

Bail for Bornson-Davis

There's really nothing unique about the Bornson-Davis case. The story that unfolded last February when Bornson and Davis took over a Portland food stamp office was just another low-rent tragedy, not unlike others we read and hear about every day.

But sometimes the most common stories are the most significant. Occasionally a single act can illuminate general conditions and articulate the frustrations of large numbers of people. The Bornson-Davis case is such a story.

Tom Bornson and Lonnie Davis acted in desperation and hopelessness, as is routine in such cases. Their arrest and prosecution was standard procedure. No government can tolerate the forcible takeover of its federal offices, and punishment of such acts is justifiable.

What is harder to justify is the fact that conditions in this country are such that a man like Tom Bornson, who had no criminal record, can see no way to feed his family other than to commit a crime that he knew would lead him to prison. And what is far from routine is the fact that Bornson perceived these conditions as having caused his family's troubles and tried to speak for others in similar circumstances.

And so martyrdom has been thrust upon Bornson and Davis. Up to a point, they thrust it upon themselves. The courts took it from there by sentencing Bornson and Davis to nine and seven year prison terms, intending to impress upon people the fact that acts of desperation will not be punished lightly, especially when those acts deliberately symbolize social ills.

The groups that have taken up Bornson and Davis' cause have done their part by calling attention to the poverty that caused Bornson and Davis to act as they did, a poverty that is more pervasive and grinding than many people care to admit.

We must respond to the Bornson-Davis case on two levels. The first response demanded of us is to work to alleviate the conditions of which the Bornson-Davis case has made us aware. The welfare system is bureaucratic, insensitive and unable to meet human needs in many critical situations. Behind the welfare system lie the basic problems of poverty and unemployment. Until we deal with these problems we will see a succession of Tom Bornsons in our courts and jails.

On a more immediate level we must respond to the Bornson-Davis case itself. Bail must be set pending appeal, and the amount must be within the means of Bornson and Davis to pay. Petitions are being circulated that make this demand. The courts aren't likely to rule on the basis of how many signatures are on a list, but it can't hurt to sign one anyway. The petitions will at least indicate support for fairness in the courts and an understanding that Bornson and Davis are nothing but the visible products of conditions that concern all of us.

Boycott G.E.

Students, faculty and non-matriculants — Boycott G.E. products!

General Electric won a recent Supreme Court battle against company disability payments for maternity leaves. The decision is a setback for women's rights, to say the least. The court stated, "...if a man is pregnant, he will be treated in the same manner as a woman." How absolutely absurd. If a man has a prostate operation, does he not receive disability pay? The entire idea of being able to deal with pregnancy on an equal basis is stupid. It makes about as much sense as saying when the moon is in a certain orbit, the stars aligned in their proper houses, an apple can be an orange.

The clincher — and reason for singling out G.E. — is their company attitude. According to a quote in the Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1976, *Oregonian*, G.E. feels, "...women did not recognize the responsibilities of life for they probably were hoping to get married soon and leave the company." This statement stands to offend any person with common sense. Since when does marriage imply an abandonment of responsibility? G.E. doesn't think raising a family is difficult? Not to mention more and more women becoming career-oriented.

Next time you go to purchase an appliance, buy a rival — Whirlpool or Frigidaire. General Electric apparently forgot who buys all those handy little household appliances. I mean, who can handle that kind of responsibility?

Barbara J. Geiser
Senior-Journalism

Imperialist tool

Mike Classick's defense of the U.S. Marine Corps (*Emerald*, Dec. 7) is an outrage to millions of people all over the world who have struggled long and hard against U.S. imperialism.

Letters

The Marines are not on campus to innocently distribute information on employment opportunities. They are here to recruit people to be sent around the world to defend the profits of the big corporations. A former Marine Corps general, Smedley Butler, summed up clearly what the role of the Marines has been all throughout U.S. history:

"I spent thirty-three years and four months in active service as a member of our country's most agile military force — the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from a second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism.... Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank to collect revenues in.... I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras 'right' for American fruit companies in 1903."

We have no interest in fighting in any of these wars waged by the capitalists to protect their profits — including a war with their main rival, the capitalist rulers of the Soviet Union. And we have every interest in being there to raise these issues whenever any military recruiters show up on campus.

John Kaiser
Junior-Architecture

Skating alternative

As three students concerned about the recreational facilities offered at the University of Oregon, we would like to propose an alternate form of recreation. We have come to the conclusion that it is too cold and nasty to do any studying. Consequently, our number

one dead week activity ought to be ice skating, but there is a definitive lack of facilities.

We demand that our incidental fees be spent in this exciting new project. Based on major studies done at a large university and a major hospital, our research has proved that this project is feasible. Recently, it was mentioned in an *Emerald* editorial that an icy spot on the ramp below the EMU was hazardous to student safety. With our proposal, a potential hazard could be turned to a rink-full of laughs. We propose to capitalize on this architectural atrocity by encouraging the formation of ice resulting in a new recreational activity — ice skating!!

We are sending carbon copies of this letter to the following celebrities in hopes that they will be in attendance at the grand opening: Jim McKay, Janet Lynn, Dorothy Hamill, Peggy Fleming.

A. Sierzega
Sophomore-Undeclared
and 2 co-signers

Keep courts free

A reader recently wrote (*Beef* Box, Dec. 8) of the inequity of the present system of waiting for an open tennis or racketball court. In her summary of that issue's status on campus, the columnist quotes Vice-president for Student Affairs Gerald Bogen as saying that the administration "had thought of charging court users."

Whether or not they actually attempted to implement this plan, their mere consideration of it seems all too typical of our administration, and epitomizes their apparent policy of "when in doubt, charge for it."

How about this alternative solution to the problem: If you are waiting for a court and non-University people are using one or more of them, exercise your right as a member of the University community and ask them to leave.

Bill Clingman
Sophomore - Geology

opinion

The Arab Revolution—a national movement

Dear Editor:

I refer to the letter of the anthropology professor (*Emerald*, Dec. 6) and his challenge for convincing presentation of facts and clear thinking.

1. The professor shows clear thinking in admitting he was in error to suggest that Christians in the Arab countries do not consider themselves Arabs. There is however a certain group of Christians and Moslems in Lebanon, members of the Phalangist Party, who prefer to see themselves as Lebanese only. This group originated from the Phalangist soccer team established in 1934 to serve the political purpose of the French mandate in Lebanon. This movement remains to this day under the leadership of the original soccer team captain. I will provide detailed facts below to support my claim (*Emerald*, Dec. 3) that Arab Christians considered themselves the leaders in Arab national movements.

2. The professor criticizes fuzzy thinking which he claims was exemplified in my letter, but he himself falls prey to his own criticism in his feeble attempt to come to grips with the common meaning in the terms Arab revolutionary movements and national movements which I used in my letter. He claims "the 'movements,' are either national or Arab in scope; but not both." But he unnecessarily confuses my position with his semantic gymnastics concerning the concepts of "national" and "international" interests, apparently related to distinct sovereign governments. Without a doubt, the movements are both Arab and national.

The concept of "nation" primarily signifies a people, usually the inhabitants of a specific territory (in this case people who inhabit the territory from the Gulf to the Atlantic) who share common customs, hopes, feelings and beliefs, with the same origins, history and frequently related languages. (Here, the Arabs have one language). A

nation may also be regarded as a political body (such as the Arab Revolutionary movements) rather than a physical territory. The term "national", according to the dictionary, means "patriotic." Thus, the Arab Revolutionary movement is a national movement of the Arab people patriotically devoted to the realization of their shared hopes for ultimate unity in one sovereign Arab State to give expression of their common cultural heritage.

3. I would like to refer the professor to the writing of a former American Special Assistant in the Department of State — David Hunter Miller. He reported in his book "My Diary at the Conference of Paris," Vol. IV, 1924, page 297 that "the aim of the Arab national movement was eventually to unite the Arabs into one nation under one sovereign government." He quoted Emir Feisal in 1919 saying that the development of Arab unity should not be hindered by dividing up the Arab lands as spoils of war among great powers....

The Jews, Christians and Moslems who consider themselves Arabs believe they are one people and aspire to one Arab heritage in spite of their recent imposed divided sovereign states.

4. If the anthropologist really desires to be enlightened about the Arab national aspirations, I advise him to read more. For instance, the ode — "Arise, Ye Arabs, and Awake!" by the great Arab Christian writer Ibrahim Yazeji of Kfarshima, Lebanon, during the 19th century. Let the professor read "The Story of the Arab National Movement — The Arab Awakening," written in 1939 by another Christian Arab historian, George Antonious. Luckily, it is written in English (471 pages) available in the library (call no. 950 An 88). He may be introduced to the writings of the Christian Arab historian Philip Khuri Hitti, who has a number of books in the library. I hope the professor has the time to read about the recent Arab Christian leaders

and their national revolutionary movements such as Makram Obeid (the Head of the Wafd Party, Egypt); or Antoun Saadi (the originator of the Syrian Party, Lebanon); Michel Aflak (the originator and the Philosopher of the Ba'ath Party which is ruling now in Syria and Iraq). The professor should not forget to read about the Palestinian Arab Christians too. They are the leaders of the National Front of Palestine, especially, George Habash, Dr. Wakh Haddad and Naif Hawatmeh. If the professor is more interested to collect facts, let him read the research and writings of the Arab Christian Issa Nakhleh, the representative of the Higher Committee of Palestine at the United Nations in New York. I am ready to supply the professor with an ongoing list, which space here does not permit. I am speaking of 6000 years of history and culture. Let the anthropologist remember that the "process of Arabization" goes back long before the "process of Islamization." I have learnt these facts about my history and culture in the past 36 years — since my first year at school.

These facts speak for themselves. They are not related to any "cause" the professor appeared desirous of identifying me with, an apparent technique he also demonstrated in the opening sentence of his "opinion" (*Emerald*, Nov. 30). There, the *Emerald* Editor was identified with Arab spokesmen. The professor's technique of twisting facts in my letter to conform to his criticism of fuzzy thinking and unmotivated rhetoric suggests he is more biased towards belief in his own criticism than he is to a dispassionate examination of facts. The reader is invited to review the final paragraph of the professor's "opinion: Vague, facile rhetoric", a fine demonstration of emotive rhetoric.

Jamil Effarah
Ph.D. Candidate

Friday, December 10, 1976