

A dangerous proposal

At its next meeting the State Board of Higher Education will consider a proposed piece of legislation that would play fast and loose with the state's Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

The board wants to introduce a bill at the next legislature that would exempt a good part of the state system of higher education's administrative functions from the APA. Under the APA state institutions such as universities must follow standard procedures in rule-making and in reaching decisions on contested cases.

The bill is intended to streamline administrative functions by eliminating busywork from minor actions and decisions. That's a good idea, but the proposed bill goes way to far.

The bill would exempt the state board and all institutions under its control from APA rule-making procedures in matters concerning graduation, admissions, scholarships, academic credit, fiscal processes and about a dozen other types of policy. This would mean the board or the University could change its admissions policy, for example, without holding so much as a public hearing.

The bill goes on to say that formal hearings in student conduct cases would not be required unless the student was charged with an offense that could result in expulsion or suspension for at least 10 days.

Adoption of the bill would without doubt result in simpler, faster administration and decision-making. It would, in fact, result in rule by fiat by the state board and university administrations on matters of vital importance to students and faculty.

Basically, the APA requires that state agencies must solicit public reactions to any proposed amendment, adoption or repeal of rules. It seems obvious that quite a few rules, such as admission or graduation requirements, affect enough people that the public should have a chance to comment on any changes that are being considered.

Some of the rules now governed by the APA could be exempted without harm. Policy flexibility in matters such as setting prices for admission to athletic and cultural events or charges for symposiums and short courses is to be desired. But the wholesale exclusion of public input from important areas of academic policy would be a disaster.

Equally dangerous is the exclusion of most student conduct cases from APA contested case procedures. Apparently the state board, which paid for the development of the bill, feels student conduct cases which could result in only a nine-day suspension are not serious enough to merit a formal hearing.

The state board will decide whether to send the bill to the legislature at its meeting next Friday. The board should send this bill back to its lawyer for a massive overhaul. If by some cruel twist of fate the bill makes it past the board, we urge our legislators to award it the resounding defeat it deserves.

Arbitrary procedures

It's ridiculous that the University has not established standard hiring and grievance procedures for Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTFs).

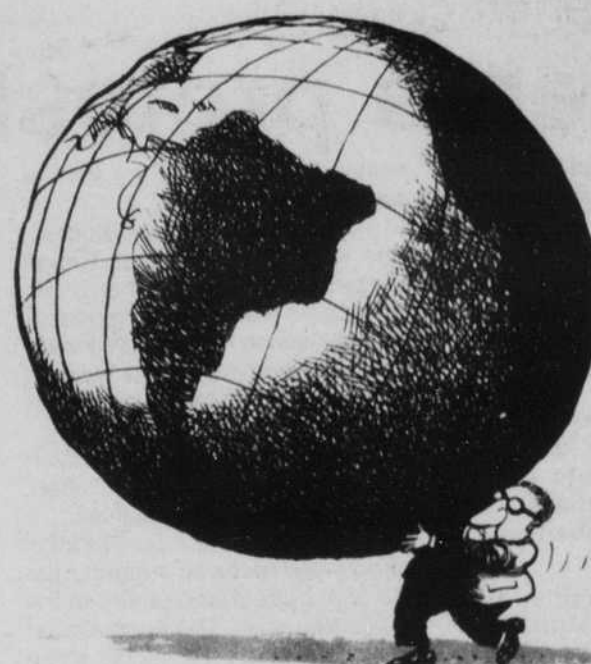
Any one of four sections of the State Board of Higher Education's administrative rules for implementing state antidiscrimination laws could be interpreted as requiring fair hiring and grievance procedures for GTFs. The University's affirmative action office can't step in and set up procedures unless they receive a complaint.

The University would be foolish to sit on their thumbs and wait for a complaint to come up, which is likely to happen sooner or later. Not only would the University be setting itself up for some bad publicity, but the affirmative action office might mandate procedures the University wouldn't like.

An example of the arbitrary (and therefore discriminatory) procedure currently used to hire GTFs came up recently. PACE, a counseling organization, came before the Incidental Fee Committee and requested \$805 to hire a GTF. PACE had already chosen someone for the job. There was no effort to find more qualified applicants, no advertising of job opportunities and no formal job description. The GTF hired by PACE may have been well qualified for the job, but we'll never know for sure because by all appearances he was hired as a personal favor.

It's true that hiring and grievance procedures can be a real administrative headache. But arbitrary hiring by definition lends itself to abuse. The University should establish standard procedures as soon as possible.

AN ADVERTISING BOYCOTT
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON



Letters

Profits buy ads

In the recently rekindled controversy over the Gallo wine boycott and Gallo advertising in the Emerald, I hope everyone will keep the human reasons for the Gallo boycott foremost in mind. It has been said that if the Emerald were to refuse Gallo ads, it would be a denial of Gallo's "right to advertise." Of critical importance in evaluating this is that the "freedom to advertise" can be directly equated with the amount of money you have to spend. A company like Gallo, which annually makes over \$40 million in profits and spends about \$10 million on television advertising alone, has a lot more of this "freedom" than do the poor people who pick Gallo's grapes. The United Farmworkers Union does not have the resources to present its case in the fashion that Gallo presents its case and products.

Secondly, it seems to me that the human rights involved — the right to a living wage, the right to safe working conditions, the right of working people to a free choice of union representation — vastly outweigh the abstract "right to advertise." In 1975 three farm workers were killed in Gallo's vineyards due to negligence by that company. For this Gallo was later cited and fined by a California state industrial safety commission.

Gallo has trampled on the right of its workers to a union which would prevent such abuses. The Gallo boycott is the way for millions of people to say to Gallo that this violation of human rights cannot go on.

Herb Everett
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Greeks charitable

As a member of a sorority, I'm writing to express my sincere sympathy to Karen Hougum, ex-sorority girl of two years. It saddens me, Karen, that after two years of sorority exposure you only received candid observations of what "Frat" are really like. Perhaps if you had constructively participated in your sorority you may not be the "ex-sorority" girl you are today. If the questions of sex, alcohol and rowdiness weren't so paramount in your observations (or in your mind) your opinions of the Greek system may be more accurate.

You pointed out that your "sorority wearily took those philanthropic activities out of mothballs every year..." For

many sororities and even fraternities, philanthropic endeavor is continuous throughout each week, month and year. My house, for example, sponsors a charity which helps children with speech impediments. Other houses sponsor similar charities on a continuous basis. We don't broadcast our work for charity — we don't feel we need to be openly congratulated. We do charitable work because we want others to share the love we experience from sorority and fraternity.

You are accurate, Karen, in pointing out the apathy that exists in the Greek system, but you failed to give credit to those who work long and hard for their houses, for the Greek system and for the good of the University and community. I'm not trying to single you out in particular, but it seems that people are all too quick to point out the negative side of things without giving equal time to the good that exists.

As for the "Greek Week of Giving," no one was forced to give blood or to donate their time or money. One thousand dollars and 50 pints of blood may sound like a small contribution, but how many other organizations on this campus can even begin to match what the Greeks managed to donate to charity? Can the Revolutionary Student Brigade? Or how about the Gay Peoples Alliance?

Yes, Karen, I too have experienced fraternity raids and I've heard of "Frat" behavior that was, to say the least, not worth repeating (your candid description of select "Frat" behavior makes you sound like a voyeur). I lived in the dorms and in an apartment before I entered a sorority and I discovered that the Greeks aren't the only students on this campus who party or get rowdy. It happens in the dorms, and yes, off campus too.

The Greeks have been wrongly stereotyped and are still judged inaccurately. Just because we are portrayed as a group of beer drinking, apathetic, lewd, immature group of elite snobs, won't deter the Greek system from working toward the higher ideals of sorority and fraternity.

Tradition and the Greek system exist because those who care keep it alive.

Cathy Kiyomura
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Boycott still holds

A U of O student was asking me some questions, and the conversation went like this.

"You mean the Gallo boycott is still on?"

"That's right."

"But the workers at Gallo voted to choose a union, didn't they?"

"An election was held, but the results were challenged. The Agricultural Labor Relations Board hasn't made a decision yet, so the workers have not signed a contract. As long as there is no contract, the boycott is still in effect."

"Why does the Emerald run Gallo ads every week?"

"Who knows. Maybe it's like the produce manager of a large supermarket chain who told me that if he couldn't sell iceberg head lettuce, he would have to close the produce section."

"Do you believe that one item of produce or one ad makes that much difference to a supermarket or a newspaper?"

"What do you think?"

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Vaya con Dios

This perhaps will not be the last conflict that all progressive minds will have to deal with in our university. It has been a long road for many. At the present moment an issue of great importance is taking form in this university. The board of directors of the Daily Emerald will meet to discuss Gallo advertising in the University newspaper.

The Gallo corporation, one of the most powerful companies in the land, has launched a new campaign to discredit the UFWA. Millions and millions of dollars are at their disposition. The UFWA started from the beginning to improve the lives of farmworkers and their families, UFWA is a union, not a corporation.

Traditionally we will see as we travel through the pages of past and present labor history the role of private enterprise and their efforts to destroy organized labor. We are all aware of these facts. I have worked in the fields, I have traveled throughout the Southwest and worked on the tomatoes, lettuce, strawberries, etc. I have a lot to tell you, perhaps some day we will be able to communicate and hold hands together. All the people — you and I. Go with God, fellow student, fellow professor, fellow employee. We are a university. We are not a corporation's toy, WE ARE PEOPLE.

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