



## Letters

### At the grassroots

Now is the time to become involved in politics at the grassroots level!

Issues are at the heart of politics and too often only a select few decide issues which eventually effect us all. On 26 Jan. 78 the University Democrats will sponsor a platform convention to draw up a platform to submit to the State Democratic PrePrimary Convention. In order to have a truly representative set of concerns, many people with many special interests are needed to write these platforms.

There are many interesting candidates which have announced plans to seek nominations in the primary elections this spring. We must express our concerns to them and the best tool to let our concerns be known is a well-rounded platform.

You are needed. Attend this general meeting as the first step to let your voice be heard.

**Kathleen Hostick  
Junior, Political Science**

### Dribble

Once again the Emerald has distinguished itself with an article in which insight and intellect cease with the title.

I refer to the Jan. 24 dribble entitled "Law May Carve Up Corporate Crops." National Land for People displays the incredibly naive, short-sighted, and self interested view of the world which one has come to expect from "Communists" and "Birchers"

(the article's words, not mine).

Enforcement of the archaic 1902 law limiting participation of farmers in federal irrigation projects to 160 acres will not bring back "family farming", whatever the hell that is. It is not economically possible today to farm 160 acres and make a profit. That is reality. "Family farming" is nothing more than an invitation to a life of abject poverty. Nor will enforcement stop the few big corporations affected by the law from farming. Their power and wealth will find a way around the problem.

Enforcement, however, will be the death blow to many struggling independent farmers. Fewer farmers will mean less food and higher prices, contrary to NLP contentions. When the independent American farmer is a thing of the past, the only "persons" who will be capable of carrying on a business at a loss will be the large corporations who receive certain tax advantages for business losses. Enforcement of bad laws can only hasten the day when the big corporations completely control farming in America.

**Steve Huff  
2nd year Law**

### A word of thanks

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and undying gratitude to the Revolutionary Communist Student Brigade. Without their judicious presence and unwavering persistence, all of us at Dr. Szymanski's slide show on Cuba last Friday would undoubtedly have swallowed a revisionist line.

Get Angry! That's the only way to survive!  
C. SHORROCK



As the vanguard of the campus Left, the RCSB can be counted on to thoroughly repudiate future departures from True Marxism-Leninism. It is my hope that, if or when China restores capitalism, the RCSB does not neglect its duty to lead us in a renewal of the old question: Who Lost China?

**Timothy Shorrock**

**Graduate student,  
Asian Studies**

### Letters policy

*The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed, with the author's year and field of study (or faculty status) noted. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come first-served basis.*

## opinion

# Mid-East editorial distorted

**Submitted by  
Monatham Altalabah of the  
Organization of Arab Students**

The Emerald editorial of Jan. 16th entitled, "Peace is at hand — maybe" was a clear example of bankrupt journalism. Besides distorting the facts and undermining the aspirations of the Palestinian people, the editorial sought to bring the history and future of the Arab people to the negotiating table. It is surprising that the same editors who wrote in support of the struggle of the people of South Africa would give outright support to the racist colonial state of Israel.

According to the Emerald editorial, the two stumbling blocks to peace in the Middle East are: "controversy over the Sinai peninsula and the dispute over the future of the West Bank." The Emerald editors simplistically reduced the whole conflict to a mere "territorial question." The editors, in their rush to draw a strategy for peace in the Middle East, forgot the whole history of the colonization of Palestine and the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. They forgot that this process of colonization led to the expulsion of 1.5 million Palestinians from their homeland to live in a harsh exile.

What the editors did was to reduce the content of peace to merely finding solutions to the problems that emerged after the 1967 War; it was this war that led to the Israeli occupation of the Sinai peninsula, the Golan heights, the West Bank and Gaza. The editors considered Egypt and Israel (for that matter Sadat and Begin) the main parties for peace and started examining the compromises which ought to be given.

The Emerald editors did not bother investigating the nature of the regimes that are so willing to bargain and compromise people's rights. Begin, whose plan for peace was endorsed by the politicians of the Emerald, was the leader of the terrorist group — Irgun — which was responsible for the murder of thousands of Palestinians. Sadat, on the other hand,

is a dictator who has been suppressing the national and democratic movements in Egypt since he came to power in 1970. His celebrated Open Door Policy, ie. opening the economy of Egypt to Western investment, has led to the increased impoverishment and misery of the Egyptian masses. The only compromises that can be expected from these two oppressive regimes are those that will maintain their rule and further the oppression of the masses.

The editors "understand" why Israel is unwilling to allow a "belligerent Palestinian state" along its borders. Do they understand the history of Israel's aggression against the Arab people? Do they understand that Zionism, the ideology of the Israeli ruling elite is a racist ideology and was declared by the U.N. to be such? Do they understand what the Palestinian people's rights are? Do they know that there are more than 15,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israel? Do they know the true nature of the Egyptian regime which holds 6,000 political prisoners?

The politicians of the Emerald seem to think that those questions are irrelevant to the pursuit of peace. But how could we have peace if the Palestinians right to self-determination is not guaranteed? How can peace be achieved while the racist Zionist state of Israel oppresses and discriminates against the Palestinians? Peace to the Emerald editors means the maintenance of the status quo. It is important that peace come, but it must come with social justice which is the goal of the Palestinian revolution, as put forth through its struggle for a democratic and secular state in Palestine. And this aim should be materialized not on a part of Palestine, such as the West Bank or Gaza, but on all of Palestine.

Before the editors suggest a strategy for peace they should have examined the dimensions of the problem more thoroughly, or they should have opened the Emerald's pages for dialogue so the stand they took wouldn't have been so one-sided. Unfortunately the Emerald fell into the general trend prevailing in the U.S. media recently; it substituted sensational headlines for analysis.

## opinion

# Somewhere to turn, not to be changed

**Submitted by  
Carol Queen, Director,  
Gay People's Alliance**

"Gay? Someone to turn to..."

When this ad runs, the GPA (Gay People's Alliance) office frequently gets calls.

"Who are these guys? Is this some kind of counseling service or what?"

The classified ad from Barnabas Ministry in Veneta has appeared in the ODE off and on since September, and it's getting harder and harder to tell from the ads what you are getting into when you call them. When they first appeared, they were straightforward in their focus, reading: "Ex-gays who have found the key..." Now, though, there is no real indication of their counseling orientation or even their religious orientation, and I believe that this should be made clear to the gay person before s/he contacts Don, Terry and John.

The question of whether or not a homosexually-oriented person is morally objectionable and bound not to engage in the kinds of relationships s/he normally prefers is the subject of intense debate in almost all religious bodies. There are few major denominations with no homosexual caucus (even the Mormons have one), and many clerics are of the opinion that homosexuals are bound only to be true to God and the self. This trend of opinion in organized religion is sufficiently strong that many religious people with a gay orientation have had their inner conflicts greatly lessened by it. This, however, is not the message of the Barnabas Ministry.

There is likewise heated debate in the psychological community as to whether a homosexually-oriented individual should be encouraged to change her/his sexuality. (Many gays, of course, have no inner conflicts of this kind.) Professional opinion is becoming increasingly strong in favor of self-adjustment and acceptance, partially because psychiatric "cures" of gays have proven workable only in the smallest percentage of cases of extreme maladjustment. Research is beginning to indicate that some highly-spoken-of "cures" leave the individual with no sexual feelings whatsoever.

In the Barnabas Ministry's brochure, Don talks about God's love turning the "depression and loneliness" of homosexual life to "peace and stability" — non-homosexual life. But gay members of Eugene's Metropolitan Community Church are likely to say the same thing about God's love from a vantage point of secure sexual and religious orientation. Members of GAYouth or GPA will say that their depression and loneliness disappeared when they got in touch with an active, supportive gay community.

And heterosexually-oriented individuals will, at certain periods of their lives, complain of the depression and loneliness of life in general. "Depression and loneliness" are no more inherent in the life of a gay person than "peace and stability" are in the world of an individual who is not gay. To say that one needs to find an alternative to homosexuality in order to alleviate one's depression and dissatisfaction is ignoring the fact that there are scores of homosexuals in this community and on this campus who are happy with themselves the way they are. There are probably many more who need nothing more than some accepting friends — someone to turn to.

Someone to turn to — not to be changed, but to be accepted. There are so many more important things to do with one's energy than to try to become something one is not. If you are gay, you do not have only the Barnabas Ministry to turn to. You also have Gay People's Alliance, Gay Rap, GAYouth, Metropolitan Community Church, Integrity (gay Episcopalians)...you have a community of people who can accept you without demanding that you conform to an arbitrary standard, one which has already given many people the space they need to grow.