



'ONE... TWO... OK, WHERE'S SYRIA?'

letters

Tactics

An open letter to the woman yelling at the corner of the EMU Monday afternoon.

Dear madam:

What was the intention of all your rantings and ravings? Was it to convert me to Christianity? If so, you failed. Miserably. Your words led me to the conclusion that Christians are too narrow-minded to accept anyone different from themselves, namely homosexuals. I used to picture your God as a loving God. But you stood there and told me that God "hates" a group of individuals because they are abnormal. Well, frankly, I want no part of a God that discriminates against homosexuals, or any group, for that matter.

I don't like being turned off of Christianity, but your speech and some others I've heard at the EMU have given me a negative view of your religion. While I do not base my entire view of the Christian religion on one person's views, I do take them into account. If you're looking for converts, I suggest you try another tactic. And if you're tired of being surrounded by homosexuals, might I suggest that you join ROTC?

Susan Phillips

Living bible

I would like to thank Tom Visoky for including in his May 18 letter one of my favorite quotations from the Book of Isaiah, "Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees" and "to those who call evil, good and good, evil." I challenge him, however, to search for a wider application of Isaiah's message other than a condemnation of homosexuality.

We are indeed, witness to a world of great evil. The inability of governments to negotiate peace in a nuclear age has faced us with planetary annihilation and has thrown many — especially the young — into a state of unreconciled despair and cynicism. United States supported juntas in Central America have effectively exterminated entire village populations in their effort to root out 'subversives' and 'com-

munists.' And here at home, environmental perils — the mismanagement of radioactive and toxic wastes, for instance — threaten the lives of all future generations. The list could go on.

Corporate irresponsibility, imperialistic greed, and unchecked militarism. These are the best examples of evil in our world, and those who promote this kind of evil in the name of nationalism or religion are those very same people who "decree iniquitous decrees."

Tom: Since you seek to champion the "morality" of God, I urge you to put aside your judgment of others, whatever sexual preference they might have, long enough to join hands with people of every creed and lifestyle who strive for the peace and justice of a living bible.

Sarah Barton
Junior, English

Thanks folks

Well, folks, the sun came out, the lawn was green, the sky blue, the stage multi-colored, and it was not a Sony Trinitron, but rather the 13th Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival that happened last weekend on the east lawn of the EMU.

If you weren't there, naught can be said but that you really missed out on a myriad of sensory stimuli and a very fine time. Granted, you could have gone to the beach or the river or the mountains or the library, or gotten locked in the bathroom with a great novel for the weekend, but none of those places brought 225 performers out in front of your retinas and eardrums for pleasure and cultural edification.

Hippies? Of course they were there. But there were a couple of mohawkian hairjobs out there as well, and people who may never have heard of Pete Seeger or even the Cultural Forum.

The event would not have come together without the long hours and patience of Frank Geltner, Jan Warren, Wendy Stolz and Anne Heidbrink, to name but a few. To name a few more: Stan

Elleflot, Adam Schultz, Jamie McKillop, Rob Bart, Mary Heubel and Mark Rosenheim gave their time and skill. The Craft Center people worked wonders too.

If you are harboring any comments or suggestions about the festival please write them down and drop them by the Cultural Forum downstairs in the EMU next to the Craft Center. After all, it's your money we're spending with a ruthless efficiency down here.

Oh yes, we tried to get approval to extend that good old Street Fair atmosphere onto the festival grounds, but Adel MacMillan our guardian angel upstairs in the EMU had to do her job and follow policy. Ah, policy... By the way, we really had nothing to do with those skydivers, but it was pretty spectacular anyway.

Well, drop off those suggestions, keep the sunburn cream handy and thank you for coming. See you next year.

Tobey Fitch
WVFF coordinator,
EMU Cultural Forum

Overpaid

Since Jeff Nudelman feels so "grossly overpaid" perhaps he would like to donate his stipend to someone who is working in student government and using the money earned to support a family or themselves. Not all students can or do depend on checks from rich daddies. Should working in student government be denied to anyone who needs to earn a living?

Mary Hope
SEARCH

debbie howlett

A woman's place...

A woman's place always will be at the front of a University crew shell.

Victoria Brown hadn't come to the University in 1972 with the intention of making waves at the bow of a crew shell, but when the season ended, the waves she'd made were enough to make some athletic officials green around the gills.

Brown's tenure began innocently enough when her boyfriend, who was coxswain of the varsity team, overslept. Brown went to tell his teammates they'd have to wait a bit. The crew team, being without patience as well as a coxswain, decided that Brown would do for the day.

The west coast's first woman coxswain fell for the sport hook, line and oar lock.

However, Oregon State University and the University of Washington, tried to bring Brown out of her shell. Women, they collectively figured, had no place on a men's varsity crew team. The OSU athletic director, Jim Barrett, held the NCAA rule book high, carried on over violations of Pac-8 directives and said he would withdraw his team unless Brown was evicted from her spot at the helm.

Without a team to race against, the University squad voted to keep Brown at the helm. It ended in a 4-4 stand-off. Brown decided the matter by refusing to compete (a move that leaves her a martyr, at least in my mind, for the next few light years). Eventually the team refused to row without Brown as the coxswain.

Brown competed in only one race that season, winning against Seattle University. She will always have the memory of being tossed, an obligatory gesture for the winning coxswain, into the freezing winter waters of Dexter Reservoir.

The moment was photographed and recorded. Brown did not try out for the crew team the next year.

But Brown hasn't been forgotten.

The University club sport program recently christened their nearly new 8-person shell; with the name "Victoria Brown." The naming is a maneuver usually reserved for wealthy benefactors who purchase the shells.

Yet the story carries another twist.

The name of the shell and what that name stands for hit close to home with the University's present eight-man coxswain: Brenda Thornton.

Thornton was almost barred from competing in the National Sports Festival regatta — because she is a woman. This time it was the NSF folks, holding an Olympic rule book high, ranting that there would be no mixing of gender in such a noble Olympic event. Only through some fancy finagling, and one gentleman who was willing to put his job in jeopardy, did she manage to compete.

Brown lives in Seattle now. She's married and has two kids. She met this year's crew team during a competition in Seattle.

Thornton is giving up crew after this year and will concentrate on school and other pursuits.

But Brown's name, and both women's spirit will be carried on the shell forever.

And maybe our neighbors to the north caught the name emblazoned on the gunnel of the University's shell as it glided through the water at the Pac-10 varsity championships last weekend — with Brenda Thornton at the fore.

Debbie Howlett is the 1983-84 Editor of the Emerald.

letters

Homophobia

The debate over the ROTC's discriminatory policy has had one very obvious result: from statements made during the Assembly debate and more particularly from letters published in the Emerald, it is perfectly clear that an aggressive discrimination, sometimes subtle, more often

violent and self-righteous does exist against homosexuals as a group. Illogical argument and twisted rhetoric thinly clothe a frightening homophobia. That there appears to be so little understanding and compassion on a university campus should be cause for shame and dismay.

Perry Powers
professor, romance languages

oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial
Display Advertising and Business
Classified Advertising
Production
Circulation

586-5511
586-3712
586-4343
586-4381
586-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Photo Editor
Sports Editor
Associate Sports Editor
Entertainment Editor
Night Editor
Associate Editors
Higher Education
Departments and Schools
Student Government
Features
Politics
Student Services/Community Affairs
General Staff
Advertising Manager
Classified Advertising
Production Manager
Controller

Harry Esteve
John Healy
Marian Green
Cort Fernald
Joan Nyland
Bob Baker
Mike Riplinger
Paul Danzer
Jonathan Siegle
Frank Shaw
Sandy Johnstone
Frank Shaw
Richard Burr
Sean Meyers
Michele Matassa
Aleta Zak
Darlene Gore
Sally Oljar
Victoria Koch
Jean Ownbey