

It's the fucking times

I read with some delight the letter of my friend and colleague Kenneth Porter re: the erosion and decay of our language from exposure to the Oregon environment. (Letters, April 24).

I have great respect and affection for Professor Porter and I usually applaud his sentiments in his letters to the editor. In this instance, however, I must rise (if you'll pardon the expression) to defend Oregon. It's not the place that should bear the blame, Ken-

neth. It's the fucking times.

Edwin Ralph Bingham
Professor of History

Modest proposal

I too was "sicken(ed)" by the incident in the practice gym of Eslinger Hall which Ken Wallace recounted in his letter "Arrogant Players." (Emerald, April 21) It wasn't the incident, however, that irritated me as much as the statement he made that "if these are the types of players bred by the Duck program we are all in trou-

ble. They are arrogant, big-headed, self-centered, selfish people..."

Perhaps one or two of the players are carried away with their own self-importance: but to make a sweeping generalization, that included all the players mentioned, was irresponsible. I am sure that Ken, "being a Duck fan from way back," regrets making such a statement. Unfortunately many students who do not know the individuals involved, now have a ready reference to describe their character and behavior.

In order to rectify this situation I suggest the following: 1) that everyone forget the incident and the derogatory comments; 2) that the P.E. Department post the rules which govern the use of all athletic facilities, at the facilities and 3) that those players who are a "bit" arrogant re-evaluate their attitude, and those who are not, exercise a little leadership to show us they are worth of our support off the court as well as on it.

Mac MacGibbon
Graduate, International 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

Goldwater's statement on Africa was unfortunate

Submitted by Iheanacho L. Anukam
Doctoral Student, Educational Administration

Senator Barry Goldwater's commentary on the "Good Morning America" program Tuesday, April 11, 1978, about the state of affairs in southern Africa tended to suggest that he wanted the situation to continue. Such a notion is unfortunate and regrettable and calls for a rejoinder.

The "noble" senator has just completed a tour of his establishment in South Africa. While there he opened his mouth rather too wide in the guise of freedom of speech to accuse President Carter of meddling in the affairs of the two South African illegal regimes (Pretoria and Salisbury). In addition, he suggested that Andrew Young should be recalled as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for being instrumental to the Administration's policy in Africa. While it is not my intention to defend either President Carter or Andrew Young, I have a strong obligation, as an African, to tell Mr. Barry Goldwater that he is wrong.

The Senator's statement is very unfortunate because here is one who has aspired all his life to be the President of the United States, an office which would require him to defend those great and cherished ideals of the American people. Besides, the United States has been a nation to which most oppressed people look to for the dismemberment of their oppressing tentacles. Neither should anyone blame such people for the United States has more than any other nation in the world professed the noble ideals of freedom, liberty and justice. It was under this very platform that Senator Goldwater ran his abortive 1964 presidential campaign. I wonder if Senator Goldwater recalls his pretentious manifesto which read:

"Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice, moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue"

Does it not appear to Goldwater that both freedom, liberty and justice have been threatened in the southern part of Africa, or is he so much color-blinded that vice becomes virtue?

Why did the senator go to South Africa in the first place? The answer is simple... to check the fate of his investment in that troubled part of the world. He probably regards the unfolding realities of the liberation forces in South Africa as a threat to his bloody profits exacerbated by the exploited African cheap labor. The important ques-

tion to ask is who is really meddling in southern African affairs — Carter, who seems to condemn the rape of democracy and man's inhumanity to man, thereby articulating at least in rhetorical terms the values of the American people; or Goldwater, who misrepresents these values?

Goldwater's speech indicated that he welcomes the suicidal Zimbabwe internal settlement as engineered by Ian Smith. By excluding the fighting nationalists in his so-called "internal settlement," Smith hopes to play one group of nationalists against the other, thus changing the theatre of the crisis. Smith in his political opportunism is setting a stage to convince the world as he has always claimed that the Africans are incapable of running their own affairs.

"...justice demands that the South African investors and their supporters should cleanse their hands...by effecting divestment."

By supporting Ian Smith, Senator Goldwater has displayed his hatred for the black race wherever they may be around the globe. It appears to me he is interested in maintaining the status quo in South Africa — a condition which would guarantee a continued and massive profit. Under such circumstances his choice between human deprivation and injustice on one hand and selfish interest on the other is clear and he calls this "no meddling!"

The senator knows as well as everyone else that it is not easy for one to freely invest wherever one would like to invest, whether it is in Britain, Japan, Italy, Germany or any other nation because of uncertainty of return on investment and other sovereignty protocol. The land of the oppressed in Africa appears to be a no-man's land to Senator Goldwater and becomes a logical fertile spot for investment and tremendous quick returns. This is no meddling of course!

In his conservative fantasy, the senator recommended that Andrew Young be recalled. How do we reconcile such a suggestion with his demand that the U.S. should put her house in order by accommodating the

Blacks and other minorities before pointing an accusing finger to Pretoria's apartheid regime? The lack of consistent syllogism in the above argument exposes his intentions with its racist overtones.

Anybody can pretend to have America's driving force. Goldwater talks about the strategic importance of South Africa to the U.S.; to what extent does a Black African government look to Alaska or Panama Canal as serving her strategic purpose? To the aging Senator this does not appear to be meddling.

Most of us Africans on campus are silent over issues pertaining to Africa, not that we lack what to say, but because we respect the American people as part of our cultural heritage to respect our host. The more we see some U.S. leaders play politics with very sensitive African issues the more the respect tends to obliterate. It is important to recognize the fact that freedom as an unalienable right of all human beings does not stop with any group of people, color or race. And any attempt to abridge it for a particular people or race becomes a very volatile issue.

Wise leaders have recognized the wind of change blowing throughout Africa. It is a wind charged with strong sentiment against apartheid on one hand and self awareness of the African people and the lots of their oppressed brethren in the southern part of the continent on the other. The African people tend naturally to identify with those who appreciate their problems, who are prepared to assemble resources (power or whatever) at their disposal to resolve the political crisis that has denied them their human rights for a long time. Carter's African policy while not the best of policies can be seen as a step in the right direction. Senator Goldwater — as well as other racist groups who support investment in South Africa whether they are university presidents, attorneys general, corporate leaders or boards of education — needs to be reminded that the liberation forces have not been idle and are determined to continue their bitter struggle until the final victory is won. But justice demands that the South African investors and their supporters should, like Pontius Pilate, cleanse their hands of the atrocities perpetrated by the inhuman Pretoria regime with the aid of their financial and material support by effecting immediate divestment.

