



greg wasson

tabled indefinitely

As the station ended another day of "better television broadcasting," Glen and I both noticed that there was no "Thought for the day." We decided that our society is less religious than it once was.

"The mistake," philosophized Glen, "is to say that because we're less religious, we're less spiritual. Most of my friends stopped going to church long ago, but we have spent hours upon hours pondering what it means to be a good person, and which values will hasten that end."

It being Saturday night, the demands of school seemed far away and a multi-hour discussion evolved. We agreed that it was doubtful that hell existed — that it wasn't possible for anyone to do

something bad enough to be eternally damned — and then we turned our attention to universal truths: There are things that are right, and they're right for everyone.

Of course, that notion seems to violate one of the hippies' main ethical edicts:

OURS

Do your own thing. However, as author/farmer/guru Ken Kesey explains, many products of the hip generation fail to realize that there are basic guideposts that apply to everyone.

"One view is that you should do whatever turns you on. Bullshit. Certain things aren't okay to do. Certain things are wrong."

The notion of truths existing independent of the situation has gotten bad press through the ages. Monarchs used it to justify their capricious dictatorships, saying they were the only ones able to discern the existing structure. Western missionaries have piously pointed to it while destroying unfamiliar cultures, again claiming a privileged ability to discover the cosmic structure.

Therein lies the problem. Knowledge isn't exclusive. It doesn't take a certain blood line or training at a given monastery to figure out the right way to live. Anyone who takes the time to look can figure it out for themselves.

By this point in the discussion, Glen was going full-speed. Allowing that he hadn't had this much fun since the days

of LSD, he launched into his theory of enlightenment.

"Let's assume," he said as his body became very animated, his hands underscoring and explaining his statements, "that the spiritual world is a series of concentric spheres, with each sphere representing a level of interpersonal development. A long-hair directing condemnation at a logger is no different than the logger condemning a long-hair — both directions of criticism are on the same level. Enlightenment comes when one or the other escapes that plateau and moves closer toward the center. Such liberation can come from learning through experience or from meeting someone a little wiser who can help you skip a few notches."

YOURS

Wasson tabled

Please allow me the opportunity to respond to several statements made in the article appearing under Greg Wasson's "Tabled Indefinitely" (Emerald, 10/16) on the topic of how religious training can impede personal growth in university students.

I feel that the article adequately presented the view undoubtedly espoused by a significant segment of the University student population. Unfortunately, however, the article offered no meaningful alternatives for addressing the so-called "paradox" of Biblical statements concerning the helplessness of individuals who otherwise do not "feel" that they are. The article, instead, chose to deal with the question in negative terms: "...a paradox that's often so strong it impedes personal development." In reference to the parochial system, Mr. Wasson intimated that it "has saddled more than one emerging psyche with mental blocks — impeding an individual's painless development into a real person."

I am not a Catholic, nor am I a church member. I am, however, a member of the Body of Christ as defined in Romans 12:5, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ." The context of the statement, of course, qualifies me as a modern day Christian.

Mr. Wasson stated: "The idea that humans are basically weak and unable to divine adequate value systems of their own has allowed the church to maintain its conservative hold on the world." The "idea" that humans are basically weak and unable to comprehend "absolutes" is directly addressed in 1 Corinthians 2:9,10: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

Despite all man's glory of ego building, temporal knowledge has absolutely no basis for a moral value system: "If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know (1 Corinthians 8:2)."

In response to Mr. Wasson's undeclared hypothesis for the existence of a phenomenon of "painless development into a real person," I wish to quote the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:12, "for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." In more general terms, Paul mentioned in Romans 8:22 that "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain..."

I must state that the view entertained by Mr. Wasson is not original — it is merely a much repeated commentary that I, admittedly not too long ago, would have enthusiastically endorsed. Finally, in answer to Mr. Wasson's well meaning attempt to "offer the church a way to remain afloat," I wish to conclude by suggesting that we, individually, attempt to comprehend the following: "Till the heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled (Matthew 5:18)."

O. Tacheeni Scott
Graduate, Biology

Move clarified

We feel that the articles "It's not Happening at Zoo Zoo's," in the Willamette Valley Observer, and "Zoo Zoo's balks at Observer," in a September issue of the Emerald, did not accurately represent our feelings in regards to issuing a story to the Willamette Valley Observer.

The reasons we decided not to issue a story on our upcoming move were:

1. A few of our members were strongly opposed to publishing in the Observer.
2. We couldn't review the article before printing.
3. At the time we felt we had no newsworthy information to share with the public.

This is our side of the story. Here at Zoo Zoo's, we are open to answering any further questions you might have.

Zoo Zoo's Natural
Foods Restaurant
980 W. 5th

Park and ride

The University should give full support to facilities for bicycle parking and bike lanes. While

some emergency relief is available, Vice President Ray Hawk is quoted as saying that the University is unwilling to offer significant funds to implement a plan for improved services to bicyclists. I believe this stance is shortsighted for a number of reasons.

The University is presently involved in two other issues which relate to bicycles: energy conservation and parking in the South University Neighborhood. In both instances, bicycles can be part of the solution. For me and others, bicycle transportation is a replacement for automobile transportation.

By riding our bicycles to and from the University we not only conserve energy, we relieve parking congestion in the University area. It is frustrating to hear that the University is not making a full effort to encourage more of us to use bicycles instead of cars at a time when energy and congestion

are major issues on the local and national level.

It is appropriate that funds be diverted from parking fees to support bicycles, just as it is appropriate that gas line tax funds be used to support alternate forms of transportation. We all bear the costs of automobile transportation and all of us will share in the benefits of increased use of other forms of transportation. I urge the University to take the lead and make every effort to facilitate the use of bicycles by members of the University community.

Carl J. Hostlicka
Assistant Professor

Strike options

We would like to clarify the position of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation in regard to the article which appeared in the Emerald, Oct. 17th. We want to emphasize that GTFs on this campus do not want to have to strike. A GTF

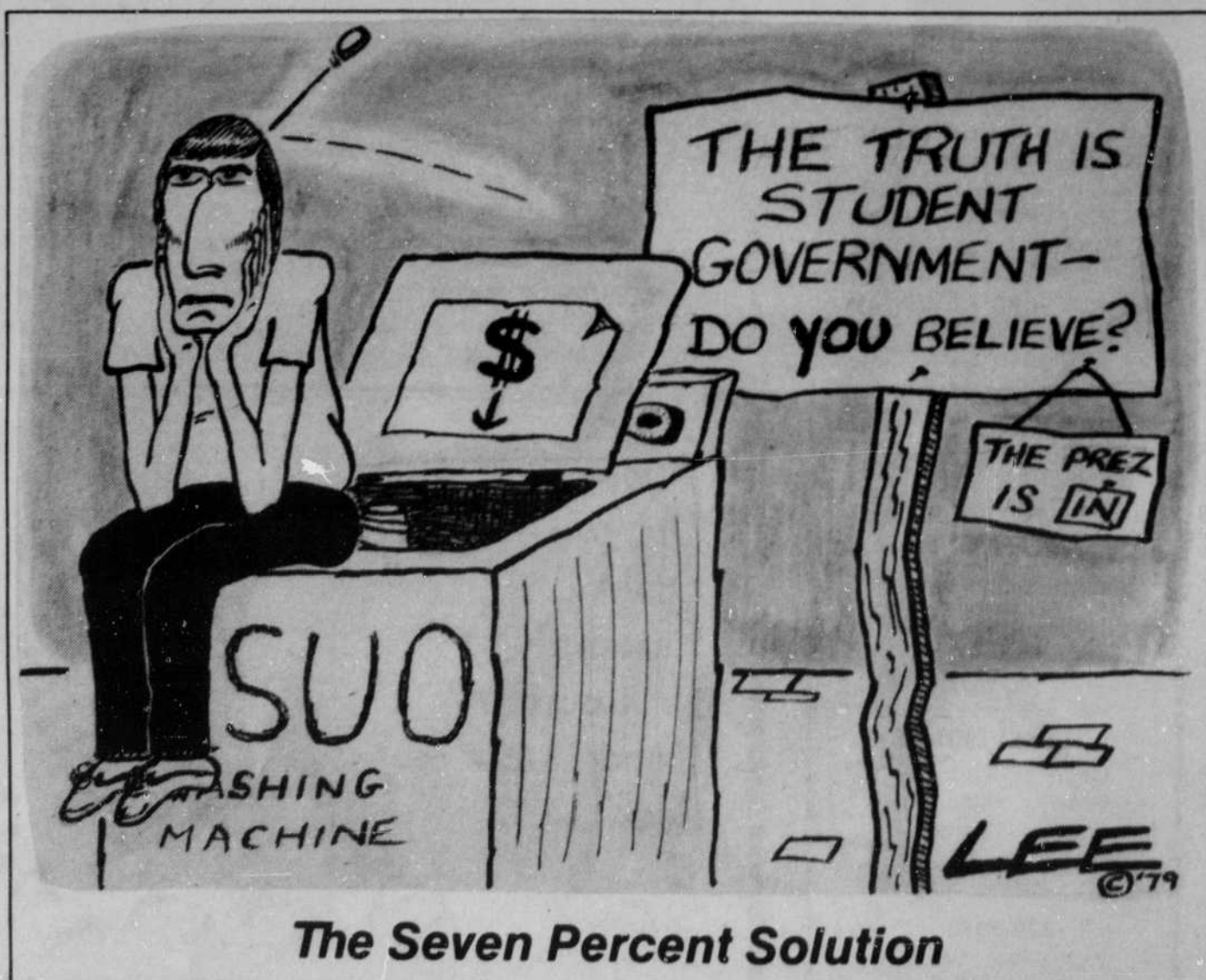
strike would seriously disrupt the "normal functioning" of the University, and both students and GTFs would suffer from it.

The GTFF has already made substantial concessions. Our negotiating team has stated that we are prepared to accept the 7 percent salary increases offered by the administration, even though the annual inflation rate is now over 14 percent, as long as workloads are not increased beyond present levels.

The GTFF realizes that striking is an option but wishes to exhaust all other possible alternatives first. The purpose of our Executive Council meetings is to discuss those alternatives and to decide upon a course of action. Contrary to what was implied in the Emerald article, the GTFF feels that other avenues remain to be explored before our membership is asked to vote on a strike.

Charles Aker and Kim Hayashi
GTFF spokespeople

theirs



The Seven Percent Solution