

Rental policies need reviewing

ours

Faced with a shortage of low-cost housing, the University is choosing a path leading to trouble — trouble both for itself and low-income student couples.

Amazon Student Housing has served for 30 years as a place where families with financial need could live while parents attended the University. Old and ill-repaired as the buildings are, they have become desirable as rents rise and parents find it's acceptable to remain in school.

This year the housing office turned away applicants for low-cost housing at the Amazon Complex and used sloppy, insensitive criteria in making those decisions.

Since the State of Oregon doesn't recognize cohabitation or common-law marriage as a legally acceptable form of wedlock, housing officials are considering restricting Amazon Family Housing only to students who can produce marriage certificates or proof of child custody.

Strict allegiance to those criteria violate the intent and history of Amazon as a student family housing unit.

When occupancy was low, the University as landlord was lax about formal requisites for the two-bedroom apartments.

For them now to "crack down" on residents and applicants for lack of moral certification is callous and unreasonable.

Fortunately, the Amazon project is equipped with a governing mechanism that can remedy such conflicts — the Amazon Policy Board.

The board represents both University and student interests and was created when the State Board of Higher Education directed the University to work with residents in setting rent formulas.

Restrictions for qualifying as tenants are even more fundamental considerations than eventual pricing. The board has showed its workable, judicious nature in its handling of the rent formula controversy last year.

The issue of tenant requirements should also be brought before that group before the issue gets out of hand.

The board can then examine present tenant restrictions and recommend changes that are more responsive to the needs of students and the intent of low-cost housing.

yours



greg wasson

tabled indefinitely

The movement of the late '60s and early '70s focused attention on many struggles— one of the major ones the drive by women to be treated as people. America is sexist and Mimi Johnson, an assistant professor of sociology, says the masculinity of the English language is one of sexism's most basic roots.

"There's an intimate connection between the words we use and the pictures we develop in our heads. When we use male words and say they're standing for both males and females, studies have shown this simply isn't true."

In general, English uses the male as the standard and things female are defined in relationship to that.

"That in itself permeates people's thinking about the sexes," contends Johnson, "and is related to women being the second sex."

Some women don't enjoy their position as the second sex and have pressured for changes in the language. The City of Eugene has yielded and as its "men working" signs wear out, they're being replaced by ones that warn of "crews working". That's good, it causes one to ponder when flagged down by

a woman behind a "men working" sign and Johnson says using neutral terms when talking about jobs is good.

"We've got to get rid of tying particular activities to one sex or the other. The way to go is not to talk about aviators aviatrixes, but to use a neuter term. There's no need to stress the sex, just have a term that ignores it."

The object isn't to create sexless language but to ascribe things to one sex that belong to that sex.

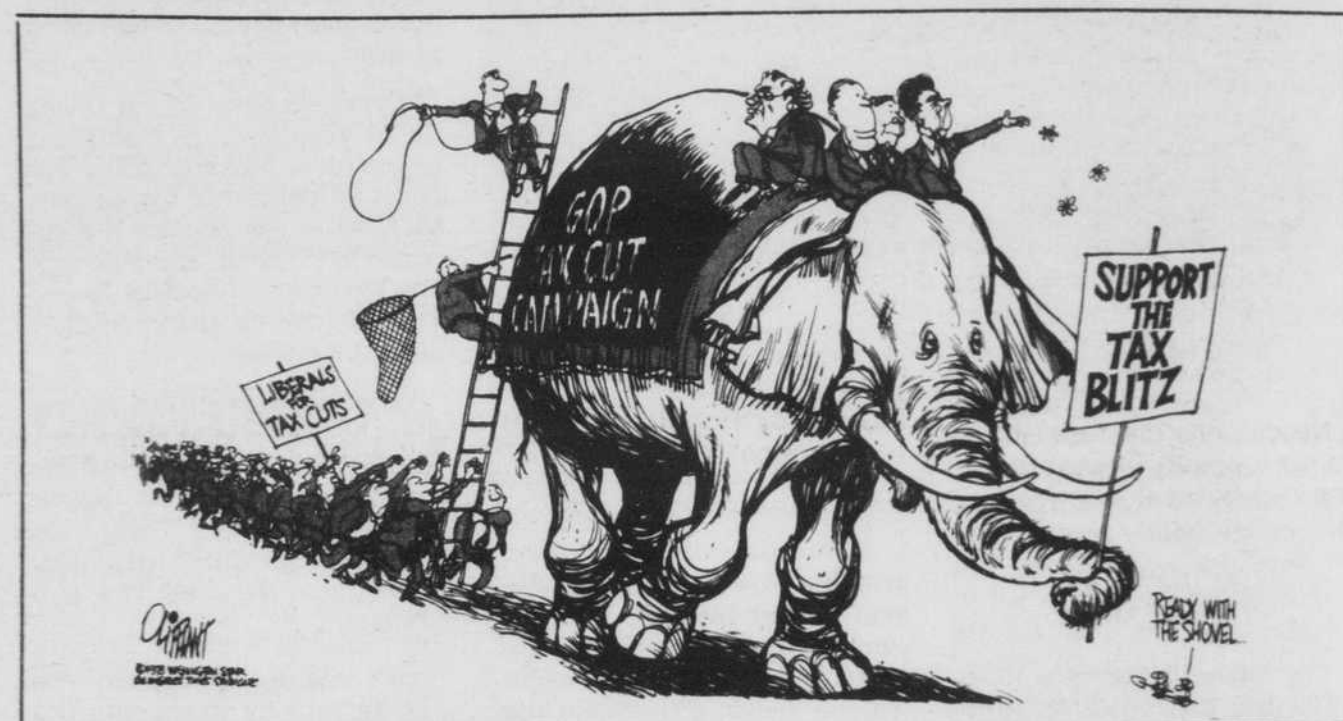
"We will never see ourselves as 'its'," says Jean Stockard, another assistant professor in the department. "We're always going to see ourselves as 'hims' or 'hers'. What we can do is to get away from describing everything as basically masculine."

Johnson agrees.

"It gives one a very odd sensation in the pit of your stomach to talk about people as 'its'. Somehow self-identity is tied up with what sex you are. You can't stop talking about 'he' and 'she' when the sex of the person is relevant."

But when it isn't relevant, it's valid to concern yourself with a different way to say it.

theirs



Iranian eruptions against Shah to continue

For almost a year mass protests against the Shah's repressive regime have erupted all over Iran. In some cases even the local police have mutinied out of sympathy for the protesters.

These uprisings which have spread to more than 50 cities across the country are seriously threatening the Shah's 25 years of dictatorial rule. "The Shah's problems are magnified by the fact that the opposition does not arise from a single political sector...The dissent cuts across class, religious and political divisions." (Time, Sept. 18, 1978)

An end to the Shah's regime is not being demanded by some foreign power, though its continuation is; or by this or that isolated group, but rather by social forces and masses of people who have suffered too much. The Shah has no support among the people, his only strength comes from his American trained and equipped army and his CIA schooled secret police (SAVAK).

If the Shah is not wanted by the Iranian people, then who does want him? And if the Shah is not representing the interests of the Iranian people, then whose interests is he securing?

We feel that the Shah is representing and securing the interests of U.S. corporations and its domestic subsidiaries, especially the oil companies and the military-industrial complex. This can be shown by a quick look

at the amount of money spent on military hardware at the expense of the Iranian people. "In twenty years he (the Shah) has bought thirty-six billion dollars in arms, half from the U.S. ...he has spent five hundred million dollars on 491 Bell helicopters, and will pay out another five hundred million dollars to train his men to fly them." (Time, Sept. 18)

This enormous amount of money is being spent at a time when government newspapers are admitting that there are severe housing shortages, inadequate health care, and a lack of sanitation facilities. "At the present time there are 1.5 million workers working in industrial sectors throughout the country, the majority of whom have no housing." (Kayhan, Nov. 1, 1977)

At a time when 230,000 families in Tehran, the capital, lack housing and have to live in tents and shanty towns; the Shah spends more than one billion dollars for seven A-wax spy planes. "The death rate among children under the age of one year in the countryside is 120 out of 1,000; one of the highest figures in the world." (Kayhan, Dec. 6, 1977). "Throughout Iran 1,230,000 families have no housing." (Rastakhiz, Sept. 16, 1977).

According to Kayhan International, "There isn't a single hospital in the city of Tehran that can meet the minimum standards of health care." (Dec. 1977)

The list goes on and on, and this is only what the government is willing to admit to. Therefore, it is obvious that the oil revenues are not being used for the benefit of the people. It is, however, bringing large profits to some corporations!

Considering the plight of the majority of the Iranian people it becomes clear that the people's socio-economic conditions have brought them into the streets, and have perpetuated the people's cry of "Down with the Shah!" However, the news media in the United States is trying to portray the situation as a group of "Moslem experiments" reacting to the Shah's "modernizations."

This type of propaganda, with no factual evidence to support it, its presented in almost every newspaper or magazine across the country. This coordinated effort on the part of the news media is aimed at paving the way for a future intervention in the internal affairs of Iran, should that become necessary. Such an action did take place in 1953 through a CIA engineered coup which overthrew the nationalist government of Dr. Mossadegh and brought the Shah back to power.

The justification for the support of the Shah's regime has taken many forms, except for the consideration of the Iranian people's interests. A commentary by Joseph Kraft is an example of this attitude. "To be sure, President Carter called the

Shah over the week-end to express support. But that is only a beginning of the kind of American support required if the Shah is to play in global politics the role this country's interests demand." (Washington Post, Sept. 12, 1978)

Similar arguments were being used to justify the United States' intervention in Vietnam and Chile. A question must be asked at this point. What about the interests of the 40 million Iranian people? Do they have the right to decide for themselves?

The U.S. government will probably ignore them just as they ignored the Vietnamese and Chilean people. However, we hope that those Americans who have gone through these previous experiences and have emerged much more conscious, will not allow such a thing to happen again.

We ask our American friends to demand that the news media present factual evidence for the kind of allegations that they make; and further, demand that the United States stop all of its support for the Shah's regime and remove all of its military advisors from Iran. Let the Iranian people decide the fate of the Shah's regime!

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