

GTFs should approve contract

One final step remains for the benefits of three years of struggle to arrive at the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation.

In balloting this week, which concludes at a 7:30 p.m. meeting Thursday in the EMU, union GTFs will decide whether to approve their first contract with the University. The Emerald urges them to do so, and repeats its call for non-member teaching fellows to join the GTFF.

The contract provides a 14-percent, retroactive pay increase, guidelines for workload, requirements for written criteria on appointments and reappointments and a host of other, lesser improvements in GTF working conditions.

Many union members feel they deserve more in their first contract, as evidenced by near-passage of two strike votes preceding the conclusion of negotiations. But they got enough to satisfy — in the absence of strike authorization — the union's negotiating team and executive council, both of which are urging approval of the contract.

Failure of a majority of union members to endorse the contract would drop negotiations into a political limbo lacking both strike authorization and the improved benefits available.

Although the GTFF appeared well-prepared for a strike and a majority — but not the required two-thirds majority — of its members supported that action, the effects and practical benefits of a walk-out remain problematical: the likelihood of disruption of classes and relations between GTFs and faculty in return for possibly greater concessions by the University on the sticky matters of pay and fringe benefits.

In any case, the GTFF will soon have the chance to advance its cause in these areas as it prepares for the next contract's negotiations, due to begin within months. Those preparations will be led by a new union leadership that also must be chosen at Thursday's meeting.

Membership remains open to the nearly 50 percent of eligible GTFs who have declined to join the union out of slothfulness, disinterest or concern over the pro-strike activism of the present membership.

Regardless of membership status or political orientation, all GTFs may soon have job benefits that would not have been available without the activities of the GTFF. Union supporters have been paying the dues of nonmembers as well as themselves for too long.

Glad to see the end of it

Speaking for my own beleaguered senses, I, for one, am glad to see the end of the most distasteful elections I have ever witnessed in this state. The last several weeks of assault and battery upon my judgment made the gay rights measure of last year look like a handshake affair.

Never before has the political advertising been so emotional and factless; never before has the campaigning stooped to such personal levels of degradation. Each of us who voted should take time to assess the off-color insinuations that were supposed to influence our votes, and remember them in the future.

Personally, I'm a little embarrassed that the producers of these ads would expect me — or any other voter — to be persuaded by such propaganda.

Oh well, it's over for another two years. Now I can finally listen to my FM radio without being derided for allowing high school dropouts to molest my molars. Perhaps I can watch television without seeing the ambiguous heroics of the Archie Weinstein Revue. I can even get out my front door in the morning without being set upon by a barrage of leaflets and form letters.

Maybe the next two years will implant a little logic into our state politics. But I doubt it. Fact doesn't sound half so pretty as the absurd and ridiculous.

Steve Reynolds
Junior, undeclared

Calms Christian Inquiry

First I would like to applaud Les Frye's concern for discovering the truth about Christ's nature (ODE Letter 10/27). A truly honest inquiry into the truth of Jesus' claims will not, by His own words, be fruitless.

Mr. Frye recently confronted a "simple" Christian (i.e. humble, without great intellectual prowess) over the doctrine which we shall call the Virgin Birth. Mr. Frye's reasoned arguments against this doctrine were met with a strong negative reaction by the simple believer which we admit would not be the reaction by Christ Himself.

However Mr. Frye was exasperated by this reaction which, frankly, puzzles me. Certainly he knew his arguments against the Virgin Birth would be taken as a threat to what this person holds most dear. Actually his reaction, one of defense it seems, was quite "natural." Certainly a psychology major must know this.

And Mr. Frye is very confident in the deductive method of inquiry but isn't this the same method that our simple believer relies on in his faith in the Virgin Birth? (By no means the cornerstone of the Christian faith which is, in my opinion, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, a *prima facie* case.)

Our simple Christian has believed in the reasonable truths of the Gospel and has deduced that the specific details concerning Jesus' life are trustworthy also, a natural assumption.

One must beware of the deductive method however and how one uses it. One can observe certain laws of nature and confidently deduce that certain things *do not* happen (i.e. virgins conceiving) in observable human ex-

perience. However one must not conclude that this *cannot* happen. This would be asserting a universal negative, a very unreasonable argument.

Mr. Frye, if you are still pursuing the truth, the writings of C.S. Lewis in "God In The Dock" and "Miracles" may prove more stimulating than your previous conversation. Or we invite you to talk with us at the Inter-Varsity Booktable in the EMU lobby on Thursdays — hopefully we will listen a little more patiently than our brother.

I leave you with this note by G.K. Chesterton: "Christianity was the answer to a riddle, not the last truism uttered after a long talk."

Steven Baugh
junior, telecommunications and religious studies

Supports Ricks, Schatz

How often do you give away a hundred dollars? Every student pays that much each year in incidental fees. The seven students on the Incidental Fee Committee determine how your money is spent. Vote in the upcoming election and have a say in your hundred dollars.

Harry Ricks is a junior running for the IFC. He is committed to holding down the incidental fee, increasing student input in the budgeting process, and to revamping committee procedures to insure a more equitable and unbiased evaluation of student programs.

Harry Ricks deserves your vote because he will represent your interests.

Also in today's election, one candidate for the Incidental Fee Committee has a proven track record of responsibility to the student body. As a member of the Bookstore Board of Directors, Rocky Schatz has noted to raise the student discount on textbooks, and has voted to divest the bookstore's South Africa holdings.

As a member of the Incidental Fee Committee, Rocky will be committed to improving student input in the budgeting process. Rocky's financial experience on the Bookstore Board will give him a jump on IFC operations.

Rocky's concern over a more equitable budgeting process will give you the greatest benefits from the one hundred dollars every student pays in incidental fees. Rocky Schatz deserves your vote in today's election.

David Tyler
member, Incidental Fee Committee 1976-78

Back Six IFC Candidates

The appropriation of \$1.5 million is the job of the Incidental Fee Committee. This is *your* money! In order to insure fair distribution of your money, I urge you to use your vote in support of: Scott Bassett, Kevin Chambers, Bill Nelson, Harry Ricks, Dusty Rhodes and Maria Rojo.

Amy Tobias
junior, history-political science

Eckist chides columnist

I loved Jock Hatfield's article on "Eckankar" in his column in Friday's (Oct. 27) Emerald. I laughed my buns off. It really doesn't necessitate a reply, such a piece. But speaking for myself as a campus and Emerald Representative for Eckankar in Eugene, and perhaps for other Eckists as well, I do feel moved to just mention a few factual corrections concerning the information expressed in the article.

The name of this particular path to God-consciousness is ECKANKAR, Jock, with a C, as in Cat. The word is an ancient one meaning "Co-Worker With God." That's very important, the name, but perhaps you knew it anyway, Jock, misrepresenting as you did the Ancient Order of the Vairagi as the "ancient order of the Herogi." At any rate, Eckankar is definitely not a religion, and it certainly isn't local in any sense of the word.

Eckankar is an *individual* spiritual path, with thousands of individual chelas, or students, throughout the world. Eckankar is The Ancient Science of Soul Travel, a divine science, The Path of Total Awareness — but it most certainly isn't a religion, philosophy, metaphysical doctrine, occultist science, yoga or anything else you can put your finger on and categorize.

Well, now that factual matters are pretty much taken care of, I'd like to thank Jock again for the article — it made my day.

Those who are interested in Eckankar might wish to attend a Film-and-Panel Introductory Workshop on Sunday, Dec. 3, in Gerlinger Lounge of Alumni Hall. There'll be more notices about it in the Emerald and Register-Guard in weeks to come.

Dans Roosevelt
sophomore, undeclared

theirs

