

GTF's deserve support

The right to organize and bargain collectively is a basic right of all employees. The state and the University are attempting to deny this right to Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTFs) by claiming they are students, not employees.

It is true that GTFs come to the University to earn advanced degrees, not to work as public employees. But whatever their motives for coming here, the fact remains that GTFs do work as public employees and therefore have the right to organize as such under Oregon's public employee law.

Most GTFs would probably have been content to continue their educations without collective bargaining rights were it not for certain grievances that called for collective action. It is in light of these grievances that the GTF's movement to organize becomes relevant and the University's opposition becomes understandable.

Contract rights are one of the chief concerns behind the GTFs' drive to organize. GTFs are seldom offered contracts that specify the exact nature and requirements of their work, allowing the departments to employ them any way they choose. In some instances there is no written contract at all, meaning the GTFs are entirely subject to the whims of their departments.

An organized and legitimized body of GTFs could establish standard contract requirements. Violation of those requirements would be grounds for complaint. The University would like to avoid that potential source of headache, but the only way to do so is to deny GTFs their rights as employees.

Most important to undergraduate students is the GTFs' contention that they should have more say in the way undergraduate courses are taught. GTFs teach a good portion of the lower division courses in many departments and substantially affect the quality of those courses. A recognized GTF organization could legitimately demand a role in the planning and structuring of the undergraduate courses they teach, benefiting both GTFs and undergraduates.

The GTFs are also asking for health and child care privileges and a pay scale adjusted for inflation. The real wages of GTFs have declined 10.5 per cent since 1970.

If the University intends to deliver quality education and training it cannot afford to neglect the GTFs. It is important that their grievances be addressed, preferably through recognition of a GTF collective bargaining authority.

The Employment Relations Board (ERB) will decide the fate of the nascent Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation by defining GTFs as employees or students. Whichever way the ERB decides, the University should consider the GTFs a vital part of its teaching and research staff and treat them accordingly.

Letters

Independents vital

Andy Maxon's letter to the Emerald (Oct. 7) calling for a run-off in the County Commissioner race is an example of outworn political thinking.

Mr. Maxon is bereaved that "...one of the positions will be filled by less than a majority vote of somewhere between 35 to 40 per cent of the votes cast."

Let us remind Mr. Maxon that the number of voters that put him on the ballot in the primary is a tiny percentage of eligible voters.

The state of Oregon has already enacted a law demanding independent candidates to declare six months prior to the election. This is limiting your choice, fellow citizens, further action would be even more repressive, and who benefits? The two major parties, and then only certain members of the party establishment.

This is cronyism at its worst, for there is real doubt that party labels mean anything at all in the bread and butter issues of county politics. People that go to the same country club and live in the same neighborhood tend to vote the same.

So let's vote for the man and not for the label. Independent thought and independent candidates (like Jerry Rust, who is running against Mr. Maxon for County Commission position number 3) are vital to a democratic electorate.

Eric Bellman
Senior, Anthropology

Disturbing noise

On behalf of the dogs thus mistreated and the people who must endure their barking and yapping, I beseech those owners concerned to refrain from tying their animals to trees, lamp posts, etc. while they, the owners, are attending class. Both classes of sufferers would appreciate such consideration for the sensibilities of man and beast.

Charles T. Duncan
Professor Journalism

We're staying

Upon reading your recent editorial comment (10-1) concerning California, we members of the out-of-state force would like to respond with a few of our own.

We're all shook up

Students reacted with varying degrees of enthusiasm and amusement upon learning that Elvis Presley was coming to town. Now it appears that outrage would have been a more appropriate reaction.

The Athletic Department (AD) scheduled Elvis the Pelvis' appearance for the middle of Thanksgiving vacation, when most students are out of town. This was permissible, since the AD is allowed to sponsor one fundraising event per year, and the Presley concert was going to be it.

Elvis must be popular in this town, because the AD promptly proceeded to schedule a second Presley concert, again during Thanksgiving vacation, in violation of the one concert rule.

The AD is in clear violation of at least two University sponsoring procedures, as well as a memorandum that gives the Cultural Forum full responsibility for all special events except for the annual AD fundraiser. The ASUO and the Cultural Forum are now wrestling with the AD over these rules.

The Cultural Forum is complaining that the Presley concerts will make it difficult to attract crowds for events in the weeks before and after Thanksgiving vacation. This may be true, but the real injustice is that students who want to see Elvis will have little or no opportunity to do so.

In addition to scheduling the concerts at a time when most students are out of town, the AD is offering no special student rates, as is customary for University events. So a student who wants to see Elvis' undulating hips will have to remain in Eugene over vacation and pay at least \$7.50 for a ticket.

Let's hope the ASUO, the Cultural Forum and the AD reach a compromise that will allow students to see old swivel hips at a time that is convenient and at a price they can afford.

The U of O is seemingly supported by the exorbitant tuition paid by non-residents like ourselves. Most likely our mass exodus would produce some financial difficulties for native Oregonians, if not an economic trauma.

We are constantly told to go home, fornicate in other states, and reform our idiosyncratic speech patterns; in essence arresting cultural advancement in Orygun.

Aside from our prodigious contribution to the diversity of this provincial state, we have noted the majority of talent in the athletic programs has been recruited from other areas of the country, for example, California and Massachusetts.

Righteous yes, but we're tired of it all. Besides, what would life be like without Boston Baked

Beans, California Navels and Southern Comfort?

Boston Bill
Felicia de Los Angeles
Alabama Linda
Massachusetts Mark
Cape Cod Sheryl

Letters policy

All letters to the editor must be signed.

All letters to the editor must be typed, double spaced, 65 characters to a line. No exceptions under usual circumstances.

Phone number, address, major and class rank should accompany all letters.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 250 words in length. Longer letters will be printed if space allows.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit letters to fit its style.



Campus life: Oneto's view
— the stereo fan



THE PICTURE OF DORIAN NIXON