

editorial Gallo exploits workers

Amid the controversy over Gallo advertising in the Emerald, it is time for the editors of this paper to reaffirm their support of the farmworkers movement.

It's clear to everyone concerned about the racism and worker's rights that the E & J Gallo Winery has waged a deliberate campaign to distort the facts about their continuing exploitation of the most oppressed minority in the country, the seasonal farmworkers.

The debate on the Gallo issue that has filled these pages for the past few weeks has been productive. Gallo's paid campus representatives have been unable to clear their employers of what amounts to a crime against humanity: busting a worker's union in the fields.

The right of worker's to choose a union is taken for granted in most sectors of the economy. But in 1973 Gallo signed a contract with the Teamsters without any sort of election. When the workers went on strike protesting this action they were fired.

Gallo's representatives argue that the Teamster contracts offer pay and benefits comparable to United Farmworker contract provisions. Yet only 10 to 15 per cent of Gallo's workers qualify for most benefits, and the wages Gallo claims to pay are an average of the earnings of supervisors, foremen and workers. Provisions for fair hiring, worker's safety are weak or non-existent.

But the Gallo dispute concerns more than pay and benefits. At stake is the right of workers to organize themselves. Until this right is recognized and guaranteed the Emerald will continue to support the Gallo boycott, regardless of the Emerald board of director's decision concerning Gallo advertising.

This paper's role as a medium for political statements has been at the center of the debate over the Gallo boycott. How strong can the Emerald's commitment to the farmworker's cause be so long as it continues to accept Gallo advertising? Does this paper's management have a responsibility to make a political statement through its advertising policy? When must a newspaper say, "Hold on, that money is so dirty we don't want any part of it?"

It is the Emerald Board of Director's responsibility to weigh these questions. The board is not likely to ban the ads. At the last meeting it was apparent that most board members feel that to ban the ads would compromise the principle of separation of politics and advertising.

But the board can't touch the Emerald's editorial policy. The sight of Gallo's paid lackeys sipping Boone's Farm wine at the last board meeting was in itself enough to harden our support for the farmworker's movement. The boycott is the only weapon the farmworkers have in their fight for a free election. We urge our readers to support the boycott and ignore any Gallo ads that may appear on our pages.

Tenure protects rights

Wednesday, Gov. Bob Straub advocated eliminating tenure for teachers represented by collective bargaining units. Straub should reconsider his stand.

To support taking away tenure, Straub told delegates of the Oregon School Board Association that "teachers now have double protection." Given the state of affairs of this state's education funding, teachers deserve all the protection they can get.

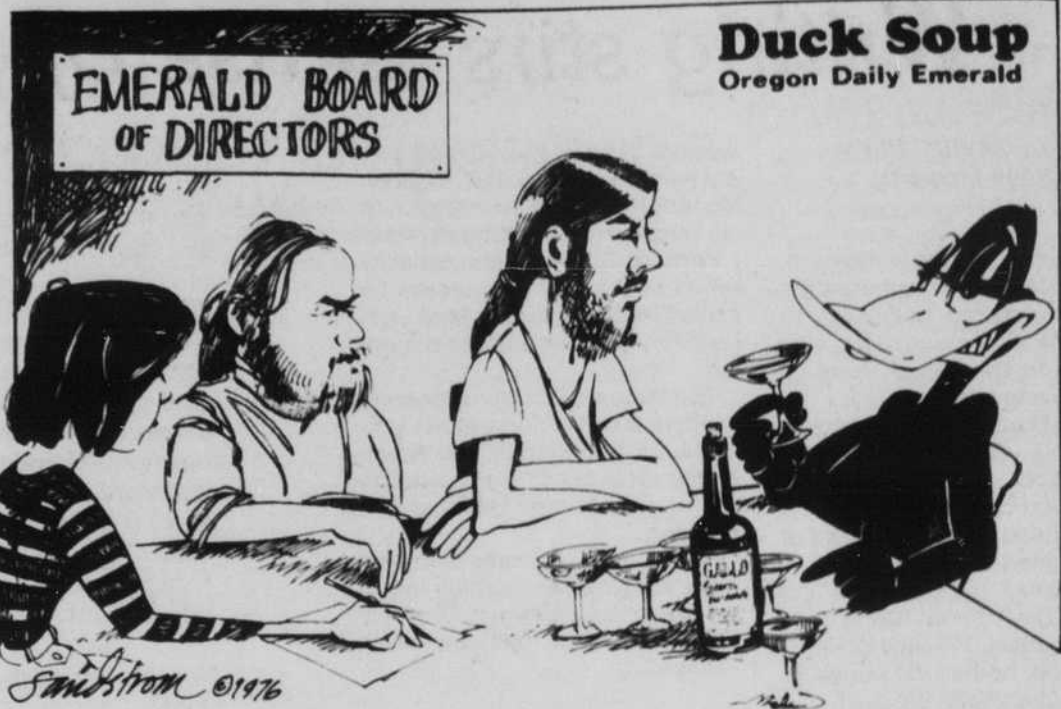
Tenure was originally intended to protect a teacher's right to endorse different politics and teaching methods than those encouraged by his or her peers and employers. In an educational system like America's, where individuality is all but crushed beneath the pressure to conform to "accepted" thoughts and practices, any such protection should be cherished and nurtured.

As the financial pressure on individual school districts continues to mount, as it surely will until the Legislature develops a sane method of funding public schools, the search for a scapegoat will intensify. Since teachers' salaries make up the bulk of any district's budget, they become an obvious target.

As Floyd McKay of KGW-TV puts it, there is a great danger that school officials will try to buy votes for their levies by firing teachers. In such a situation, teachers who buck the system and fight for changes in established practices would find themselves on extremely shaky ground.

On a more pragmatic level, school boards statewide need the political support of their employees. In many communities, the votes and support of district employees are the school budget's saving grace. By taking away something teachers have come to regard as a right, an important political base may be threatened. On the state level, any attempt to reform Oregon's school financing system will need the unified support of the entire educational community.

This is not the time to be discussing taking away tenure rights. Straub and the Legislature should forget about that, and concentrate on providing solutions to the glaring problems in Oregon's educational support system.



Before we discuss the matters at hand, the campus Gallo reps have provided refreshment.

Letters

Trivial question

I begin by apologizing for addressing yet another letter to what has to be the most absurd and trivial question of the day, the worth of fraternities and sororities.

Absurd, because what can be more ridiculous than cries for equal treatment from one of the last publically sanctioned bastions of social discrimination? What can be more ironic than for a former symbol of institutional oppression to be on the defensive? If their discriminatory practices have relaxed, it is only because they have difficulty filling their houses with people who can, or will, pay the price.

Trivial, because what can be less significant than a few undergraduates binding together to justify their lifestyle by giving themselves a banner and a theme song? Since they have chosen to segregate themselves from the serious business of the University, let us count our blessings, and not let a little buzzing from a few wasps keep us from important matters. We should treat them in the same rational and civilized manner as we do their insect counterparts: Swat at them, and they feel a need to defend themselves; ignore them, and they may just go away.

P.A. Callaghan
English-Grad.

Fight or starve

The campaign to Free Tom Bornson and Lonnie Davis is an important struggle for working people, students and others all over the country. For this reason, I feel it important to respond to the distortions and fabrications in Mark Stewart's letter (ODE, 11-15-76).

First, let's get the facts straight. Bornson and Davis are hard-working men who came to Oregon in search of agricultural work. Bornson had been laid off from a job in the Texas oilfields, where Davis had also sought work. They searched extensively for work in this area, and by the time they applied for food stamps they had had to resort to selling blood to try to feed the Bornson family. They were refused food stamps because they lived in a bus and had no income with which to rent a "permanent address."

Backed up against the wall, with no job, no food, no money and a "No" from the bureaucracy (supposedly set up to help people in such situations), Bornson made a decision: he would not allow his family to starve.

"So why I done what I done," he said, "was simply to say that this

can't go on. You can't put people in a corner like that and not expect them to come out and fight... It was one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life (taking over the food stamp office) because I was naturally looking out for my family, but I felt like if I had to do it then I was going to do it for a bunch of other people too."

Stewart's "facts" are sheer fabrication. For example, the "family" that Stewart says Bornson "kidnapped" in Gresham happened to be his own family! Far from being "kidnapped," they were there to make the same statement as Tom and Lonnie: that the real crime is the 10 million out of work while factories stand idle and so many needs — from decent housing to medical care — go unmet, that people who have worked hard all of their lives end up in a position where they cannot feed their families.

Bornson and Davis are two of 10 million unemployed workers in this country, jailed for nine and seven years because they refused to starve. The people who run this country are trying to make an example of Bornson and Davis — an example to say to working people and the rest of us that if you fight back you'll be crushed. But Tom and Lonnie are not criminals. It is not wrong to fight back when your children are starving! Tom and Lonnie must be released from prison!

John Lanier
1240 W. 15th St., Eugene
Member — Revolutionary
Student Brigade

SUAB maligned

I feel some clarification of the November 15 article about the personnel action of the SUAB (Student University Affairs Board) is needed. The average reader, upon seeing the headline and scanning the first few paragraphs of the story, could easily assume that Braulio Escobar had been found guilty of gross neglect of his duties and was about to be sent to the ASUO Constitution Committee.

In fact, during the meeting which the article was meant to cover, the SUAB personnel subcommittee reported that it had insufficient information to make any recommendations regarding Mr. Escobar's performance as the Law and CSPA representative on the SUAB. When asked to speculate on the matter I assumed it was for background information, since the SUAB had taken no formal action concerning Mr. Escobar.

The facts that Mr. Escobar was being reviewed and my quotation were accurate — but what was

unclear was that he was being reviewed by an SUAB internal committee which reviews the performance of every member each month. The fact that the SUAB had had little communication with Mr. Escobar prompted the committee to bring up his name at the Nov. 10 meeting. Since that time, I have learned that he has been fulfilling many of his duties and is a capable representative of the law school.

I am sorry that the Emerald presented the SUAB and Mr. Escobar in such a way as to prompt a loss of credibility to one of our members and to the board as a whole. The emphasis on the non-performance of one member and the possible sanctions against another is a questionable reporting of the happenings at the meeting which the article intended to cover. A motion, initiated to the Faculty by SUAB member Molly Brady, intended to create a committee for affirmative action compliance at the University was discussed in detail at the meeting, but received no mention whatsoever in the Nov. 15 article.

The SUAB has greatly improved its activities as a board with only two vacancies existing. Inactivity by members was common last year when we were plagued by resignations and apathy in all but a portion of the board. It is regrettable that now, when the board is coming closer to realizing its responsibilities and potential service to students, that it is subject to such misrepresentation in the student paper.

Andrea Gellatly
Junior Journalism/Speech
SUAB Chair

You find, you buy

Speaking of freedom to advertise and money (regarding "Profits Buy Ads," in November 17 Emerald), how about the "I found it" sickies? Their insidious proselytizing that extends to newspaper ads, bumper stickers, signs, buttons, billboards, telephone soliciting, and "it knows what," is big money financed by the tax-exempt status of religious organizations. I have no quarrel with the fact that there are fools around who want to "buy" their product (the Christian life myth), but why don't they pay for it? I resent subsidizing this folly with my tax dollars!

Diann Drummond
Doctoral Student Counseling
Monday, November 22, 1976