

Day care ACTion

The Amazon Cooperative Tenants (ACT) recently demonstrated anew a strength of consumer organizations — timely and direct response to members' needs.

ACT, which sprang up several years ago in response to chronic problems at the aging Amazon family-housing project, already has produced solid results in dealing with the University over rental and maintenance issues.

Last week, ACT staked out some new terrain with its inauguration of a day-care center for two-and-a-half to six-year-olds at the project.

The \$60-a-month tuition fills the need of student/parents whose income falls between welfare-subsidized levels and the relative affluence necessary to pay private day-care costs for children.

Unfortunately, the ACT center's organizers found themselves unable or unwilling to take on the obstacle of more stringent, state standards required for day-care centers serving younger children and infants. Perhaps this, too, will come with time.

ACT's activist example in these areas of rent, tenant complaints and, now, day care should stimulate interest among other resident groups — both in the dormitories and Westmoreland — to form similar tenant/consumer organizations.

Although the needs of the latter groups may differ from Amazon's, ACT's efforts have shown the potency of tenants attacking a problem themselves rather than waiting for an institutional response.

Indeed, unorganized students at Westmoreland and on-campus housing units may find themselves at a disadvantage with ACT in eliciting budgetary and other consideration from a University with admittedly limited resources.

Talks vs. strike

Maybe it's the conciliatory spirit of Camp David or maybe its time has just arrived, but a couple of recent developments in the University-Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation drama bring hope to weary hearts.

First, the University, which has never greeted the rather novel organization of its student staffers with open arms, has agreed to renew negotiations with the GTFF. Second, the GTFF has armed itself with one of the traditional weapons of organized labor: The strike.

Whether or not the two events are causally related, they represent progress of a kind in a process that has stretched nearly three years since the GTFF's conception.

Having armed themselves with a strike option, the GTFF members and leaders need to ponder whether — with less than a third of the University's GTFs in their organization — they have the strength to wield that weapon.

The University's rejection of a factfinder's proposed solution to the contract statement indicates that hard bargaining remains ahead. Recourse to a strike, however unattractive that seems, may be needed.

For their part, non-member teaching fellows need to consider deeply whether their needs are being met by the University. If not, their answer is doubly clear: Your union never needed you more.



YOURS

Manager image irks

In response to your recent article: "What Price Glory," we feel compelled to react to the somewhat simplistic description of the responsibilities of student athletic trainers who are in the sports medicine program at the University of Oregon.

The students in this co-educational program, which is sponsored by the Department of Physical Education, are screened from hundreds of applicants who apply each year. Half are graduate and half are undergraduate students. The academic requirements for admission are heavily science weighted as is the actual curriculum. While wrapping and taping are minor aspects of this program, trainers do no more running of errands or consoling of athletes than coaches, newspaper reporters or team managers.

The major focus of this unique program is to prepare para-medical personnel to evaluate, treat and rehabilitate injuries occurring in sport. The injuries resulting from such competition are peculiar to specific sports and require special training for their proper management. The students and faculty involved in this program work directly with medical doctors from several disciplines.

These physicians are continually involved in the educational program for trainers and play an active role in the process through clinical instruction. The developing sophistication of the field of sports medicine can be measured, to some extent, by the increasing number of medical journals now dealing with this topic.

The 2-3 year program in athletic training at the University of Oregon involves practical training of 600-900 clock hours which is complemented by rigorous academic preparation with the aim of producing fully qualified persons to enter the athletic training profession.

We are submitting this letter to clarify the nature of this curriculum so that those students interested in learning to wrap, tape, run errands and console athletes may go elsewhere.

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Legal aid nonsexist

I read with interest and appreciation your article in the September 19, 1978, fall orientation issue of the Oregon Daily Emerald on Women's Community Resources. However, as one of the primary family-law attorneys at Lane County Legal Aid, I feel obliged to correct your statement regarding our office. Your article states that Lane County Legal Aid will provide a woman lawyer if requested. I regret to inform you that this is not the case. It has never been our policy to permit or encourage specific requests for attorneys, either by name, race, sex or any other particular characteristic.

Our reason for this is simply practical. We have a limited number of attorneys, and can only handle a limited number of cases. We make every effort to assure that caseloads are evenly distributed among our attorneys, according to levels of experience and expertise in various areas. Although I have no doubt that it is important for a client to have an attorney with whom she or he is at ease, we have no wish to feed any possible myth that women clients are more comfortable with women attorneys, or that male attorneys cannot be thoroughly sensitive and supportive to a client undergoing a traumatic family situation. In point of fact, the attorney who presently handles (and for the last few years has handled) the bulk of our family law cases is a man, and I for one have nothing but praise for his abilities.

Occasionally, if a client has a severe personality conflict with one of our attorneys, a change of attorney can be made. Additionally, if a client is dissatisfied with the representation that she or he is receiving, we have a grievance procedure that can be followed.

I hope that you can print a correction, as I would regret any persons coming to our office under the assumption that they can request a specific attorney, or can request a woman attorney, as their expectations will not be met.

Diane DePaolis,
Attorney at Law

Editor's note: The Emerald obtained its information for this story from "A Guide to Women's Resources in Eugene," which has been apprised of Ms. DePaolis' letter.

