

FBI discrimination not totally resolved

On March 15 a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be on campus. That FBI representative will be at the University's law school — to recruit.

Another recruiting visit by the FBI in October prompted a protest because of that agency's probed hiring discrimination based on applicants sexual orientation. That issue, judging by the law school's willingness to permit FBI recruiting, has been resolved. But has it really?

The Emerald's stand in the first incident was for a comprehensive affirmative action policy instituted University-wide that includes the "extraneous considerations" clause. At the time of the FBI incident the law school used an affirmative action policy that prohibited on-campus recruiting by employers who discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, handicap, national origin or "any other extraneous considerations not directly and substantially related to effective job performance."

The "extraneous considerations" clause was the crux of the law school and FBI incident. This clause is explicit in its inclusion of homosexuals. The Emerald continues in its condemnation of hiring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Has the FBI adequately defined their position regarding hiring practices as related to applicants sexual orientation? They apparently have, to the satisfaction of Derrick Bell, dean of the law school. Although, the FBI has not resolved their position to the complete satisfaction of the Emerald.

The FBI wrote Bell on Dec. 11 stating administrative action "is taken not simply because of their sexual orientation but homosexual conduct is a significant factor in such (hiring) decisions." That homosexual conduct is a significant factor in hiring decisions illustrates that the question implicit in the entire incident remains unanswered.

The letter went on to state that it is FBI policy "not to improperly discriminate against any ap-

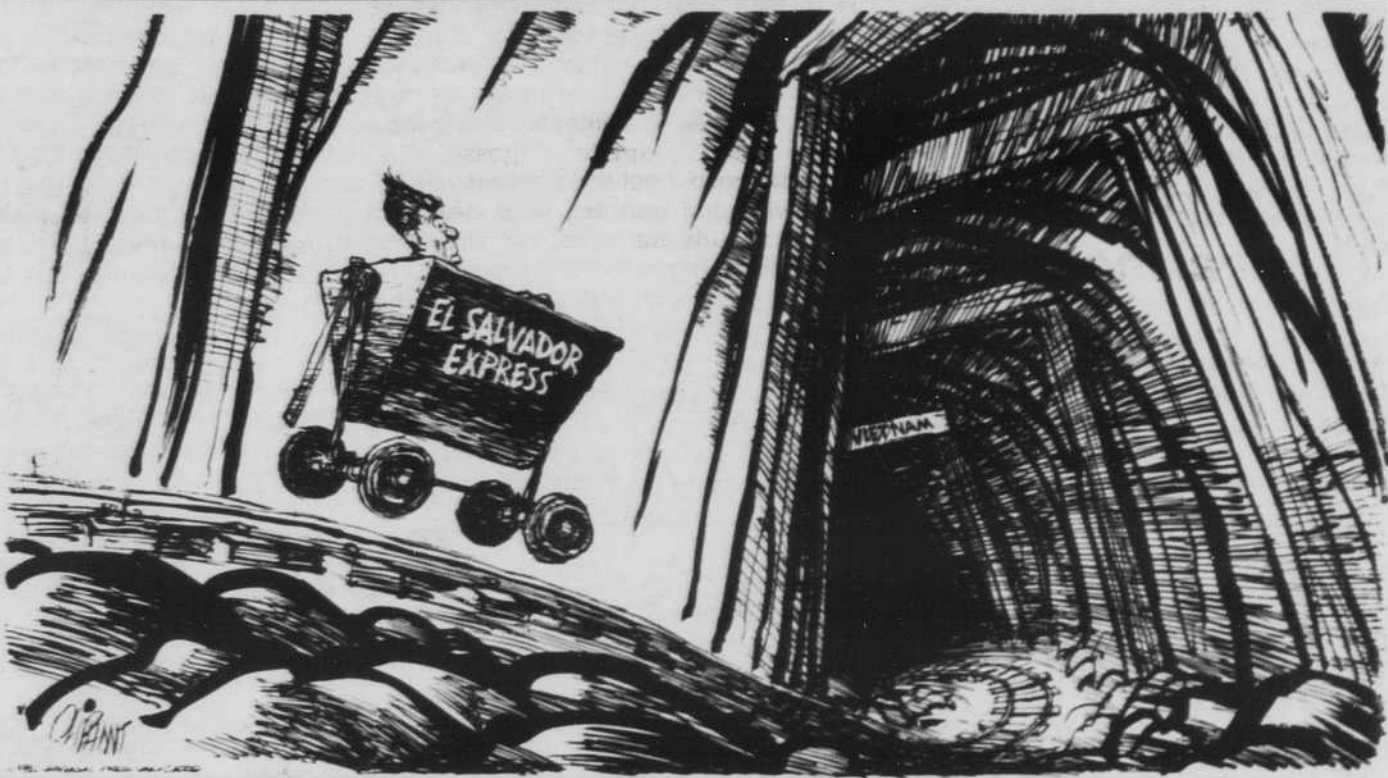
plicant. Homosexual conduct would be considered along with all other available information." The letter also states it was FBI policy to consider the "sexual activities of applicants, whether heterosexual or homosexual, when such activities could affect FBI employment."

The "not to improperly discriminate against any applicant" statement just doesn't sound quite right. The FBI's legal counsel wrote Jan. 11 that the FBI "can offer no specific encouragement that a homosexual applicant will be found who satisfies all of the requirements."

Bell has done a commendable job challenging the FBI to state their position on hiring homo-

sexuals. He has been more than reasonably concerned with the rights of students. But Bell seems to have settled for a less than clear-cut position from the FBI.

The statements from the FBI do not approach a firm resolution as to the FBI's hiring practices. The situation has reached an impasse. This impasse is due, in part, to the incident that provoked the FBI discrimination question. The question of FBI hiring discrimination was prompted by hearsay — what will bring a specification of any discrimination is an actual case of hiring discrimination. Perhaps that will occur when the FBI comes to recruit.



THE BEND IN THE TUNNEL

letters

ROTC issue

At the February assembly meeting Professor Sherwood raised two questions of legitimate concerns with respect to my notice of motion regarding the ROTC.

He asked Pres. Olum what his action would be if such a motion should pass — implying that it is futile to consider such questions if the administration is just going to ignore any recommendation of the assembly. Olum properly refused to be drawn into a discussion at this point since parliamentary procedure does not provide for discussion at the notice of motion stage.

However, for those who may share this concern we should point out that Sherwood overlooked the fact that Olum and Provost Hill have already explicitly addressed the question of what is the proper forum and place for discussion and decision making relative to the ROTC.

In an interview published Nov. 5, 1981 Olum says "ROTC —

whatever else you might think about it — is an academic program within the University. I wouldn't touch that myself — the faculty approved the program and any changes must come from the faculty."

Hill agreed: "ROTC is controlled by the faculty and any questions of neutrality should be directed to the faculty Assembly." The Emerald continued "Hill says he's concerned that some of the ROTC curriculum is controlled by the army rather than the University. But that is a matter for the faculty to discuss — not the administration."

The second question concerned the propriety of bringing up a question upon which the Assembly has voted in the past. In this connection I can only point out that in 1977, when the vote went in an unexpected direction—in spite of having, only minutes before, voted to limit discussion by each side to 10 minutes, and in spite of the fact that the Assembly had just voted upon the ROTC question — Professor Sherwood forgot the urgency of getting back to housekeeping items — and how bad

it is to bring up questions already voted on — and was one of the first to jump to his feet to demand that the discussion be continued into the following month.

Bayard H. McConnaughey
biology

Dehumanizing

Ann Portal's "Liberal Arts Students Are in the Dark on Technology" recently showcased the dominant view on the subject. She quotes dean Robert Berdahl to the effect that more grounding in computer science and the like is needed — even though techno thought has, of course, "dehumanizing" implications. He sums it all up, somehow, with typical academic balance and decorum (cowardice): "There are no nuts here that think technology ought to be stopped. It just must be understood."

I happen to be such a "nut"; high tech must not only be stopped, but dismantled if we are to have a chance of connecting with nature, with each

other, with ourselves.

It's not just chemical and nuclear wastes, Love Canal, PCB, DDT, oil spills, carcinogenic food, neutron bombs, genetic engineering, ad infinitum. It's the whole industrializing of life, from the factory system and its stunting division of labor to the specialization of everything which has made us all spectators. It's also shopping centers, freeways and video games — the entire flattened-out, de-individualized world, where we're all intended to learn the computer modes that could express the final reduction of the person.

We need a new vandalism equal to the challenge, equal to destroying this totality — in favor of play, creativity, anarchy. Anyone who tells you different is your jailor.

John Zerzan
Ferry Street

Homophobic

I am writing to complain at the homophobic review of "Making Love" by Matt Meyer in your

Feb. 17 issue. Meyer is distressed that the film tells us that "homosexuals are people too." Surprise, Meyer. They are.

The theory that homosexuality is a disease which, as the review puts it, "might happen to me," is both unfounded and offensive. We all have sexual preferences, and we make our choices, consciously and unconsciously in response to a number of personal and social influences. A majority, in this culture, make the socially accepted choice of heterosexuality; a minority find themselves attracted to members of their own sex. Who knows, if homosexuality were a more socially sanctioned choice, the proportions might be very different. In any case, there is nothing to differentiate a homosexual from a heterosexual except the sex of the person they choose as lover or mate. Other than that, Meyer, they are perfectly ordinary people like you and me. Except that most homosexuals are not as self-righteously judgemental as some heterosexuals.

Jo Alexander
N. Monroe, Eugene

staff

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during finals week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co.

News 686-5511
Advertising/Business 686-3712
Classifieds 686-4343
Production 686-4381

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