

Letters

Free Namibia

This letter is to urge the United States to bring pressure on the government of South Africa to respect the 1968 United Nations mandate requiring it to relinquish control of Southwest Africa, or Namibia, to the 11-nation council created for its administration. This critical step toward the independence of Namibia is critical for the development of that region of the world. As the United States was founded on the principle of independence, its support for the government of South Africa and its failure to bring pressure to bear on that government to withdraw from Namibia represents opportunistic hypocrisy of the worst sort.

The continuing support of U.S. governmental and business interests for the government of South Africa and its policy of discrimination and oppression constitutes an international scandal. The brutal exploitation of South Africa's majority denies not only their

rights, but also serves to denigrate the value of people in general. The anti-humanistic climate created by such exploitation promotes the development of a society devoted solely to materialistic values without regard to the ethical values necessary to promote the ultimate survival of that society. Such a myopic view can only serve to weaken the peace and stability of the international community.

Richard Bruce Wright II
Eugene

Allow choices

It seems as though the campus "enlightened ones" have found yet another cause: saving the University community from the evils of a free film industry. I'm speaking of the recent anti-Rambo campaign. I agree that Rambo is a bad movie — the clichés are almost painful. The point, however, is that good or bad, it's being shown and people have the right to make up

their own minds as to whether or not they want to see it.

Shasta Hatter said that "After 'Rambo' has been thoroughly trashed, attend the second showing of other films supporting the many worthy causes on campus."

Who the hell does she think she is?! What gives her the right to disrupt any public presentation on this campus and decide what people should and shouldn't see. Sorry SORD, but that's not the way things work here. The last time a public presentation was disrupted (last year's Marine presentation), President Olum assured that the people responsible would be expelled from school. We'll see.

Rambo is entertainment. If you like that sort of thing then go, if you don't then stay home. We're all big enough to make up our own minds about what we want to see, Ms. Hatter. See you at the movies.

Michael O. Marquette
Eugene

Responsible protesting starts with full knowledge of issue

A classified advertisement that ran in the Emerald this summer has caught more attention than those who placed it originally intended. The ad, run in the hopes of attracting customers to a new Chinese restaurant in Eugene, has snowballed over the months into a full-scale protest.

"CHINESE FOOD, CHINESE MUSIC, CHINESE GIRLS," the ad stated. "(Not eat girls, eat food. Girls too pretty.) CHINA DELIGHT."

The ad was placed on behalf of the restaurant's Chinese owner by an English-speaking "agent" of sorts who apparently thought his wording would be catchy. Instead, those lines sparked angry cries of "racism, sexism and discrimination" on the part of the Emerald by two students and a representative of the Council for Minority Education.

From the Editor's desk

Confusion about why the ad ran, the Emerald's adherence to its advertising policies, and eventually the entire staff's values concerning racism all were questioned in meetings, rallies, fliers and a television news broadcast.

The group of three evolved into 30 and we understand the number of protesters, both silent and outspoken, may have multiplied tenfold again. University officials also joined in the mayhem, "adding their voices" to others who found the ad, and thus the Emerald, offensive.

Committee after committee jumped into the arena, concluding the paper was, in fact, the racist and sexist vehicle of outrageousness they professed it to be. Change its board of directors, they resolved, and pull its funds if that doesn't happen. Threaten its editorial sovereignty when it refuses editorial apology. Furthermore, boycott the paper by not reading it or advertising in it, these protesters decided.

"You haven't heard the last of it," those behind the pointed fingers said.

Enough history. Enough debate. And enough threats and accusations.

The Emerald no longer will tolerate the sweeping stabs of racism and sexism. These claims, born out of misunderstanding and nurtured in ignorance, have taken on slanderous and libelous forms in the past weeks.

What may seem only to be a strongly worded poster or an emotional appeal by a campus crusader actually are false and defamatory statements — statements backed by illegitimate investigations.

I ask those on the "ad hawk" committee, those in University and student government offices and others having past grievances with the Emerald to go about your protesting in a mature, productive and ethical manner. It isn't the protests or threats of protests that are disturbing but rather the manner in which those behind the rumblings go about their "business."

These are people in offices representing University affirmative action, minority education, legal education and student government — posts to be reserved for individuals thorough in investigation and fair in judgment.

Rather than research the situation, however, these misplaced officials came to public conclusions without a solid understanding of the issue. Aside from the unsuccessful meetings in August on the ad, there have been amazingly few attempts by officials and neo-protesters to contact the Emerald. Those who have, however, sadly admit to having jumped on the bandwagon before contemplating the matter, and more importantly, educating themselves on it.

My points are simple. Don't find yourselves ignorant of the cause of which you so adamantly protest, and don't expect those you underhandedly oppose to recognize your claims with respect.

Do, however, fully educate yourselves on the issue before asking others to do so, and use a sensitive approach when sensitivity in others is what you seek.

To those who have remained open-minded, rational and resistant to the pressures of your peers, I congratulate and sympathize with you, for you are the real minority on campus.

By Julie Shippen

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