

Harm done

The tactics of confrontation employed Saturday at the inauguration of Pres. William Boyd have done more harm than good for the causes espoused by the demonstrators. Granted these tactics were used during the Vietnam War and were instrumental in crystalizing positions but they were used in conjunction with other means of influencing elected officials and public policy. The effective use of mass demonstrations was dependent upon mobilizing public opinion and translating the issues and arguments into a widely-supported demand.

The usefulness of confrontation tactics is limited because by its very nature it is a tactic of last resort. Once it is used, the options left are few and far more drastic. The successful use of the tactic is also dependent upon the group's credibility. Its use stretches the norm of socially accepted methods of change and thus stretches the group's chances of gaining social approval of its demand.

The issues protested Saturday are real: the use of Teamster lettuce; tuition hikes; budget cutbacks; and the re-organization of the minorities program. However, by escalating to the stage of unruly, disorderly confrontation, the demonstrators have created in the general public's mind an image of "a bunch of campus radicals." The merits of the issues are now clouded by the aura of sensational tactics and the credibility of the arguments supporting the issues is diminished.

Suspicious

If you are a student, energetic and ingenious, look out. You are a suspect. Your description has already been released to the public by Hope Pressman, UO centennial program coordinator. Pressman may rightly suspect that students are the culprits who have been stealing the University's centennial banners, but unfortunately, the media and the public have translated this suspicion into a foregone conclusion.

Monday's *Oregonian* carried a front-page headline stating "Oregon banners gone with wind and students." In the story Pressman said, "The reason I suspect students is that they're very energetic and ingenious." If you fit the above description, it may be wise to stop by the student health services and check out a pair of crutches to avoid suspicion.

Letters

'It' recommended

In a recent letter Mary Duhaime called on the *Emerald* to stop its "sexist policies" and to use "unisex" pronouns such as him-her or s-he. The *Emerald* responded that it has been its policy "for several years to conscientiously and consistently substitute non-sexist pronouns and references whenever possible without distorting the language of the sentence." The whole problem with s-he, her or his, he or she, him or her and the like is that the language is destroyed. (Another problem in the usage of such terms is that most people use the male pronoun first, which is also unfair. I determined the order of the four examples by drawing them out of a box.)

About a year ago KWAX ran a series on juvenile delinquency. On one program the speaker had about five straight sentences with one or more uses of "he or she," "his or her," or "him or her" in each sentence. At the end of these sentences I had quite forgotten what had been said, so great was the entanglement! The English language has had a non-sexist, unisex and simple pronoun for years, namely "it." I recommend it to Duhaime and to the *Emerald*.

Mark Cristy
Biology

Disappointed

While I'm glad to see a report of the faculty action to change the writing requirement, I'm disappointed that we may be starting out with misinformation spread by your report. The change approved is from the present lower division-upper division require-

ment (Wr 121 and Wr 323) to two lower-division courses.

Students will not take the two courses during freshman year, however; your article misquoted me. I stressed repeatedly that the two-course requirement is intended to be taken during the first two years. Moreover, Wr 323 will still be offered for juniors and seniors who entered under the present requirement.

Nathaniel Teich
Director of Composition

No grade

The Thursday, Jan. 15 article of the *Emerald* discussing the grade change proposal was incorrectly headlined with "Bernau asks for 'D' grade."

The ASUO will be conducting intensive surveys in order that the students are represented in any policy statement made by the president and executive staff. This issue is no exception. Bernau will not ask for the "D" grade or any other grading system until student opinion has been thoroughly examined and weighed.

Many students view the reintroduction of the "D" and "F" into the grading system to be unnecessary and counterproductive to the goals of education. These grades are seen as punitive and punitive grading systems don't encourage learning. It is very possible that the return of the "D" would increase competitiveness and detract from focusing on development. Others feel that grade inflation has reduced the value of their grades, thus penalizing star performers.

Register your perspective on this issue at the ASUO executive office, suite 4, EMU. If you're in-



'GOLLY GEE, JULIE — I KNEW WE WERE BORING, BUT NOT THAT BORING!'

interested in accurate headlines, register your dismay at the *Emerald* office, 3rd floor, EMU.

Jim Bernau
ASUO President

Stand clarified

I hope you will give me an opportunity to clarify various statements, suggestions and conclusions contained in an article concerning my stand on land use planning, as written by Jack Wilson and printed in your paper on Jan. 15.

Mr. Wilson conducted quite a lengthy interview with me previous to writing the article and many subjects other than land use were discussed, so it is understandable to me that some things might not have been included in the article, resulting in some erroneous impressions.

The most important fact that should be stated is that most of the article contains my personal viewpoint, and not necessarily that of any other person or group. I was authorized only to state that the Oregon League of Business and Property Owners, as well as the other county groups involved, voted only to take part in attempting to put SB 100 on the ballot, not to repeal it. We all felt that too many things are being done without a vote of the people and that whether people are for or against an issue, they should have the right to make their feelings known by a vote. It would be presumptuous to say that every member of every group is necessarily against SB 100 and, I repeat, no authority was given me to do so, though I am personally in favor of its repeal.

In regards to the general public having "use of private land when they haven't done anything to deserve it," I was referring to the confiscation of private property by zoning and without just compensation to the owner; I am very much in favor of parks and park improvements when voted in by the people. I, too, want open space around me which is why I am against zoning and planning which would restrict people to life in the city.

As to whether or not the preservation of prime farm land is important, I think it is of the greatest importance but I also know we have thousands of acres of potential farmland in this country which have never been in use and much that was once in use is lying idle. I oppose the idea of the LCDC's grading "prime farm land" on a scale of one to four and then declaring it all of equal value or importance. I can see no real value in declaring land "prime farm land"

in areas where it will never be farmed either because it is located between areas zoned differently and therefore not of interest to a farmer or where just plain common sense tells us that it would not be profitable to farm it. Few farmers set out to operate on a non-profit basis though many farmers, as well as other businessmen, are finding themselves in that position today.

I would also like to clarify my statement regarding mass transit. Since I have been unable to drive a car for nearly twenty years, I cannot fight for my right to drive one, only to ride in one. I have used mass transit off and on during much of my life and really appreciate having it available. But I will always totally oppose having the government, at whatever level, making decisions about my personal rights, including my choice of transportation.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to clarify these points in the article.

Orpha Thomas
910 Lincoln St.
Eugene, Ore.

Belief refused

If you find it hard to believe that the *Emerald* neglected to print an article about the Ducks' most successful football player, Mario Clark. Mario was the only Oregon player chosen to participate in any post-season bowl game. He was a starter in both the East-West Shrine game and the Senior Bowl. In the Senior Bowl, which was nationally televised on Jan. 11, he was selected the Most Valuable Defensive Player and awarded a check for \$2,500.

Mario's accomplishment is the first really positive thing that could be said about the Oregon football program. Apparently, the *Emerald* has no interest in the individual achievements of the team. Or is it against the policy of the paper to print an article solely about a black football player? I refuse to believe that the reason that this news was not published was because of a "lack of space." How often does this kind of thing happen?

I'm glad that the rest of the country recognizes the talent contained within our football team since elements within the athletic department seem to overlook it from year to year.

Tanya Rhone
Psychology, Jr.

Evaluations deter

Fall term I took a PS 321 course entitled "Introduction to

Political Analysis," which was taught by W. C. Mitchell. To my astonishment, upon final exam day, Mr. Mitchell announced that he would no longer teach this class because of the response by 15 to 20 per cent of the students on the class evaluations that the class was "a bummer." (Incidentally, only approximately 35 out of 90 students filled out an evaluation.)

I feel that this situation shows what effect or purpose is involved in course evaluations. They are not ridiculous pieces of paper to be filled out hurriedly and unthinkingly, and most important of all, they should not be used as weapons against instructors when students discover a course is "not really their bag."

In my opinion, Mr. Mitchell and his class offered a valuable insight into the political process. Those who were not prepared for the economic aspects of the course should have probably dropped it and saved us all from the unfortunate consequence of losing Mr. Mitchell and his valuable contributions to PS 321.

Course evaluations are a valuable asset to students but in this case I feel they are a detrimental one for they did not represent the majority opinion of students in that class.

Vicki L. Walker
Political Science

Hearing good

This life-long Oregonian wholeheartedly endorses Robert Liberty's eloquent restatement of the facts supporting an independent republic of Oregon. It's good to hear true Oregon loyalist sentiment concerning "our roads . . . parks . . . borders," etc., especially coming from a native Washingtonian who now resides in England. No matter. I suppose we Oregon "lifers" can live with the term "foreign aid" broadly construed.

Darrell Murray
Graduate-Industrial Relations

Letters policy

The *Emerald* will accept and try to print all letters containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Because of space limitations, letters must be no more than 250 words, typed, triple-spaced, dated and signed with the person's major. No unsigned letters will be published.

Tuesday, January 20, 1976