

For Palestinians

I feel I must take a moment to respond to Barak Tanzer's letter of May 1. I have been doing extensive research on the "Palestinian Problem" for some time and I could quote the opinions of many world leaders to refute some of Mr. Tanzer's assertions about just what the root cause of the problem is.

But for anyone who has enough interest to read some very short, very pithy opinions on this subject, there is a series of yearbooks out that may provide enough of an overview of the whole Middle East situation to change one's preconceived notions. It's called "What They Said in 1977 ('71, '72, etc.) The Yearbook of Spoken Opinion," compiled and edited by Alan and Jason Pater. It's found in the reference section of the library. For persons with little time in which to inform themselves, this is an excellent resource.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tanzer, tell me: What would you do if some huge, international group decided that their Vietnamese "Boat People" (for example) needed

and deserved to have a homeland and therefore voted that the state of Oregon (or the U.S.A.) now belongs to the boat people and that those who already live there must (regrettably, of course) give up their homes, farmlands, family members who happened to not "get out of the way" in time, the right to live and work as equals with their new "neighbors," who indeed are denied even the choice of who their own leader is?

What would you do in such a situation? And what if this predicament went on for 30 years, while the entire world watches in "civilized" disapproval as you fought for your life in any way you could?

I have nothing against Jews. I want them to live and thrive; but I want the same for the Palestinians as well. If it was intolerable that Hitler destroyed the Jews, it is equally intolerable that the Jews destroy the Palestinians much less with the massive aid and support of the United States government. And until America gets this message, there will never be a solution, unless it is the destruction of this culture which is so

dangerously myopic about its own deeds.

Dianne Blake
freshmen, undeclared

'Seems ridiculous'

A recent news story on a local television station, in an "objective" manner, decried what it called the student apathy toward student government elections. Such students, the story implies, take an irresponsible attitude toward student government. Some might even go as far as to say that these non-voting students carry over their apathetic attitudes into real government.

It is my belief that most of these "apathetic" students are very responsible people, and I would suspect that many, like myself, are very conscientious voters in the real world. When it comes right down to it, why "play government" on campus? Students have no voting power when it comes to electing the real decision makers involved in the University administration.

People will talk about the importance of ASUO programs, and all it has to offer us the students. But all these programs do is cost us money. The full-time student pays some \$6.50 per term to finance student government and its programs. Another \$25 per term comes out of the pocket of every full-time student to pay for a variety of programs which have nothing to do with improving the quality of education. This amounts to a tax on every student to pay for things that are of either no benefit to him, or things he may disapprove of totally.

Perhaps some of these programs are worthwhile. But I believe we should encourage these programs to be more self-supporting, i.e. to get their funding from the students who benefit from them. This could apply to inter-collegiate athletics, EMU expenses, the EMERALD, and yes, maybe even ASUO. With tuition constantly rising, it seems ridiculous to tack on another \$30 plus per student for these expenses.

Wendell Anthony Werner
senior, telecommunications

Tired of the Closet

Looking over the year here at the university there seems to have been a week for everyone and everything.

Well, all I can say is — when are we having a *Marijuana Week*? A week to look at the lifestyles and coming out of Marijuana Smokers. When do we get the time to prove (like the gay community) that we aren't the average criminal and potential rapist on the street.

Let a few of us show that you can enjoy your smoke and not go on the "Hard Stuff." Let a few of us show that even though we have the "clouded minds of drug addicts" we can still hold down a 40-hour-a-week job and perform with some type of responsibility. Let us show that some of us even own our homes and haven't spent all our capital on "Drugs." Let us come out of the closet. The streets have been given over to the ethnic groups and gay groups and I am just as tired as they are of having to remain in the closet because of something I like.

I, too, am tired of being persecuted and treated like a criminal. It is time for a change. The CALM rally on April 28 proved that there are people willing to come out publicly and say "Hey, I smoke marijuana and I am OK!" It's been just as hard for some of our middle-class parents to accept the fact that their child smokes marijuana (and is the same person) as for some of them to accept the fact they have a gay child.

I'm tired of having to always smoke in secrecy. I'm tired of not being able to enjoy my smoke out of doors when I want to. I'm tired of being discriminated against in housing, jobs, and general life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness just because I smoke a plant.

I am hurting no one. I have found something to enjoy and I for one would like to know that other people have found the same enjoyment without hurting people.

I say give us a week to educate people so that they can see we are not the same stereotypes which appeared in "Reefer Madness," some of us are responsible adults. Let us live as such. As long as there is one rape in the city of Eugene there are not enough reasons to justify wasting government time and money on arresting and prosecuting (persecuting) people for smoking a plant. It makes no sense.

I say — let us have a week to come out of the closet!

Leah Cawvey
staff member,
Career Information System

'Pervasive influence'

In this day and age of protests and petitions I propose a cause of unimpeachable value. I cannot help but question the legitimacy of our University further supporting and condoning the existence of fraternal organizations on our campus.

The purpose of any university is the general enrichment of its students. This includes educational as well as social and maturational benefits. There can be no doubt that fraternities subvert this purpose. They often actively promote cheating and their elitist attitude retards development. The existence of their infamous files is widely renowned as well as the fact that members are often encouraged (or coerced) to ignore studies in lieu of functions.

But you ask, what is my stake in this? In my year of intramural officiating I have not been subjected to more abuse than that by fraternities. As most other officials will attest to, they have distinguished themselves as the

theirs



worst losers, the biggest complainers and the snottiest braggadocio winners in the league.

A particular illustration comes to mind, something that occurred recently. In an intramural softball game SAE was down about 6 points to Southwest Portland, it was the last inning. An SAE player was up to bat and promptly struck out — an opinion which both officials concurred. The batter then displayed his high level of education and class through his extensive command of the expletives he spouted for the next five minutes.

His final comment was the clincher, "You slant-eyed little runt." This disgustingly bigoted, ignorant racial slur was something I could not tolerate. Of course his teammates all thought it was very funny. SAE is also guilty of other altercations — they know which — that I won't validate through mention.

Is this the kind of behavior we are trying to promote? If I were to venture a guess, the power of the masses makes them all "tough guys." We cannot let this continue. It would be unfair to condemn all the frats, so let's just expel SAE and warn the rest. I ask my fellow students to join me in rescuing our fallen compatriots from the pervasive influence of the fraternal institution — before it is too late.

Brian Tamanaha
umpire

Model UN in 1981

I would like to correct a misrepresentation appearing in the May 10 edition of the Emerald. In the article on the Model United Nations club it was stated that Randy Thompson had been selected secretary-general for the University Model United Nations club. This was inaccurate and an understatement.

In April, the University was chosen by the Executive Committee of the Model United Nations of the Far West to host their 1981 Far West Conference. At this

conference, approximately 1,200 students from all over the Western United States will meet for four days to simulate actual United Nations meetings and activities.

The University Model United Nations club now has the responsibility of organizing and executing this 1981 MUNFW conference. The office for which Randy Thompson was selected, the secretary-general, is the executive office ultimately responsible for the success or failure of the conference.

Mr. Thompson's term of office will officially begin at the end of the 1980 MUNFW conference hosted by San Jose State University. He and his staff will have to devote a lot of time and effort during that year, and probably as much as 60 to 80 hours per week during the final months before the conference.

We urge interested students to get involved in this worthwhile (and fun) organization, and we would appreciate better representation by the Emerald in the future. Finally, I would like to congratulate Randy Thompson for being selected.

Laura Geuy
freshman, political science

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.