

Editorial

OSU seeks peace through education

By establishing a new Certification Program in Peace Studies, Oregon State University has acknowledged the importance of working for negotiated solutions, and the need for students to educate themselves of its significance.

With the possibility of a nuclear holocaust hanging over the earth, any effort to educate the population of ways to decrease the arms race is an achievement in itself. Although participation in the program will probably be fairly small to begin with, it should gain acceptance as more students learn of its existence.

Through the OSU program, students will be able to earn a certificate in Peace Studies after completing 30 credit hours of peace-related classes. Courses such as Conflict Resolution, Thinking the Unthinkable, and Attitudes Toward War and Peace will be offered. The system will be based on the liberal arts, and should be a boost to the political science, history and other related programs.

While at least 150 schools have instituted a peace studies program nationwide, OSU is the first university in Oregon to implement such a certification program. The university is a pioneer in an area which has been largely ignored by the academic community.

It took three years of research and a petition drive to collect 1,200 signatures before OSU was able to get the program off the ground. Although a committee has been working on the idea of establishing a peace studies program at our university for two years, they have been hampered by the inability to gather enough experts with the skills needed for such a program. If the program at OSU becomes successful in its first year, it may be possible to expand it to include a major in the subject or even a graduate degree option. A successful OSU program also may serve as a catalyst by which the University could accelerate the addition of its own program.

But whether the program at OSU succeeds or not, it still should be considered for implementation at this university, for the subject of peace is far too important to be ignored.

Halloween safety tactics may help ward off scares

It's Halloween tonight, and there are a multitude of activities to keep both young and old in a bewitching mood. But we should not forget the dangers which come with this spooky holiday — not the dangers of ghosts and vampires, but the hazards associated with trick-or-treating and driver safety.

A parent should always accompany youngsters out trick-or-treating, and should instruct them about safety procedures before going out. Many Halloween costumes are black or dark colored, and it could be difficult for drivers to see them at dusk or in darkness. Reflective tape may be purchased to make the costumes more visible.

In addition, youngsters should be advised to reject any unsealed candy or other unsealed gifts, such as homemade cookies, fudge or popcorn. Children should be told not to eat any candy before an adult has had the chance to examine the item.

Another way to help ensure children's safety is to take advantage of a service offered at two area hospitals. Starting today, Sacred Heart General Hospital at 1255 Hilyard St. in Eugene will examine candy in the radiology department to ensure that the candy doesn't contain any metal objects. The service will be offered from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. through the weekend. McKenzie-Willamette Hospital at 1460 G St. in Springfield will examine candy from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. this evening.

A fluoroscope will be used to examine the candy at both hospitals. The procedure known as fluoroscopy emits no radiation, representatives from both hospitals said. The device will only detect metal, and cannot be used to identify the presence of glass or other foreign materials in the candy.

Also, drivers should be extra careful of youngsters on the streets tonight. With the variety of alcohol offered at various taverns and dances, adults should remember not to drive drunk.

Halloween can be a fun and entertaining evening, but only if everyone makes an effort to promote safety, and respects the rights of those around them.



Letters

One of the gang

I'm afraid this whole discussion of movies has gotten out of hand. People might misinterpret my letters as a reflection of malice. I wrote, however, only to practice the art of verbal thrust and parry. The subject has some merit as a catalyst for controversy — we certainly can't assign it further significance. Verbal play is fun, but I think it's time for me to make a more friendly gesture.

In an effort to become "one of the gang," I have been searching for a worthy event to degrade. Unfortunately, the bandwagon doesn't pass by as frequently as it did during the late '60s. I have, however, through diligent research stumbled on a rather obscure religion practiced in East Springfield. It seems that practitioners of this religion believe in putting on gorilla suits and hitting each other with feather pillows as a means of venting their frustrations. I don't like it.

As a measure of my good faith, I have determined the time and place of their next meeting. I thought we might arrive ensemble with pickets and "save the pillow" T-shirts. Perhaps one of you can protest the animal abuse implications. We'll have a marvelous time!

Of course if the simple harassment doesn't get the job done, we can always return with paper airplanes and trash their church!

Alex Gardner
Biology

Inform yourself

I have a hard time believing the words of David Herman of Catalyst Films (ODE, Oct. 21) concerning his letter.

Mr. Herman believes that the message projected in the movie "Rambo" is an example of "racist, macho violence." OK, I give him the point that there is a lot of violence in the movie. But he is only using this as a red herring. I have never seen him protesting against past showings of the movies "The Deer Hunter" or "Apocalypse Now." These two movies contain as much violence as the movie "Rambo," if not more. His past inaction proves that he is not against violence.

Mr. Herman is among the same people who protest against the right of freedom of speech for the Marine recruiters here on campus. If the opinions expressed are counter to what he wants preached, then he will bring up the cloak of "violence" to hide the true reason for his protest: the views expressed don't agree with his

opinion of what happened in Vietnam. This is because Mr. Herman wants all of us as students to get "accurate information... of our just defeat in Vietnam." But the problem seems to be that he wants to define what is accurate.

I encourage people to see movies like "Rambo" and a movie like "Apocalypse Now" when they are shown next. Read history and inform yourself. Don't listen only to the views of Mr. Herman or myself.

Ron E. Munion
Political Science/History

Correction: A letter by Debi Place printed Oct. 30, read: "Do you realize at the state level, without federal incentives, P.L. 94-142, the Education for All Children Act, is just ink on paper?" The Emerald mistakenly left a word out. It should have referred to the "Education for All Handicapped Children Act." We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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