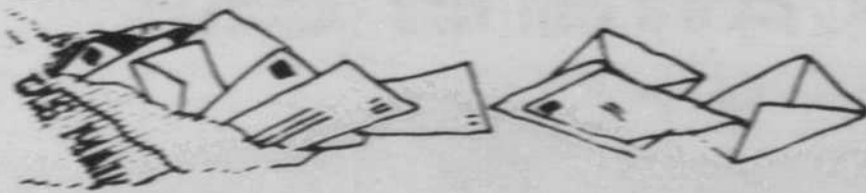


Letters



Motives mistrusted

At the beginning of this term, after more than six months of negotiations, the GTFF and the University came to an impasse. A mediator was called in, and on Monday afternoon the final stage of mediation will have arrived: either there will be an agreement, or, most likely, the lengthy process of fact finding will be initiated.

As a frustrated GTF, I for one cannot help but mistrust the University's motives: it seems that almost seven months is ample time to come to a fair agreement if there is bargaining in good faith. The GTFF, composed of a transitory membership, has no motive to stall, since the longer GTFs go without a contract (and the small salary improvements they would have gotten if negotiations weren't in progress) the more disgruntled they are likely to become with the whole idea of collective bargaining — or so the University might hope. At any rate, the University cannot fail to realize that, as an institution, it is not transitory, and can stall with minimal costs to itself.

The raises the University offered GTFs before mediation barely covers cost of living hikes for the past year, and, in all likelihood, would've been given to GTFs anyway. And even these raises would not be paid retroactively to GTFs who were in the bargaining unit while negotiations were on, but have left when the contract is signed. Since about one quarter of the GTFs leave every year, the precedent that negotiated improvements do not necessarily apply to the bargaining unit that negotiates them cannot but be a ploy to demoralize the union. Most importantly, the salary increases the University has offered does not address the fact that GTF purchasing power is now 40 percent lower than it was in 1969, the last year a contract was negotiated between GTFs and the University.

Since the University's behavior thus far hardly indicates bargaining in good faith, much less any commitment to a non-exploitive relationship with its graduate employees, I expect that if mediation fails, the University's motives will become all the more transparent to GTFs, and, far from damaging the union, the failure of mediation would reveal all the more blatantly where the battle lines are drawn.

Ellen Luoma
Graduate, Sociology

A critical point

I would like to respond to Cliff Lamm's opinion in last Friday's Emerald by saying thank you. Thank you, not so much for citing Arab injustices in the Middle East mess, but for his closing paragraph: "Therefore, it is necessary to examine any contributing factors when analyzing an incident. Failure to do so propagates ignorance." This point is so critical.

All year long I have passed pro-Palestinian displays in or around the EMU Fishbowl, continuously frustrated and depressed by the hateful anti-Zionist rhetoric that they spew. I envision uninformed students passing these displays, being sucked in by the dramatic graphic and vocal pleas, carrying around warped ideas on a very important issue. My wish is not for these displays to be abolished, for as much as they

bother me, they are some of the "contributing factors" that Lamm speaks of; instead I urge students to become informed from all sides about an issue that could be the biggest tinder box in the world.

Monday, April 10, Mid-east expert John Rothmann lectured in the EMU Forum about the current crisis. What sticks in my mind among the many eloquent things he said, was when Rothmann, a pro-Zionist, said "I listen to the Arabs. I seek their views, and find them crucial to an overall understanding of the situation." This rationality comes from a man who was personally touched by the Holocaust in WWII, a man, if any, who has a right to despise anything suggestive of anti-Semitism. Instead, he listens. Perhaps those of us who have less invested (and indeed those who do have much invested) should take this lead — stop comparing genocides, terrorism, and rights to homelands, as if this one-upmanship will ultimately settle the problem. Let us listen to each other, realize the situation as it exist today and be flexible. Let's get on with it.

Tom Goldman
Junior, Unceclared

Humanist movement

April 10, I went to hear Rita Mae Browne speak at the EMU ballroom for the Women's Symposium, and was impressed with her reading, but not with some of the audience comments. Being a transfer student from a feminist-oriented women's college in the Midwest, I had heard good things about the feminist caucus organization in Eugene from a friend who came into contact with their booth at the Women's Conference in Houston last fall.

But the attitudes displayed this evening reflected a great deal of prejudice in reverse. For example: "Well, if you're from a feminist group then why don't you have a feminist up speaking?" was directed towards a man who rose to speak in the front row. The heckler automatically assumed that since he was a man he could not also be a feminist. There was another reference: "Women in the military is contradictory to our cause." Whose cause? The feminist movement is above all a humanist movement. There are two arguments against the person's statement.

First of all, she assumes that the military, characteristically a violent institution, is not a fitting place for a woman. Secondly, and more strongly, if the people who are against violence avoid all involvement with such institutions, then who does that leave to make those decisions? Personally, I would prefer that the person with that kind of power be someone who is not trigger happy.

The point is that women, as a people striving for more rights, must also accept more responsibility. Radical change is needed, a kind of change which comes not from destroying each other but from a realization that every person is worthwhile, be she or he black, Jewish, upperclass, lowerclass, male, female, gay or straight. The only real argument against calling the Feminist movement a humanist movement alone is that there is special emphasis on sexual issues. One cannot justly say that only poor women should be encouraged to join the military, or that one man



should not be allowed to speak because he is a man and another encouraged because he is black. The essence of Feminism is to go beyond these things in order to come to grips with each other as capable, valuable persons, each having a right to choose her or his fulfillment, be it sexually, politically, vocationally or through self expression. The core of Feminism is the desire for rights and, equally, the responsibilities that go with them. We are the ones who will change the world, and we must begin by treating each other as such!

Susan Wells
Junior, Music

For urbane duck

I've enjoyed the recent media reports about the current campus campaign to have Mallard Drake installed as "University Duck" in place of Donald Duck.

Ever since the highly professional "Duck Soup" cartoons by fine arts major Steve Sandstrom began to appear in the Emerald three years ago, I've looked forward to Mallard Drake's periodic appearances. In fact, I'm one of those on campus who have regretted not seeing more of Sandstrom's cleverly conceived renditions of the witty Mallard Drake cartoon character in recent months.

If I could cast a vote in the approaching ASUO primary election, it would most certainly be in support of that cool and intelligent duck with the sophisticated sense of humor, Mallard Drake!

Whatever the outcome of the present campaign to install Mallard as the official University cartoon mascot, I'd like to commend artist Sandstrom for his talented renditions over these past several years. They've added a classy kind of humor — and appealing art work — to the campus scene.

If possible, Steve, could we see more of your perceptive and urbane Mallard Drake before you graduate and deprive us of his masterful wit?

Ron Rousseve, Ph.D.
Professor of Education

More of the same

Wow! Talk about having your head up your ass! Bruce Bowers has proven conclusively that our homegrown "liberators" are not much better than the British East India Company when it comes to imperialism. Bowers' ringing endorsement of Soviet Imperialism proves that imperialism is all right as long as it has some Marxist rhetoric thrown in. Question: What countries are assisting Ethiopia in its current repression of the Eritrean liberation movement, using tactics developed by the U.S. Army in Vietnam? Answer: Cuba

and the Soviet Union.

Bowers' naivete of the true intentions of the Soviets and their Cuban puppet's aims is amazing. The continuing onslaught of Soviet imperialism is supported by the very people who claim to oppose imperialism. Bowers' equally incomprehensible streak on anti-Americanism is just as perplexing. It seems that all of these groups oppose anything the U.S. does, no matter what it is, out of some sort of obsessive self-guilt. Any nation that for any reason agrees in whole or in part with U.S. policy is automatically, dogmatically labeled an Uncle Tom.

"Freedom" seems to have little value to Bowers' group. They might as well admit that economic systems are the sole bone of contention here and drop the sham of human rights issues. As for "balanced views", I'm sure that Calistus Ndlovu's opinions are as balanced as those of Nelson Rockefeller and Gus Hall, Menachem Begin and Yassir Arafat, or Ian Smith for that matter.

Gary E. Frazier
Senior, History

Not worth Torture

I recommend that Torture Ridge Run be eliminated from runners' spring plans. It is irresponsible of its sponsors to continue to offer a run which has poison oak almost everywhere along the trail. Last year, even though I was protected by clothing everywhere except my hands, knees, neck and face, I incurred \$150 in doctor's bills.

The allergic ingredient in poison oak penetrates the skin, attaches itself chemically to the protein structure and is carried in the bloodstream throughout the body ("Immunology and the Skin," Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1971). The immunosystem's overabundant response to this foreign invasion causes itching, oozing, swelling and strain on the body's waste disposal system which can lead to shock and collapse. Corticosteroids suppress that immunosystem response and reduce the symptoms, but they have a number of unpleasant side effects, e.g., masking, and decreasing resistance to, secondary viral infections ("Physicians Desk Reference").

In my case, besides the anxiety attack I got as one of the possible side-effects of taking cortisone (which landed me in the Emergency Room), I developed an infection next to my spine in a poison-oak lesion (though this area was covered with 2 layers of clothing during the Run) which required an operation and three post-op visits. I was still ill from the infection in late June, and have many permanent scars from in-

fect scratches and sores.

Please don't participate in Torture Ridge; it isn't worth it.

Pat Lambert
Secretary, Institute of
Theoretical Science

Time to compromise

After six months of frustrating negotiations, it appears questionable whether the GTFs will have a contract with the University by the end of this academic year. Currently, the negotiations are in a new phase, mediation, which we hope can end the deadlock. We feel it is imperative that both sides approach this phase with a spirit of compromise.

Certain issues on the table lie at the heart of the GTFs' concern. In recent years, GTFs' salaries have fallen significantly behind with respect to the cost of living index, which is usually a conservative indicator of the actual impact of inflation. This has placed some departments in the precarious position of losing potential graduate student instructors and researchers of a high caliber to other universities which offer more attractive monetary enticements. This situation should be one of utmost concern to the entire university community, students and faculty alike.

We also feel that it is the right of all employees, full and part-time to receive adequate health care benefits financed by their employer, since health care is a major financial burden. Though it seems there are contradictory laws regarding university financed health care for GTFs, a positive effort, either through an official clarification of this situation by Attorney General Redden or through alternative avenues, has been lacking on the part of the administration. We urge the state board of higher education and its representatives on the negotiating team to provide an effective and acceptable solution to this problem.

Although fair and equitable treatment of GTFs in all departments should be a goal agreed on and aspired to by the administration as well as the GTFs, items that deal with this matter have been a major bone of contention at the negotiating table. It is inconceivable that would ensure the rights of individuals including those not already specifically protected by law. We feel it is to the benefit of all GTFs, faculty and administration, that a contract be worked out that embodies the principles and speaks to the concerns mentioned above, and that it be signed and accepted as soon as possible.

Dan Zwich
Charles Burbank
Bob Damians
Mathematics, GTFs