

Governor's prison statement is way off base

Vic Atiyeh has a lot of nerve.

The governor is oversimplifying problems at the Oregon State Penitentiary. He recently compared living conditions in the Salem prison with those in the military and some college dormitories.

Last week, Atiyeh denied that prisoners in OSP are receiving cruel and unusual punishment. Since no state or federal laws on prison conditions have been codified into a set of standards for the treatment of inmates, Atiyeh's opinion on the constitutionality of the prisoners' conditions is a matter of perspective.

With the governor's opinion in mind, here is what two Emerald staff writers recently witnessed on a visit to OSP.

Prisoners in OSP are confined to cells for 18 hours a day. The federal justice department suggests that if prisoners are to be kept in cells for more than 10 hours a day, the cell size should increase to 80 square feet. Three hundred of the in-

mates are doubled up in cells that are 48 square feet in size.

While the governor says the doubled-up prisoners "are sleeping in upper and lower bunks," and this is "neither cruel nor unusual punishment," Atiyeh is actually way off base: One prisoner sleeps on a cot, the other on the floor, head or

ours

legs pressed against the base of the toilet. Because of the close confinement, problems sometimes arise between prisoners; if one wants to read and the other wants to sleep, arguments ensue. These minor arguments lead to problems that become compounded and progressively worse in the summer when temperatures in the cell blocks can reach 115 degrees. If the prisoners quarrel, warden Hoyt Cupp, will consider cellmate changes quicker if the prisoners continuously

fight — that's fist fight.

Some of the OSP prisoners are given work leave, but upon re-entering the pen, they are subject to indiscriminate finger waves. Not every prisoner, every day, gets a finger stuck up his rectum, searching for drugs and contraband, but when the searches do come they are without warning or provocation. And work-leave prisoners are supposedly the most trusted inmates at OSP.

About 10 prisoners in OSP are Jewish, and they get their share of persecution.

For instance, the Oregon Constitution provides funding for Catholic and Protestant religious services on Sunday, but the Jewish prisoners have been regularly denied any funding for a rabbi's services.

The neglect of funding is small game compared to the summer of 1979 when two inmates held a Jewish inmate over a vat of boiling water and threatened to drop him into it. Shortly thereafter, an OSP guard was found passing on a

pamphlet — its source unknown — that asked the Jewish prisoners to answer questions such as, "If you were in Auschwitz, would you prefer to be made into soap or a lampshade?"

Although conditions in OSP are not nearly so barbarous as those in California's San Quentin federal prison or New York's Attica state prison, Atiyeh shrugs off the problems in Oregon's corrections system too easily.

It might take a small ruckus of the New Mexico sort to jolt the governor out of the superficial view he now holds of living conditions in Oregon prison facilities. If the state corrections facilities are to do more than condemn and pervert, the prisoners deserve more concern than Atiyeh's careless remarks show.

ED. NOTE: This response to Gov. Atiyeh's recent statement on Oregon prison conditions is written by Emerald staff writer David Steinman, who visited OSP last fall.

yours

No choice

In their proposed \$20-per-term fee to subsidize athletics at Oregon, the Athletic Department has denied students any real choice. A vote in favor of the issue was in most cases wishing a financial burden onto students who least of all can afford it. It was also a vote of support for the department's handling of the situation. A vote against the proposed mandatory fee, on the other hand, might have forced the department to make good on its threat to eliminate two of our most accomplished sports programs.

Admittedly, Title IX is quite a problem, even for a department that just six months ago was talking about constructing the world's largest wooden dome. But why can't the Athletic Department think of something more creative than slapping a

fee on students? Other universities have coped with Title IX without resorting to fees. Colorado University, for example, began selling beer at football games and have since generated enough revenue to manage the new ruling.

Our objection is not an argument against athletics; we see the value in collegiate athletics. But we find it hard to understand why the Athletic Department has not dealt with this problem before now. The department makes it sound as if the Title IX crisis developed just last night. Where have they been the past few years?

The lack of foresight and this rash solution smacks of Chrysler Corporation's stumbling in the auto industry. They will either lay off the programs which make up the backbone of men's athletics or come running to the student body for subsidy.

Students aren't left with much of a choice.

Pres. Boyd should not dwell so much on the election results but rather on how the Athletic Department is being run. We do not feel that one department is more deserving of special funding than any other department. If anything, we ought to be levying a \$20-per-term fee for a decent library.

David Kalb,
Timothy Hanthorn,
Jeffrey Smith
seniors, architecture
Brad Stangeland
junior, landscape architecture

Not erotica

It is unfortunate that Doug Fick failed to read the Linda Lovelace version of the making of "Deep Throat" before writing his comments (Emerald, Apr. 24th). He might have mentioned

something about the sociological significance of the film being a real example of the slavery/rape of a woman who has been emotionally, socially and economically battered as a result of being forced to play out this male-domination fantasy.

He might have mentioned that most of the pornography being made uses women (and children of both genders) who have been forced through physical threats, psychological abuse or economic slavery to submit their bodies as vessels for the depiction of someone's idea of male sexual fantasies.

He might even have questioned the easy acceptance of those fantasies to the extent that this obscenity, this foulness, this brutal assault upon a human being has grossed over \$600,000,000.

For the record, Lovelace does state in very clear terms that she was kept as a slave by the man

who forced her to do this film, that she performed these acts against her will, and that she finally escaped him despite threats on her life. For the filming she was supposed to have been paid \$1,200 which she never saw. I urge the reader to see the May MS Magazine article on Linda Lovelace.

The point that Doug Fick missed is not a question of erotica. It is the social acceptability and support of rapist.

Roy Lisi
senior, linguistics

Offer the best?

Corruption in the Athletic Department at the University level has grown to 'acceptable' proportion. Unfortunately this form of recruitment has been discovered by the 'perverted' forces of the press. As students we are tired of paying a premium price for a losing team.

The academic records of University athletes should be kept confidential to everyone except the head coach. Let's face it, athletics' main function at the University is as a source of revenue. A winning team means more money and the only way to a winning team is through winning players. To get the best we have to offer the best.

Marcus Robbins
physics
Mark Patton
business administration
Spencer Williams
history

Error debate

In regard to Daniel Pope's letter of Apr. 23rd (which was in regard to my letter of Apr. 16th), I would like to make two points:

First, the letter of Apr. 16th was not referring to the AFT survey itself, but was referring to what was reported in the article about the AFT survey. If that report was not accurate or complete then perhaps AFT has a complaint with the Emerald, but not with me.

Second, the letter was referring to a sampling error (bias), not a Type 1 error. There is a difference.

Dale F. Duhan
GTF, quantitative methods
Thursday, May 1, 1980

theirs

