siege warfare tactics at a briefing by a Walter Mondale representative. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Ideological movements have their "cults of personality," and some members of the entourage showed at a reception that perhaps they indulged too much in William F. Buckley, Jr., the distinguished editor of *National Review*. Their attempts at Buck-

leyesque one-liners often lacked the sparkling and cutting quality of the mentor.

The reception soon broke up for a roundtable discussion on journalism and politics—and the main message of the conference. The speakers said the conservative publications should offer more varied fare to attract readers. But there also seemed to be a message that the publications should shed their "advocacy journalism" and restore the integrity of objective journalism that the media establishment has discarded.

Another purpose of the conference, sponsored by the Institute for Educational Affairs that has made grants to many alternative publications, was to help the journalists distinguish between journalism and politics so credible journalism can be practiced.

IEA set up briefings with the White House and representatives of Mondale and John Glenn so the journalists could practice the idea. The sessions had mixed success in achieving the goal.

The White House session was OK, although questioners sometimes expressed sympathy with the Reagan administration and the bad rap it is taking before asking

their questions.

The Mondale session, however, proved how far alternative journalism has to go before it will replace the establishment.

Madeline Albright, a Mondale foreign policy adviser who teaches at Georgetown University, started casting the candidate as a foreign policy moderate or conservative. When she said Mondale has no illusions about the Soviet Union, I sensed my colleagues' gloves were starting to slip off their hands.

During the questioning period, the questions became increasingly pointed until the barely concealed foreign policy liberalism irked some to start debating with Albright.

But what pushed my colleagues beyond the point of no return was when, during one intense debate, Albright declared, "I am known as the hard-liner." The remark sent the journalists into an uproar.

After the Mondale session, an IEA official advised the group to be more restrained in their questioning, and the group was well-behaved during the session with the Glenn representatives.

A final point made at the conference was that the journalists not become captives of

a particular faction. Professionalism and integrity are the desired goals.

The message was driven home after the conference by IEA President Philip Marcus. "Though IEA has no editorial standards (or political purposes) in mind when awarding grants, IEA cannot offer or continue to provide financial support to any publication with any involvement with the John Birch Society or its members—or any other such extremist fringe group," he wrote in a letter to student editors.

The reaction to the conference apparently was not as favorable as it was to last year's, when they were praised for their courage, energy and other fine qualities in starting alternative publications.

But I agree with the conclusion of Jonathan Cohen, coordinator of the young journalists program, when he put the two conferences in perspective: "This year you were cautioned and challenged. Not as comforting perhaps, but more rewarding later on."

Although some may dismiss alternative publications and their efforts, the advice and advisers available to them seems to have at least started my colleagues in the right direction.

Murky thought impedes the progress of 'activism'

By Michael Rust
Assistant Editor

About a year ago, I found myself standing in line in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, waiting, along with a host of tourists, my turn to spend a few seconds gazing at the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. As we waited, we observed a number of exhibits set against the wall, which included an exchange of letters between George Washington and Benedict Arnold.

The crowd surrounding me was a mixed bunch. On one side, a heavy-set, middle-aged man was genially explaining to his daughter that by God, her older brother had to memorize the Declaration, so she had better pay attention. A couple of spaces in front of me, some sort of youth group from Encino, Calif., was emitting the noise of a group of genuine Valley Girls, a frightening sound never successfully duplicated on screen or on record. A couple of young men, who looked about 19 or 20 years old, were ahead of me in line.

As they read the description of the Washington-Arnold letters (which were concerned with Arnold's attempt to sell the American post at West Point to the British during the Revolutionary War), one turned and said to the other, "It's funny how nationalis alters our perception of things. Look, we call him a traitor..." On cue, the other one broke in with, "Yeah, maybe he found himself in a position where he was fighting a war he could no longer support." The other one solemnly nodded assent.

I remember them from time to time, however, whenever some particularly air-headed statement entered my ears, as for instance, the day after the Grenada invasion. A gentleman informed a University audience that the United States intended to frighten tourists away from Grenada in order to destroy the tourist industry, thereby forcing the Grenadians to succumb to the blandishments of that pleasantly vague monster, "the corporations," which seems to cause so much damage.

But then, that sort of talk is hardly unusual. Sometimes I think that Eugene produces murky thought the way Iowa produces corn.

I was reminded of this tendency toward murky thought when I read a recent *New Republic* article about changing Western

attitudes toward China. A wave of nostalgia swept over me as I remembered a time, just a few short years ago, when it was virtually impossible to conduct a discussion at the University about the possibilities of constructing "real" socialism without some yokel remarking that "they did it in China," leaving the impression that the People's Republic was one vast resort, filled with contented masses and frolicking panda bears, with revolutionary commitment oozing out in all directions.

That sort of remark doesn't occur very often these days; one reason, of course, is that the Chinese themselves more or less pulled the plug on the myth of the Cultural Revolution (and they were followed by other observers, such as the *New York Times'* Fox Butterfield). Although Mao Zedong's reputation is reportedly fluctuating on the Mainland, the odds seem good that ultimately, in most parts of the world, the Great Helmsman will take his proper place in history alongside Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin as one of this century's major thugs. A mass murderer's memory is not redeemed simply because he was chubby and wrote poetry.

I already have commented on the attraction that totalitarianism has for some members of the academic community (see the review of *Political Pilgrims*, *Oregon Commentator*, November 8, 1983). Why, however, do so many students seem so immersed in murky thoughts?

One reason, of course, is simple: ignorance. Any television generation is, I suppose, bound to grow up with certain gaps in their educational background. However, in some cases I sense, in addition to an air of self-indulgence, an almost willful refusal to acknowledge the complexity of the issues they claim they are addressing. Listening to some local activists who self-consciously regard themselves as "radical," I get the feeling that they've pulled a neat trick. They are enjoying the benefits of martyrdom (such as the glow of self-righteousness in which they envelop themselves), without suffering any of the drawbacks.

This was all brought home to me last week when I noticed the poster advertising the ASUO's "Red Scare at the Movies" film presentation. Stoically ignoring the lack of a union bug on the poster, I noted that one of the films was "Red Nightmare," produced by the defense department, where, the poster assured me, "a

man wakes up one morning to find his hometown has been taken over by the REDS and everyone has turned into mindless commie zombies!" Another is "What is Communism?," which has "the infamous international criminal conspiracy exposed at last!"

Well, whatever the sins of our student government, a tendency to overintellectualize their positions isn't one of them. This presentation, Mr. David Herman of the ASUO assured the *Emerald*, is to demonstrate "creeping Orwellianism" in American life.

Dear me, "creeping Orwellianism..." That does sound dreadful, doesn't it? At the risk of spoiling Mr. Herman's fun, might I be allowed to point out that his posters seem to lack a certain historical perspective? If Mr. Herman is genuinely interested in the political climate of the late '40s and early '50s, he should familiarize himself with a few names and events. He could study the Hiss-Chambers perjury case, which occurred in 1948, the same year that saw the Soviet blockade of Berlin and the Soviet-backed coup in Czechoslovakia. He also could explore the power struggle within the Congress of Industrial Organizations between the faction led by the Reuther brothers (who hardly could be considered reactionaries) and the communist factions. He could ponder the effect that the Rosenberg case, the Soviet explosion of an H-bomb in 1953 and the Korean War (and the treatment of United Nations prisoners by the Chinese) had on American attitudes toward communism. He might speculate about what effect memories of Munich and appeasement had on the attitude of American politicians toward defense policies during that time. He also might discover the response of *Dissent* Editor Irving Howe, a distinguished American democratic socialist, to the writer and Stalinist apologist Lillian Hellman, who claimed back in the mid-'70s, that the defenders of Stalin hadn't really done any harm:

"...Those who supported Stalinism and its political enterprises, either here or abroad, helped befoul the cultural atmosphere, helped bring totalitarian methods into the trade unions, helped perpetuate one of the great lies of the century, helped destroy whatever possibilities there might have been for a resurgence of serious radicalism in America. Isn't that harm enough?"

To take these films out of their historical context (or for that matter, their artistic context; it was an age of hokey melodrama) is an act more self-indulgent than educational. But I'm afraid that the crude but inevitable analogy for much local political activity is masturbation. The perpetrators feel good, and it uses up some excess energy, but it's hardly the sort of thing that someone genuinely concerned with intellectual development or humanitarian action should center his/her life around. Yet many seem to, simply for the pleasure of being able to tell themselves that they've been successful in their downwardly mobile escape from the bourgeoisie.

Many people—and to be fair, this includes people far more intelligent than the more vocal elements of our local radical community—have never forgiven history for failing to live up to the fantasies of radical belief. While often they justly criticize American society for its faults, I think that the vituperative nature of their opposition can be explained, as *New Criterion* editor and former *New York Times* art critic Hilton Kramer has put it, by realizing that "they have never forgiven American society for failing to live up to their critique of it." They often claim that socialism remains their ideal, but it is a socialism so immune to historical analysis or moral standards that it is virtually indistinguishable from a religious dogma.

In writing of the political tendencies of some writers and artists, Kramer has written: "...it would...break their hearts and shatter every illusion they have inherited from the sacred traditions of radicalism to have to acknowledge that capitalism, for all its flaws, has proved to be the greatest safeguard of democratic institutions and the best guarantee of intellectual and artistic freedom—including their intellectual and artistic freedom—that the modern world has given us."

Many who self-consciously regard themselves as "radical" often speak of morality. However, as Pascal (Blaise, not the computer language) reminds us, the first of all moral obligations is to think clearly. But the apologists for Fidel Castro and Mao have little to teach anyone about either morality or clear thinking. It is up to responsible individuals—whether liberal, conservative or social democratic—who value the ideals of pluralism, tolerance and clear thinking, to continue to use these ideals in political discourse.

Smith wants to eliminate 'professional politicians'

OC: How has the political climate of the Congress changed since you took office three years ago?

DS: We're more conservative in nature on some issues but in others we need to change the balance that is here in this Congress and get more new blood in. We need, in my estimation, a limitation on the number of years you can serve in the Congress. We need to have people who understand what it takes to run a business, what it takes to balance your checkbook in the outside world. We basically need to get rid of the professional politician. I don't know what it's going to take to get that done, but I think the average Oregonian, the average American who's working, paying taxes, would love to see representation by people like myself who have done something in the work-a-day world and have tried to come in and serve in a public role for a while, and I intend to go back and be a citizen involved in trying to live under the laws I helped fashion. I think that's extremely important in the future of this country to get away from the professional politician.

Oregon Commentator: Going along with some areas of the budget, one is student loan cuts. What do you think about the suggestion of cutting student loans, and what is your stand on the Solomon Amendment, which says that student loans should be cut off to those who don't register for the draft?

Denny Smith: I believe I voted for the Solomon Amendment. All it is simply trying to do is point out that people who live within the law are willing to accept the benefits of this society are also willing to live by the law, which requires that people 18 and older register for the draft. The draft is not in place, but certainly this is an indicator whether you're going to be a law-abiding citizen or whether you are willing to accept the benefits of the society, then you need to be willing also to accept some of the responsibilities. I think that's a very responsible position whether you happen to be a liberal or a conservative. Let's see, there was one other part of that question that I didn't think I answered.

OC: Student loan cuts.

DS: Basically, we need to provide a means whereby people can get loans to go through college. What has happened in the student loan program, however, is a lot of it has turned into a basic grant. We've found that we could have 34,000 more student loans each year if we had collected the money that already has been put out to previous students, and that money has not been paid back. So one of the efforts is to try to get the money repaid so that dollars will be available to provide loans for current students. I support that effort. We can't just continue to act like a loan is a gift. And it's part of our effort in trying to reduce the budget.



Commentator Editor Richard Burr talked with Rep. Denny Smith [R-5th congressional District] in Washington, DC, Feb. 7 about current issues.

OC: Switching over to foreign policy, what did you think of the Grenada press blackout?

DS: I guess that I support the defense department in their effort to try and control the safety of the troops that went ashore, and trying to control what was being written. And I think we've become a little too accustomed to having nightly reports by the TV camera people. I think that it was fine the way they did it. I think that in the future they're developing a plan, which would take a few reporters in with them should they have a military operation where they would be able to background the situation, but there would be, as the British did in the Falklands, an ability to censor, I guess is what they would put out, so that it would be possible to protect the lives of the members of the

armed forces who are involved in the military operation. I think that's very responsible.

OC: Is that an unusual view for you to take considering that you're a newspaper owner?

DS: I've got some problems with some of the people in the journalistic business who disagree with me. But I think the important point here is that the media news were the ones who were responsible in a number of instances. I think the suit by General Westmoreland against one of the television networks (CBS) is a good example. There have been a number of instances where the news media has overstepped their bounds. I think you'll see that this effort by the Pentagon will result in the media maybe reviewing their own situation and realizing that they are not always responsible.

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Hollings' policy reflects reversed Reaganomics

By Douglas F. Green
Contributing Editor

"We in the Senate all think we should be president," Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-South Carolina) says. Hollings, despite slim chances, little money, low name familiarity and a seemingly impossible ideological niche in the Democratic Party, seems to be as determined as Old Dixie to secure the nomination this summer in San Francisco.

Tall and elegantly gray, the senator from Charleston, South Carolina, seems to have some of the year's most interesting and unique set of opinions. He is for fiscal restraint—more fiscal restraint than Office of Management and Budget Director David Stockman and President Ronald Reagan combined—yet he also favors additional funding for nutritional assistance and education, with a 3 percent growth for defense.

He reportedly favors certain "right to work laws," yet he asserts commitment to the "right of working men and women to organize and bargain collectively." A liberal, or at least a "progressive" on most issues, Hollings seems most comfortable taking a conservative approach to his generally

liberal agenda.

If the "freeze" is Alan Cranston's issue and "the locked-out" Jesse Jackson's, it is the reduction of the deficit that is closest to Hollings' heart. He says the large deficits "mortgage" the future of America.

Hollings sees the deficits as soaking up the capital needed by businesses for investment and expansion, and believes that the resulting high interest rates have made the dollar overvalued and caused a spiralling trade deficit. He says the trade deficit has lost the country "1.75 million jobs" and calls an annual \$190 billion deficit "ludicrous." Unlike many of his opponents, Hollings has distinguished himself on the deficit—he appears to have a plan for its reduction (or containment).

Hollings favors a semi-across-the-board freeze on the budget. According to the scheme, he, as president, would sign the previous year's budget into law again. Defense growth would be cut to 3 percent per year. While "programs for the neediest" such as disability and food stamps would be exempt from the budget "freeze," federal pay, discretionary spending (non-pension entitlements) would be "frozen."

He would eliminate for one

year any cost of living adjustments in pensions for Social Security recipients and federal workers. Tax payers would lose the tax cuts enacted in 1981 and would not be protected against bracket creep (inflation-based pay increases raise salaries to higher tax brackets).

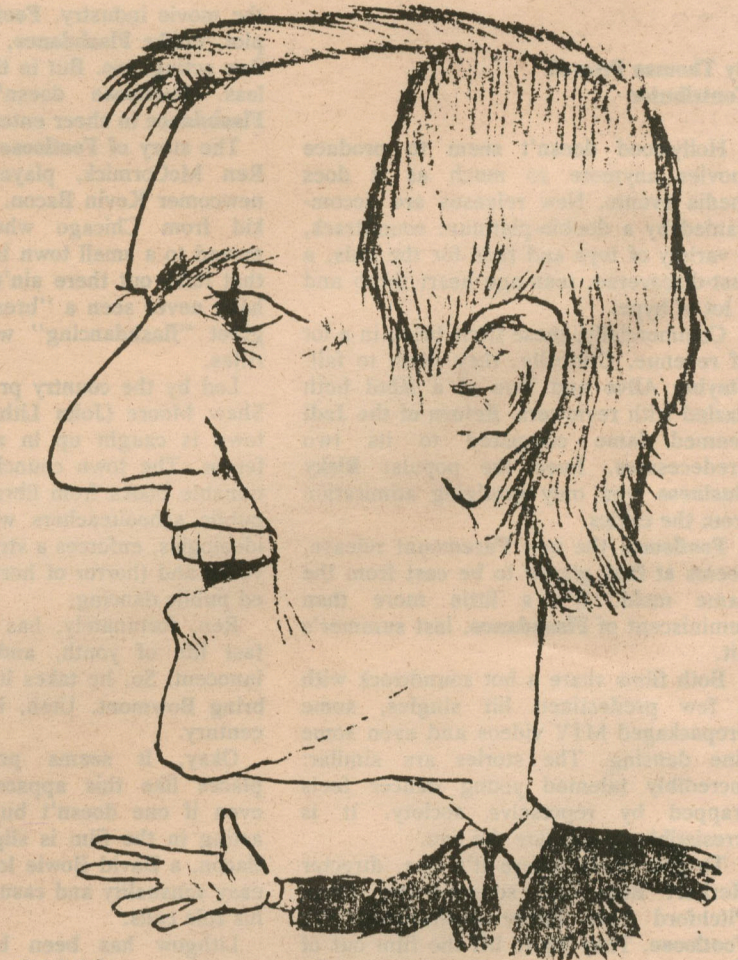
It is a plan based openly on "sacrifice." The government would practice the strictest economy and would even consider tax increases. The strategy would be to place the government's spending in a sort of holding pattern while growth in the economy and inflation would generate revenues to balance the budget, and then, maybe, just for originality's sake, make a payment on the trillion-dollar national debt.

This may sound a lot like a Southern Democrat's version of Reaganomics, but it is not. Instead, it is a true reflection of Hollings' unique ideology of conservative approaches to a liberal agenda.

While Reagan has staunchly resisted tax increases (with the exception of the "user fees" and gas tax hike of 1982) and has worked towards tax cuts and indexing (to protect tax payers against bracket creep), Hollings sees budget reducing as a "50-50" affair in which spending is frozen and revenues from taxes are raised. Thus the tax payer would give up the tax cut, the pensioner the pension increase (for inflation) and the Senate its annual pay raise in hopes of balancing the budget.

However, this budget cutting for Hollings is not total. "Hunger programs" such as WIC (women, infants and children feeding program) would be eligible for substantial increases. Education, health care, food stamps, and even the creation of a government-sponsored national day care network would all be areas of expenditure growth.

The Hollings budget freeze program is somewhat a Reaganomics in reverse. With the same goal in mind—balancing the budget instead of cutting or



GORMAN © 1984

Ernest Hollings

freezing social spending and taxes while increasing defense—Hollings would increase social spending and taxes while cutting back growth in defense. The conservative tradition of balancing budgets would embrace the liberal tradition of greater social spending.

It is this paradox of fiscal conservatism and yet liberal spending priorities that makes the candidate unique. He believes that only a deficit reduction can stimulate the economy for a "long run recovery," and he therefore opposed the make-work projects Congress created at the peak of the 1982 recession.

Reviewing Hollings' economic program is refreshing for at least he seems to communicate an essential awareness of the underlying basis for many of the

nation's problems.

The fiscal frugality of his Southern heritage clings to him well, but he insists on additional spending on select social causes. It is this approach that probably will limit him to a very low level of support in his presidential quest but may make him a prophet of sorts in the Democratic Party.

Hollings says most Americans are "100 percent with us (the Democrats) with the issues." The reason that the Democrats lost the Senate and the White House, and may do so again, is a lost faith in the ability of Democrats to manage the economy and control spending.

Can the party of compassion also be the party of balanced budgets and low inflation? The thesis behind the Hollings candidacy is that the Democrats can only win; the liberal agenda of the 1980s can only be implemented when the party, and especially its leaders, are the proponents of both restraint and compassion.

If Hollings should by some remote chance win the nomination, it would be in almost complete defiance of the modern law of gravity in the party of Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and Franklin Roosevelt. The modern law compels candidates to promise a little more from public coffers to every group inside the party; one cannot win by promising the least. Hence, this year's leading Democrat, the other Fritz (Mondale), has successfully lapped up almost all the "necessary" endorsements by promising a little more money to everyone without details on how the spree is to be funded, save by further borrowing. Says David Broder of the *Washington Post*, "The Democrats may well reject his (Hollings') candidacy, but they can hardly afford to ignore his warning."

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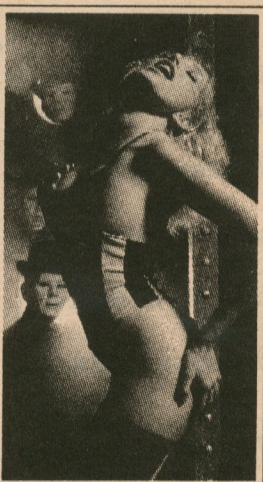
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'Footloose' stumbles over its own feet

By Thomas Prowell
Contributor

Hollywood doesn't seem to produce movies anymore so much as it does media events. New releases are accompanied by a double-platinum soundtrack, a variety of toys and fads for the kids, a just-discovered, teen-age heart throb and a lot of hype.

Commercially, these films bring in a lot of revenue. Critically, they seem to fail. *Staying Alive* and *Two of a Kind* both fizzled with reviewers. *Return of the Jedi* seemed lame compared to its two predecessors. Even the popular *Risky Business* won only grudging admiration from the critics.

Footloose, the new Paramount release, seems at first glance to be cast from the same mold. It's a little more than reminiscent of *Flashdance*, last summer's hit.

Both films share a hot soundtrack with a few predestined hit singles, some prepackaged MTV videos and even some fine dancing. The stories are similar: incredibly talented young dancer feels trapped by repressive society. It is irresistible to compare the two.

To give credit where it's due, director Herbert Ross and screen-writer Dean Pitchford have loftier aspirations with *Footloose*. They try to lift the film out of the merchandising rut that has plagued

the movie industry. *Footloose* has a real plot, unlike *Flashdance*, and it has some fine acting, too. But in this case, more is less. *Footloose* doesn't quite match *Flashdance* in sheer entertainment value.

The story of *Footloose* revolves around Ren McCormick, played winningly by newcomer Kevin Bacon. Ren's a big city kid from Chicago who finds himself moved to a small town in Utah. It seems that folks out there ain't heard of MTV, have never seen a "breaker" and would greet "flashdancing" with the flash of rifles.

Led by the country preacher, the Rev. Shaw Moore (John Lithgow), the whole town is caught up in a great religious fervor. The town council removes questionable books from library shelves, fires public schoolteachers with unacceptable ideologies, enforces a strict curfew on the youth and (horror of horrors) has outlawed public dancing.

Ren, fortunately, has experienced the fast life of youth, and he knows it's innocent. So, he takes it upon himself to bring Bowmont, Utah, back to the 20th century.

Okay, it seems preposterous, but places like this apparently exist. And even if one doesn't buy the story, the acting in the film is slightly impressive. Bacon, a David Bowie look-alike, has the easy sensuality and casual flair for which his role calls.

Lithgow has been building quite a reputation as a character actor for his

roles in *The World According to Garp*, *Twilight Zone* and *Terms of Endearment* (for which he has been nominated for an Oscar). Again the man shows his talent. Lithgow rises above the stereotypical fire-and-brimstone preacher to show some motivation and character. The Rev. Moore began his religious crusade, the audience is told, only after his son died in a drunk-driving accident.

Other people perform well. The high school students seem, well, like high school students, not college-age actors with high voices. Especially noteworthy is Christopher Penn (Sean Penn's younger brother, which presumably makes Chris the next next James Dean).

Musically, *Footloose* even has a better score than *Flashdance*. There are some fine songs, mostly contributed by Kenny Loggins. Sammy Hagar throws in an odd tune, as do Mike Reno of *Loverboy* and Ann Wilson of *Heart* in a duet.

The choreography is not quite as impressive as *Flashdance*, nor is there quite as much of it. Remember, people do not dance in this town.

So where does *Footloose* fail? Just because the film has a plot and *Flashdance* didn't does not make this movie

any less predictable than the other.

Director Ross also takes his time with the film. There are some really good moments, but there are no surprises. The audience has to wait for everything: Bacon's dancing, the inevitable romance between his character and the Reverend's daughter Ariel (Lori Singer), even the final giving-in and grudging permission by the Rev. Moore to let the kids have their fun.

And when they finally get their big dance, Ross ruins the scene by making it pure Hollywood. Small-town hicks who do not watch MTV could not possibly execute the moves these guys do.

The mistake in *Footloose* is in not playing to the audience. People are expecting, and the ads have promised them, another *Flashdance*. The audience wants to see a nice love story between two young people, get a laugh here and there and watch some incredible dancing. There are many scenes in the movie in which none of the above is happening.

Plot and story content are supposed to be superfluous, but in this film they are not. For what could have been a nice, simple and mindless film, *Footloose* surprisingly trips over its own feet.

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