

letters

Just teach

How many times have you had a professor who was a whiz concerning research and new ideas, but was incompetent as an instructor? To the 15,000 plus students enrolled, this University is an institution of learning.

I realize that a professor has a dual role as a researcher as well as an instructor. I even realize that tenure is based on their research ability and number of articles and books published. I even realize that many professors would rather not teach. So why in the name of learning, are they required to teach?

I propose a University that is both an institution of research and higher education. Let there be two faculties: one for research and the other for teaching. Let the researcher research, but please allow the teacher to teach. But, it can be argued, how does the student expand beyond the confines of the classroom?

Certainly the researcher is the expert. Since the teacher must communicate with the researcher to remain contemporary, she can easily mediate such researcher-student interest.

The student-teacher relationship is predicated on communication. Thus, the teacher must not only possess the skill to communicate effectively, but the art to build new ideas onto old thought structures. No matter what the professor's expectations, if she is not building onto already existing structures, she is the carpenter building the roof before the walls are erected.

Steve Ingham
math, psychology

Destabilizing

As students of the University, can we accept the Reagan administration's current Central American policy as truth? Furthermore, are we going to allow Reagan to escalate the Central American region into another Vietnam? There must be an answer to this dilemma.

To begin with, students are not as apathetic as the Reagan administration wishes them to be. Nor will they accept the oversimplification of the Central American crisis into an East-West conflict. This view, generally agreed upon by scholars, tends to overlook the historical background to the crisis; specifically, it portrays the Central American crisis as a purely Soviet attempt to destabilize absolutely "legitimate" governments.

While it is granted that there is probably some truth to Reagan's accusations, this policy refuses to recognize the historical facts. First of all, the Central American people continually have been denied what we consider a given; adequate food, clothing, and shelter. Moreover, when these people organize their plight, they are labelled communists and are systematically eliminated.

Reagan's answer to this dilemma in Central America is a military one. He proposes to increase military aid to the countries favorable to U.S. policy. Specifically, Reagan wants to supply the military hardware to eliminate the "terrorists" destabilizing Central America who have no popular support and who are backed by the Soviets via Cuba.

As students, and more importantly as concerned

citizens, we need to counter Reagan's attempt at "double-think." We need to let the Reagan administration know we will not accept an East-West answer or a military solution to the current crisis in Central America. We need to exercise our right in the decision-making process, write letters, make phone calls, be active, and let our leaders know where we stand on these issues.

Keith Huffstutter

Ramifications

One more contribution to the ROTC debate.

I congratulate Pres. Olum and the faculty for their balanced stand.

This is not a simple issue, all of its parts and ramifications must be considered. Part of the issue is whether or not the department is in compliance with University rules regarding homosexuals. We also have to ask, if ROTC isn't in compliance, what is the best way to change that?

Another valid consideration is whether ROTC's presence on campus is valuable enough to warrant a waiver.

The questions to ask are: Will the expulsion of ROTC change the Army's policies regarding gays? No. Expulsion would only be a theatrical gesture. Who would be hurt by the expulsion? Only the students on military scholarships and this University. It is not an act of cowardice to refuse to compromise the University in order to engage in empty media gestures.

The 1960s gave me quite enough of people willing to sacrifice any institution to get on the evening news. In addition,

the 1960s gave me quite enough of vicious personal attacks such as Mary Hope leveled at Derrick Bell. The fact that a man with Bell's experience in civil rights should deem the expulsion of ROTC as an inappropriate way to change the Army's policies should be an eye opener. Hope, rather than attack Derrick Bell, you should give him your deepest apology and ask him the best way to help gays who want to be in the service. That is if you are truly interested in helping homosexuals and not just in it for the theater.

Jim Linn
molecular biology

Peaceful gays

Should everybody have the right to kill and die in this great land of the free? A victory in this battle for equal rights in the military science department only readies us for the ultimate war. The war that will rid earth of this disease called human kind and give this land it's well deserved peace at last.

Why not gay death troopers for the job? Alexander the Great's best soldiers were his gay battalions that stormed Egypt. What efficient exterminators these cohesive groups made. Oh, my sad soul is crushed.

Where are parts of the gay movement headed to? Does the hunger for power and destruction accompany them in their new consciousness? Do we not remember when gayness was a haven for draft dodgers? When gays were for peace?

Thinking about it these past few days I am ashamed that I actually participated in that

rally. Please forgive me, peace loving people. This is one battle for equal rights I hope we lose. I don't want to be equally responsible for the destructive forces of war.

A. Smith

Denigrating

Jonathan Siegle, theatre reviewer, writes, "It is necessary, however, to question the choice of this Shakespeare play over so many others equally entertaining. 'The Merchant of Venice' reflects a view we don't accept today. Yet because it's Shakespeare we continue to produce it. For the same reason we no longer do black-face minstrel shows, we should consider no longer doing this play."

That Shakespeare was the master playwright is unquestionable, but like all of us, he was imperfect. When, for example, was the last time 'Timon of Athens' was performed?

Don Bishoff, writing for the Register-Guard, suggests that the academic controversy will rage forever over whether Shakespeare intended Shylock as villain or victim; one obvious answer is that he's both.

That Siegle implies that the play advances anti-semitism is to denigrate the intelligence and sensitivity of the theatre audience. By the final curtain we are as likely to view Shylock with compassion as with prejudice.

The reviewer's suggestion that we should no longer be doing the play is not compatible with the journalistic practice of free speech.

Pat Matteri
English

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