

letters

Rather ironic

After reading Diana Elliott's article, "Students to protest wet T-shirt contest" (ODE, April 25), my friends and I feel provoked to share our opinions as well. Jim Shoemaker, co-director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, asks if "women really, really choose to degrade themselves" by participating in such contests. In calling these contests a degradation of women, Mr. Shoemaker bases his argument on a false premise. Wet T-shirt contests are obviously not degrading in the eyes of the women who enter them, or the men and women who watch them. Women choose to participate; they are in no way forced. (All those interested were asked to phone Heaven's Gate Bar — Women not interested could easily ignore the classified ad). If the contestants feel free, proud and comfortable enough about their bodies, then they should not be condemned. I do not see these contests as dehumanizing but rather as an expression of freedom. I agree with Andy Gussin, manager of the club, that everyone involved is having fun.

I find it rather ironic that a group such as GALA would condemn the women's actions and the contests, when they themselves are currently battling to have their own lifestyles accepted by society. In my opinion they should be promoting individuality and freedom of choice, instead of judging and restricting the actions of others. They are hypocritically doing exactly what they do not want others to do to them. If one could be so bold as to call these contests an expression of human sexuality, more specifically heterosexuality, perhaps this would explain why the members of GALA feel so threatened and compelled to protest.

C. Jayne Davies
Pre-Business

Take note

An item that might possibly be of interest to the University campus community appeared in the May 1 issue of "The Chronicle of Higher Education."

It was reported that at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee their faculty senate has voted to terminate the ROTC program, on the grounds that "The Army's policy of refusing commissions to homosexuals runs counter to a university rule prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual preference."

This action must be endorsed by Wisconsin's chancellor of higher education before it can go into effect.

Should that happen, the ROTC program would be ended in 1988.

Ron Rousseve, Ph.D.
Counseling Psychology

Bombs away

We all know the United States shouldn't control the governments of other countries.

Vietnam, Iran, Lebanon and Central America have shown us that we can't (and shouldn't) enforce our standards on others. It is morally reprehensible to interfere with other countries.

Yet, South Africa is different. It is morally reprehensible to allow them to run their own country.

Let's not mess around with divestment and trade embargoes. Let's teach South Africa a lesson the American way: bomb the crap out of them.

Brian Moore
English

Thanks

Across the country there is a growing movement to withdraw or "divest" funds from South Africa.

In South Africa, all political and economic power is controlled by and for whites only.

Blacks do not have the right to vote, are restricted in where they can live, work and travel; freedom of speech is unknown to most South Africans.

Last week 90 people were arrested at the Federal Building in protest of South Africa's apartheid system and U.S. policy toward that country.

The support by the people of Eugene for those arrested deserves recognition.

Several businesses sent food and supplies for those who were keeping vigil outside the jail and those who were being released.

As one of the people working outside the jail supporting those who had been arrested, I would like to thank Sundance Food, Zoo Zoo's, Humble Bagel, Sahalie's Food, Sy's Pizza and Grower's Market for their support of the action and the movement against apartheid.

These businesses, as well as the students, faculty and administration of South Eugene High School should be commended for their work on the issue and support of the Eugene Free South Africa movement.

Free South Africa! And thanks for your support.

Louise Tippens
Eugene

Let's fight

As one of the individuals arrested in last Wednesday's apartheid protest, I would like to commend my fellow brothers and sisters for their support in my decision to be arrested.

I would also like to commend the brave men and women who also went to jail and took a stand on the issue of freedom for South Africa.

I am proud to be a part of the movement and would not hesitate once again to be imprisoned for the cause.

I will not stop here. Racial oppression is wrong. Human equality is right.

Let us fight for divestment.
Kelley Jones
Eugene

Let it burn

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the concerned students who had the courage and integrity to participate in the anti-apartheid rally.

The fact that there were so many new faces attending — people who came to learn about the atrocities of apartheid — is indeed encouraging.

The rally brought close to home both the magnitude and importance of the struggle we are currently engaged in.

Let us not surrender to the ever-present forces of apathy.

The University student body has thrown its stick on the fire of racial justice that burns both here and in South Africa. That fire must be kept burning until all that remains are the smoldering ashes of apartheid.

Tony Morris
South African

Get with it ODE

It is unfortunately typical that the rather long story (ODE, May 1) on the Honors College did not once indicate the official name of the college: the Robert Donald Clark Honors College.

I say "typical" because Emerald reporters seldom bring any historical perspective to their stories on the University.

Robert D. Clark is surely among the distinguished former presidents of the University, and his part in the founding (and funding) of the honors program should not be forgotten.

Robert McCollough
Professor Emeritus, Library

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12:30 PM Group Meeting, Forum Room
3:30 PM Film - "The Toughest Job" The Forum Room
7:30 PM "Kenya Night," slides presentation Room 108, EMU

May 8
3:30 PM Liberian Slides, Room 101 (By Post Office) EMU
7:30 PM Film, "The Toughest Job," 1st United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive

May 9
1:00 PM Film, "In Their Shoes," Celeste Campbell Senior Center, 155 High

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