

The Sociology of exclusion

Sociology department head Ben Johnson is continuing an unfortunate attempt to eliminate student participation in the shaping of their education.

Johnson's latest "contribution" comes in the form of a plan to drop student representation from sociology department committees that appoint graduate teaching fellows, recommend faculty appointments and deal with certain curriculum issues.

Ostensibly the change in policy stems from fear that student representation in these areas would threaten the filling of two faculty positions in the department or lessen the quality of the appointments.

That fear, however, contradicts the express views of the provost's office, which holds final responsibility for academic hiring, and the widespread practice in University departments and schools of including students on faculty search committees.

The sociology affair reflects Johnson's attitude that students don't belong in the educational process or, at most, should remain passive and docile consumers.

Announced intentions by sociology graduate students and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation to contest Johnson's move come as a welcome rejection of bankrupt academic philosophy.

yours

'No understanding'

I want to commend President Boyd for his remarks in his letter to the editor explaining the University of Oregon's commitment to being an open platform for people of all political and ideological persuasions.

It is unfortunate that some students who have spent four or more years at such an institution have little or no understanding of the importance of the free exchange of ideas in a free society.

To paraphrase John Stuart Mill from his essay "On Liberty" — the Quacks will be in no position to evaluate their own "truths" if they don't have a chance to stack them up against another's.

I sincerely hope that the graduation ceremony will not be the only time that graduating seniors allow themselves the luxury of hearing a speaker whose ideas may not be the same as theirs.

Jetta Siegel
chairer, Lane County Chapter
American Civil Liberties Union

'Anti-Greek sentiment'

Lately we have been having trouble in differentiating between your edition of the Immortal and your Emerald. We are getting sick of your off-base reporting making us out to be "social elites!" We do not appreciate such one-sided anti-Greek sentiment. As students, we find that living in Greek housing is far more inexpensive than apartment living, and the equivalent to dorm living. The financial burden of colleges hits Greeks as hard as anyone.

Contrary to what you lead your readers to believe, liberalism, not exclusivism, is the prerequisite to Greek living. We as Greeks, have the right to choose the way we want to live and share college experiences. Additionally, Greeks add to the community through service projects such as Blood Drives, helping underprivileged children, and giving scholarships to students. Can we really be labeled "social exclusivists?"

Brad Castonguay
junior, business
Suzanne Chamberlain
Senior, CSPA & political science
Jeff Auxier
sophomore, business

Living in madness

Even though man's knowledge and understanding of the universe seems to race forward with each passing day, we seem to be clearly living in the midst of

Gas \$ finance non-oil projects

By MARK POTTS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The company that made the graphite shaft of your golf club may be the same one whose gasoline was just pumped into your car's tank.

And you may do some of your shopping at a store owned by the firm that refines the oil that heats your house.

You may even be eating almonds grown by a subsidiary of a firm better known for natural-gas pipelines.

The nation's big oil companies, looking down the road at a time when the Earth stops giving up petroleum, are sinking their money into other areas.

While some of these are energy-related — oil companies own about 25 percent of the nation's coal reserves and a large chunk of the country's uranium production — others are more off-beat.

These investments, even those in alternative energy sources, have come under fire in recent weeks. President Carter's plan to decontrol domestic crude oil prices includes proposals that would force oil companies to invest the additional income from decontrolled oil into exploration for and production of new oil.

Carter touched on only a couple of the new roles for oil companies. In recent years: -Mobil purchased, for an estimated \$1.8 billion, the Montgomery Ward & Co. department store chain. Mobil also owns Container Corp. of America.

-Exxon started subsidiaries that produce electric typewriters, golf clubs and word-processing machines. The firm also purchased large amounts of coal and uranium producing areas.

-Atlantic Richfield bought Anaconda Copper for \$700 million and added the Observer, a London newspaper, and a solar energy company.

-Sun Oil bought the Stop-N-Go grocery chain, a trucking firm and a tape cassette maker.

-Continental, which has owned the nation's largest coal producer, Consolidation Coal, since 1966, diversified into uranium mining.

Analysts point out that in broadening their base, the companies are merely hedging against the time when the oil dries up.

And the analysts say it is natural that firms as big as the oil companies diversify. Eugene Nowak, who follows the oil industry for Blyeth Eastman Dillon, said the non-energy areas often offer higher profits than the businesses the oil companies are already in.

The companies point out that non-energy ventures are a very small part of their total business. Exxon Enterprises, the holding company for that firm's non-energy operations had revenues of \$320 million last year — just one-half of 1 percent of the company's total revenue of \$64.96 billion.



madness. This madness I would assert is simply the pursuit of war. At the risk of sounding both profound and plagiaristic, I think it is by no means an understatement to say that "if man does not make war obsolete, then war will surely make man obsolete."

With the attempted (and in all likelihood, successful) re-institution of the draft, this madness grows ever the more salient in our lives. We, the new generation who will soon replace the old, must take responsibility for the future by undergoing certain "transformations of our minds" in order to bring hope for the future.

People are constantly speaking idealistically and asking "If war is so absurd, why don't we simply refuse to fight?" However idealistic this suggestion might be, I believe this is one such a positive "transformation of the mind" that may become a productive seedling of hope for the future.

Clearly, war must be averted, and one way to achieve this goal is to work through the fundamental roots of the problem, and the individual soldier is one such root.

Hence, I can only urge us to say "no" to the draft, "no" to war, "no" to the senseless killing of human life, and "no" to the supposed inevitability of the ultimate annihilation of mankind.

Eric Malin
Sophomore, Pre-Journalism

Pavlovian triggers

I wish to protest the mental anguish that your 27 April edition has forced me into. While your words have somewhat consistently planted negative connotations

of the Nestle's product line in my mind, the nearly full-size replica of a Nestle's Crunch bar with the large type headline on your last page set my mouth to watering in a fashion that I found somewhat overwhelming.

I finally "suck 'emed" and purchased one of the bars which I promptly devoured — lecithin and all.

The cashier's look of disdain was bad but the glares of the students who spotted the bar in my sweating hands was the worst. I finally had to duck behind a cigarette machine to finish the treat.

I pray that in the future if you choose to set our minds in one direction with your only slightly biased coverage that you not tempt us with Pavlovian triggers that contradict your intentions.

Rick Taylor
graduate, journalism

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 will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinion columns must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted.