

# opinion

yours

## Solution to ethnic history tussle: enroll in classes

The photograph (April 12) of the rally in support of "Black American History" features the sign: — "Are they in your History Books? / Booker T. Washington, / Nat Turner, Rosa Parks, / Denmark Vesey (sic), W.E.B. Dubois (sic); Louis Latimer, Marcus Garvey." The implication is that general texts in American history would not even mention these persons.

When in 1966-67 I last taught a survey course in U.S. history the basic text was Morison and Commager, "The Growth of

the American Republic," two vols., fifth ed. (1962), which did include Booker T. Washington, Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey, and W.E.B. Dubois — also, as a casual run-through revealed, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and William C. Handy. The next edition (1969), with W.E. Leuchtenberg as new co-author, includes all the above, plus Rosa Parks, Marcus Garvey, and a good many others — Martin Luther King, of course, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall and

even such extremists as H. Rap Brown, Malcolm X and Stokeley Carmichael. But I draw a blank on Louis Latimer; my only comfort is that the indexes to half a dozen general Afro-American histories indicate equal ignorance.

The above is not to deny the value of ethnic-oriented history courses, or of Afro-American history, or, for that matter, of Amerindian history or the history of the Spanish-speaking peoples of the U.S. — which have been among my own major research and teaching interests. It

does, however, suggest a good deal of ignorance as to what is currently taught in general American history courses.

Students seriously concerned with the future of ethnic American history at the University could do nothing more effective than to enroll in such courses as are offered and conclusively demonstrate both the wide extent and the serious character of the existing interest in that field of study.

Kenneth Wiggins Porter  
professor emeritus, history

### 'Time to wake up' about draft

Now to an issue that affects almost every student on campus: the draft. There are currently several versions of legislation to reinstate draft registration being considered in the House Armed Services Committee. After draft registration is set up, drafting people like you and me into the Army is an inevitable progression. It's time to wake up and realize that a lot of people in Congress are serious about sending us to boot camp. Unless enough opposition to draft legislation arises, we may very well find ourselves in khaki uniform (they don't plan on excluding women).

If you are interested in stopping the draft, please attend the next general meeting of a coalition of area organizations opposed to the draft on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center (1236 Kincaid). Or you may wish to contact Clergy and Laity Concerned (on campus

across from PLC) to learn more about the issue, meetings and upcoming events.

If writing letters is more your style, please write to Senator Bob Packwood and ask that he vote against any legislation that would reinstate draft registration or the draft itself. Urge him to make a public statement about his stand on this issue. Write to: The Honorable Bob Packwood, U.S. Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Congressman Weaver and Senator Hatfield are already opposed to the draft.

Since ASUO elections are coming up, ask the candidates to take a strong stand against the draft. Also, ask your state senators and representatives to speak up and take a public stand against the draft and an active leadership role in helping to defeat draft legislation.

John Jordan  
sophomore, pre-CSUA

### Questions OSL coverage

For some absurd reason I thought the Emerald has attempted to be fairly objective in covering student-related issues and was sincerely interested in representing the best interests of the students of the University of Oregon.

I am seriously reconsidering these assumptions after reading Dana Tims' article of the 17th concerning the Oregon Student Lobby. This article attacks an organization which is performing a valuable service for the students attending public institutions of higher learning, including the University of Oregon, and seriously injures the credibility of this organization among students and those legislators reading the Emerald.

I am rather amazed at the bias existing in this article. Ms. Friedman's charges are given front page coverage while the OSL's response is limited to the second page.

I also find it hard to accept as credible these statements made by a person who, having by her own admission sole responsibility for this bill, chose to walk out on her job one week before the hearings were to be held on the bill.

It seems to me that if the purpose of this article was to reduce the effectiveness of the Oregon Student Lobby, then it was a job well done — but definitely not a reflection of student interests.

I personally believe the OSL has done an excellent job in representing student interests. I was present at both House

Education Committee hearings on the course evaluation bill and was favorably impressed by the performance of the OSL, despite the handicap of having to start nearly from scratch. I am extremely disappointed that the Emerald has chosen to handicap the performance of this agency.

I consider this article a piece of irresponsible journalism and suggest the Emerald attempt to print an objective article about the situation in the Oregon Student Lobby.

Joyce Reynolds  
senior, recreation and park management

### Important factors

The Oregon state legislature is presently reviewing an issue directly involving student interests at the University of Oregon. This issue addresses a controversial yet well-known problem that costs students large amounts of money.

Senate Bill 591 and House would prevent insurance companies from charging higher rates base upon sex, race, age marital status, and residential location. Instead, the proposed bill allows for higher rates for drivers with poor records. The bill also proposes that violations or accidents would be removed from any driver's record three years after the date incurred — instead of constantly haunting a driver with high insurance prices for life.

At this time Massachusetts, North Carolina and Hawaii have Merit Auto Insurance laws.

These states save drivers between the ages of 19-25 approximately \$60 per year, with the average driver saving \$46 per year under the laws. Most students could realize substantial savings if the Senate bill passed.

This bill also proposes rate reduction for the elderly based upon low mileage and driving records.

Senate Bill 591 is based upon research completed by the Oregon Student Public Interest Group (OSPIRG). We urge all students to contact their senator or representative in active support of this bill. Addresses and more information are available at the University of Oregon OSPIRG office in Suite 1 of the EMU.

Steve Reynolds  
University OSPIRG  
junior, journalism

### Vets and the Draft

A special thanks to the 341 Vietnam Veterans, Korean Veterans, World War II Veterans, Disabled Veterans and Vietnam Era Veterans who signed the statement opposing THE RECALL. There are nearly 80 veterans' organizations across the country mobilizing to defeat this latest of Pentagon pipe dreams.

Many of you veterans and retired personnel have already received survey notices from the Department of Defense asking that you consider returning to the reserves or active duty. If this effects you then we would be most interested in taking a look at the survey sheet so we could share this with

other veterans. Be aware that the survey is merely the preliminary phase of the recall process. Stay informed.

Staff and Directors  
University Veterans

### Cheaper insurance

Professor Charles Duncan's comments in the April 18 issue were a justified response to the Emerald's coverage of the April 10 hearing on House Bill 2831, the faculty course evaluation release proposal.

But as I've already explained to Prof. Duncan, his comments could not take into consideration some important factors.

I left the hearing on the bill only momentarily, for some coffee — a compulsion written about earlier in the session.

Upon my return I heard and ended up reporting the testimony of David Nicodemus, dean of faculty at OSU.

Nicodemus' comments, and those of Stoddard Malarkey, vice-chancellor of the Board of Higher Education, were cut from my story due to length considerations. I was not advised of that cut.

The "demands of deadlines" had nothing to do with the coverage. Will life's torments never end?

Dana Tims  
Emerald correspondent  
Salem

### On boozing Rono

The boozing of Henry Rono at Saturday's track meet was a disappointment in an otherwise splendid afternoon of track and

field competition. Those who jeered Rono no doubt represented a minority of fans at Hayward Field; nevertheless, I had come to expect more at a school where enthusiasm for track leads thousands of fans to fill the stands week after week.

Nobody but Rono knew for sure why he dropped out of the 5,000 meter race after one-and-a-half miles. Maybe, as some suggested, he was trying to tire Alberto Salazar and help his teammates win the race. But it was presumptuous of fans to jeer Rono when they could only guess why he quit running.

I was also disturbed at the treatment of Rono because he is a foreign student. I know little about Kenya (I would guess that most of the loud-mouthed fans behind me didn't either), but isn't it possible that Rono and his countrymen have different ideas about athletic competition than we do? In such cases, foreign athletes should be given the benefit of the doubt.

It doesn't bother me that Oregon fans boozed a world record holder. They have as little business booing a lesser athlete under the same circumstances. It does show how fickle fans can be — cheering a great athlete one minute, booing him the next.

In any case, the treatment of Rono by some Oregon fans was embarrassing. I'm sure many other fans will join me in asking those fans to clean up their act.

Greg Barnett  
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