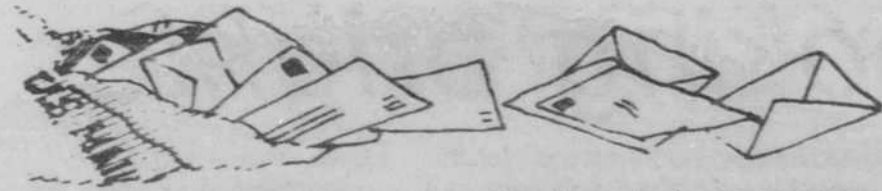


## Letters



### Board stalls stock issue

It has become increasingly clear to more and more students that the University is intent on supporting the racist white regime of South Africa. The state board and the Attorney General are seeking to hide their complicity in a legal smokescreen by obscuring the fact that the University owns the stock, the state board directs and controls these stocks and the Oregon Investment Council manages the stocks.

Students had worked for over a year, by voting in a referendum, picketing, demonstrating and meeting with the state board resulting, finally, in last November's vote to divest. At this point divestiture was out of the hands of students and faculty and faith was put into the state board and their vote. This victory was immediately subverted. When Attorney General Redden informally questioned the authority of the State Board to divest the board agreed to postpone divestiture immediately. Since former Attorney General Johnson already ruled in November 1976 that the state board has ultimate authority over the investments of its stocks why did they not immediately divest?

This stalling is nothing more than an attempt to outwait students thinking they'll forget or lose interest. Perhaps the board can wait till summer, when students are gone; give the OIC control; then stand around and say how it is out of their hands, their hands are clean, they too feel and agree with students that apartheid is wrong and should be abolished. This behavior on the part of the state board makes it clear that in spite of what they say; the ruling class they serve determines their real intentions. In other words, the only way we can be certain the state board will divest is to stand together and let them know their smokescreen is nothing more than the emperor's new clothes.

The first trial for the students who were arrested is Tues. April 11th. All students are asked to join us in demanding the University drop the charges and go through with their decision to dump the stocks.

Terri Dach  
Southern Africa Liberation  
Support Committee

### Brutal error

As I was passing my orbs over Jock Hatfield's March 31st article on graffiti, a brutal error suddenly reared its ugly head. Hatfield wrote that the message, "Jesus saves but Esposito scores on the rebound" was endemic to "basketball crazed North Carolina." Well, I was stunned. I felt like I'd just caught a Nolan Ryan fastball on the forehead. Not only did Hatfield get the birthplace of this delightful little blurb wrong but he had the incorrect sport.

This particularly magnificent example of graffiti made its debut in Boston in the early seventies when Phil Esposito, the greatest scorer in hockey history, was collecting an awesome number of goals for the National Hockey League Bruins. So try to get the facts right, okay Jock?

By the way, how many touchdowns does Bill Walton have this season?

Gary Ley  
Senior, Journalism

### 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 will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinion columns must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted.

## Laissez gay faire?

Submitted by Thomas Ball,  
Chairman,  
Oregon Young Libertarians  
Business Graduate Student,  
Oregon State

The issue of gay rights has stirred up a storm of controversy in recent months. The focal point of this storm has been the so-called "gay rights ordinances" that a number of cities have enacted. These measures typically prohibit discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation" in the areas of public and private employment, housing and accommodations.

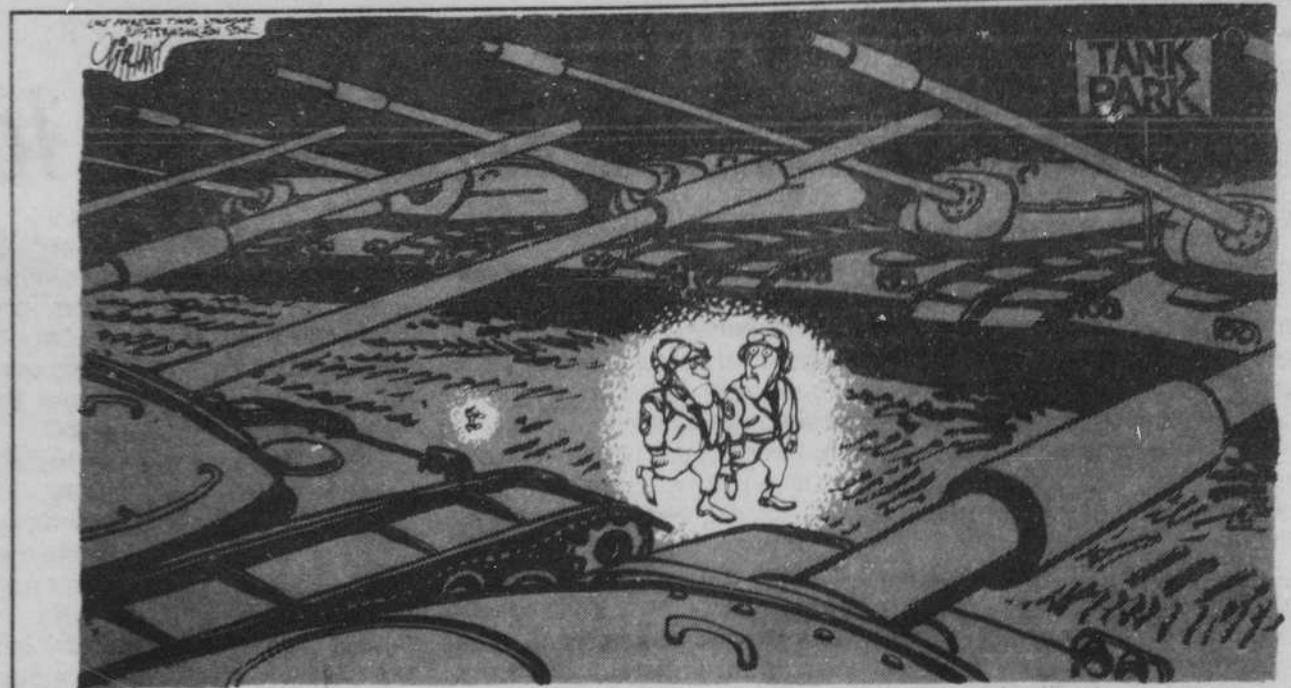
Last year Anita Bryant's anti-homosexual crusade in Miami attracted national attention. This spectacle promises to be repeated locally as Eugene voters consider repealing a local gay rights ordinance in the May primary elections.

The tragic aspect of the controversy is that both sides are wrong. What we are witnessing is a battle for power between two special interest groups. Each seeks to use the power of government as a club to compel compliance with its particular moral code. Nowhere are the rights of individuals being considered.

The move to pass gay rights ordinances has usually been in-

itiated by gay organizations seeking to end legal harassment of homosexuals. Homosexuals have good reason to be concerned. The government has systematically discriminated against "non-heterosexual" individuals. It is long past time to repeal all laws that discriminate against oppressive laws because of their sexual preference. Specifically, repeal oppressive laws in the areas of marriage, government employment, military service and immigration, to say nothing of archaic laws held over from the Dark Ages that make certain consensual sexual relations criminal offenses. But in their efforts to remove oppressive legislation, many gay organizations have committed the mistake of accepting the basic premises of their opponents.

Those groups advocating gay rights ordinances have apparently accepted the premise that it is legitimate to use political power to oppress those individuals that hold opposing viewpoints. They would reverse the clubs, and make it a crime for any private individual to refuse to associate with homosexuals. Ironically, in so doing, they undermine the very principle which justifies the rights of homosexuals to engage in any voluntary relationships they wish:



I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THE PENTAGON WOULD NEVER EXPOSE US TO DANGEROUS RADIATION LEVELS -- BUT HOW IS IT THEY'VE GIVEN US URANIUM BULLETS AND WE'RE STARTING TO GLOW IN THE DARK?

opinion

## Impasse: support the GTFF

Submitted by Bill Ratteree and  
Meridith Reynolds of the GTFF

On Wednesday, March 30, the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) declared an impasse in negotiations with the University and requested state mediation. The GTFF represents graduate teaching and research assistants at the University. Since early October we have been in negotiations for our first contract with the University. Our frustration over the slow progress and lack of results finally led us to ask for state intervention (mediation) to help us move faster.

We have suspended these negotiations for two reasons. First, the University has made very few real concessions in the six months of negotiations. They have offered no salary increase for underpaid GTFFs but have even withheld salary increases already budgeted by the legislature until negotiations are concluded. They have refused to negotiate a health insurance plan with us. They have refused to negotiate many other items which they claim by state law do not have to be negotiated. These include such items as GTF appointments, work assignments, duties, class size, and participation on departmental committees. The final straw was the University's assertion that they could take away even those benefits and rights we now have if not included in the final contract. In other words, they refuse to negotiate items vital to our working conditions; then declare they will take these existing conditions away because they are not included in the contract. Catch-22 anyone?

Second, and very importantly, the University has been stalling. After six months of negotiations we have agreement on only 8 articles out of more than 60 proposed. They have turned negotiating sessions into sterile debating forums, talked repeatedly about irrelevant and tangential questions, and in general tried to prolong these negotiations as long as possible.

It is very clear to us why this has happened. The University hopes that by avoiding signing a contract this year they will frustrate GTFFs to the point they will give up on collective bargaining. At best they may break the union by refusing to sign a contract at all. At least they hope to agree to a contract which gives GTFFs no substantial economic benefits and essentially preserves the status quo regarding working conditions.

Unfortunately for University administrators, the GTFF is not going to evaporate overnight. This union is here to stay. We were voted in convincingly last year and we have continued to grow steadily in terms of membership and support. 300 GTFFs now belong

the principle of freedom of association.

Just as free men have the right to associate for whatever purposes they wish, not just those purposes popular or politically approved, so it is that we have the right to refuse to associate for whatever reasons we wish. The freedom not to associate is as precious as the freedom to associate.

These attempts to interpose politics in individual moral decisions create a festering sore of intolerance. One group can only have its way by violating the rights of individuals that dissent. War is the norm, peace the impossible, with the public the biggest loser. The gay rights controversy pro-

vides a graphic example of the bitterness that is created when government attempts to regulate personal morality.

There are no "gay rights" or "straight rights". There are only individual rights.

Both sides in this controversy would do well to heed the warning of former Supreme Court Justice Brandeis: "experience should teach us to be most on our guard to protect liberty when the Government's purposes are benificent. Men born to freedom are naturally alert to repel invasion of their liberty by evil-minded rulers. The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in the insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well meaning but without understanding."

Well put, we think.

At the center of the gay rights controversy is a lack of an adequate understanding of the proper role for government to play in a free society. It is not a legitimate function of government to enforce a particular life-style. Whether homosexuality is "good" or "bad" is no concern of the law in a free society. The law exists to protect the right of each individual to make, and act upon, that decision for himself.

Inherent in the concept of freedom, is the freedom to make unpopular choices. Deny an individual the right to choose between peaceful alternatives, and you deny him his liberty.

Laissez faire.

to the union with more joining each week. GTFFs have indicated clearly they intend to see some changes made in the unilateral control over their working lives now exercised by the University. Any attempt to delay the signing of a contract will only increase antagonisms between GTFFs and the University. It will only lead to greater tensions within the University affecting students, faculty, and GTFFs.

By law we cannot strike at this point. If however, mediation is not successful in solving our differences, then fact-finding by the state will be necessary. If that produces no agreement then we will be forced to consider a strike. GTFFs are not looking for excuses to go out on strike. But we will not allow ourselves to be pushed around indefinitely. We hope to resolve our differences and sign a contract this spring before we reach that stage. At this point, however, it is up to the University administration to demonstrate good faith and make the movement necessary to get agreement. Then maybe GTFFs can return to their primary tasks of teaching, research, and study.

Because ground rules have kept us from communicating with the University community, most people are surprised by the sudden barrage of information and wonder what is happening. More important, students and faculty are unclear as to the effect that negotiations have on education.

It should be clear to everyone the importance of GTFFs as employees. In many departments we teach 80 percent of the undergraduate students. We therefore have an important interest in the quality of education, and are immediately responsible for that education. The University claims that this is not true, that the administration shall determine what is best for undergraduates. Apparently what is best for undergraduate education in departments such as Romance Languages are beginning language classes with enrollments of 30-40 students. These students do not get the education they pay for. Our negotiations with the University vitally affect all students and faculty.

The issues are fundamental. It is a question of democracy at the University and of workers rights to have a say in determining their working conditions. It is a question of education affecting all students as well.

On Wednesday, April 12, the ASUO is sponsoring an open forum on the negotiations impasse. We urge students and faculty to attend. We encourage all students and faculty interested in supporting our efforts to contact GTF union members of the union office at 868 E. 13 (across from the bookstore), 344-0832.

SUPPORT THE GTFF.