

Letters

Falsehoods

I really do hate to dignify the splutterings of muddle-minded demagogues with a response, but the most recent rantings of Michael Cross and Lori Parkman (ODE, May 6) have inspired me to make an exception.

For months Cross and Parkman have been engaged in a hysterical discourse on the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome epidemic. These two have connected the spread of this disease with divine intervention, "secular humanism," insects, an assault on "traditional morality," "non-vegetarian wildlife" and family life in the Soviet Union.

Both writers have obviously mastered the use of the "Multiple Untruth." The Multiple Untruth (a device heavily relied upon by the red-baiting Senator McCarthy) is a falsehood so large, hyperbolic and complex that it defies refutation.

The Multiple Untruth puts an unbearable burden of disproof on the challenger. The nature of the original falsehood renders any work of refutation almost always inconclusive, confusing, and — perhaps most importantly — boring to the public.

While Cross and Parkman both employ the Multiple Untruth quite well, it is apparently not a case of technique, but rather a byproduct of two fearful and wildly emotional minds. Their letters pretend to be rational discussions about public health, but all have at their heart an impassioned and irrational fear of homosexuality per se.

If these two want to honestly expound upon their fears, fine. But for Cross and Parkman to pretend they are anything except ignorant, of the etiology of the AIDS virus and of the real nature of homosexuality, is dishonest and absurd.

Dan Menlow
Fine and Applied Arts

Clarification

The recent S.D.I. piece in the Commentator evidently created the impression the author was trying to act as an advocate for the system. In fact, this was not the intent of the piece at all.

Technical information was being included for the sake of public awareness of new directions that S.D.I. research is taking.

A future article is due to be out which directly catalogues the arguments for and against

boost phase intercept of Soviet ICBMs, which is currently one of the main debates on the feasibility of S.D.I. This should not be taken as an advocacy of the system and the author disowns any attempt to make it such.

Andrew Beckwith
Graduate, Physics

No complaints

U. of O. you're pathetic. By refusing to pass measure 11, you've basically neutered our sports program. A 49 percent increase in athletic funding may have seemed like a lot, but it would have amounted to only \$10 per student and the price of student tickets would have dropped to \$1. That means if you go to the home football games you break even and any basketball games you attend are a bonus.

Most students say they support U. of O. sports but don't want to increase their fees. C'mon, ten dollars! Besides, how can you claim to support Oregon sports when you elect members of the SPA — a group that seems more interested in South African politics than in what's going on right here.

Now three varsity sports have been dropped, and you can bet those athletes aren't coming back next year to protest for divestment. Even with a six percent increase in athletic funding, student tickets will cost \$4. The ASUO suggested a two percent increase which would shoot student tickets up to \$7. (Way to be thinking of the students' interests, guys!)

Cheering at the games isn't enough. Financial support has to back up the moral support because the University doesn't get money from the state like other PAC-10 schools. With the support this campus has shown for its sports, I'd better not hear any complaints about the win-loss record of Oregon sports next year.

John M. Nosack
Student

More suffering

For the life of me, I cannot understand the motivations of those who are writing these hate-crazed letters against gays and lesbians. The ideas expressed that gays and lesbians are some kind of horrible threat, or that they are sexually predatory people seeking to make forcible converts, are too stupid and misinformed to deserve a response.

The letters are clearly written by people who have a predisposed bigotry toward homosexuality regardless of the facts. So, we come back to the question: What is the purpose of such letters?

Most gays and lesbians have gone through enough difficulty already in coming to terms with their own sexuality. They have experienced more pain at an earlier age than most of the rest of us. These bigoted letters serve to increase pain, hatred and intolerance. In a nutshell, the only effect of these letters is to cause a net increase in the amount of pain in the world. So what is the point? Why, damn it, WHY?

Stan VerNooy
GTF, Math

Enough left?

Suggestion: Start an annual "Monogamous Heterosexual Pride Week."

Of course this assumes there are enough left at the U. of O. to assemble a quorum.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

It's our duty

I have been enrolled at this university off and on since 1972. There were periods of apparent student apathy. But now, many students are realizing how important their vote really is.

There are many issues which directly affect students, like the sudden taxation of GTF fee waivers. Other issues like divestiture from the system of apartheid, toxic waste and nuclear dangers are of concern to many students.

But some of our politicians don't take student opinions seriously because, they say, "Students don't vote."

Voting is not just our right — it's our duty. How can we complain about the budget slashing of Gramm-Rudman and the astronomical funding of Star Wars and the MX missile, and then not manifest our opinion at the polls?

The University is located in Senate District 21. Students should read their Voter's Pamphlet, become familiar with their candidates and exercise their right to vote.

Steve Richkind
Law School

Well qualified

To the Oregon Commentator, in response to your help wanted ad in the Emerald, May 7. I

would like to apply for a job on your paper. Thanks for mentioning you are not an Affirmative Action employer. I like that.

Of course I meet all your qualifications. I am a very white male, but I am not really "white." I'm a perfect golden brown since I visit the "Tan in a Can" three times a week. I am 6 foot one-half inch tall, and I have light brown hair which is short, so that my head fits snugly into my ROTC helmet.

My eyes are blue, but not as blue as I'd like, so I wear some "very blue" contact lenses to enhance them. I'm from Palos Verdes, California, where everyone plays golf.

I am a Christian, and everyone who isn't is going to hell. I hope Khadafy keeps his crap up so I can go give some of those Iranian-Nigger-Commie-Queer-Jews a push into the fire pit! I'm married to a nice girl who cooks like hell (they don't teach them much in those sororities), and if she didn't clean house and do my laundry, I'd get me a new one.

Anyway, I'm a business major, and I hope to work for DOW Chemical someday. I'm perfect for the job, so let's KICK SOME BUTT!

Signed,
John Doe Smith
P.S. I saw Rambo 12 times. And I have a VHS tape of every President Reagan State of the Union Address.

Lisa A. Wilson
Health Education

She's the one

On May 20 we, the University community, need to elect a Democratic nominee for the 4th Congressional District that understands the needs of higher education and who is ready to support this institution. Margie Hendriksen is running for congress, she is an alumnus of this University, and she has taught in Oregon classrooms. She cares about the same things we care about and she knows what it takes to support higher education.

For example, while the other candidates have stuck to the campaign trail repeating their arguments for the primacy of natural resources or the orthodoxy of fiscal conservatism, Margie Hendriksen has been working, behind the scenes, to help solve the GTF withholding tax crisis.

But Margie Hendriksen understands higher education is not just an administrative exercise in crisis management. She knows investment in higher education is our most effective means of economic development. During the 1985 legislative session she provided the leadership to build a legislative coalition that brought \$12 million in lottery funds to the U of O for economic development.

Margie Hendriksen also understands the human problems which students, faculty and staff face. She recognizes the financial sacrifices we have made during these hard times, as chair of the Senate Education Committee during the last legislative session, Margie Hendriksen worked tirelessly for faculty salary improvement, a tuition freeze and an equitable pay policy for all state employees.

If the University is going to

continue the progress provided by the 1985 legislature we must send a strong, sympathetic representative to Congress.

Jerry F. Medler
Professor, Political Science

Discouraging

In response to the letter "How extreme?" by Brandon Shepard, concerning the hatred of certain groups of people. Why does a message of love receive hatred, blood and death?

The reason is simple, but somewhat discouraging. Discouraging in that this bitter reaction is part of our human psyche. If unchecked by conscious decisions as well as a heightened conscious awareness, we tend to use defense mechanisms. The result of these mental processes are sometimes malicious and sometimes violent in nature toward those people or items we see as a threat.

Just as a group of children at play might ostracize another person or child for being different, so will a majority of society discriminate toward almost any minority.

When people feel threatened by others, they either react in a fight or flight fashion. If people choose to fight, they react with hatred and violence. Those that choose a path of flight, either show apathy toward the discriminated group or they conform to those that demonstrate hatred and violence. They conform because they fear social rejection from these aggressive people.

People feel imperiled because they fear important aspects of their lives are in danger or might be taken from them against their desire. Just as the Jewish people were seen as a threat to the Nazi goal of a perfect society, so too are Christians perceived as a threat to the "normal" lifestyle of the 1980's.

Mike Springer
Freshman

High rollers

Dear Mr. Duffy,
While I listen exclusively to KWAX, I agree entirely with your view that a change in format will help make the station more campus oriented. Before any change can occur, however, I believe the problem needs better understanding.

KWAX depends heavily upon listener donations to stay on the air. Something like \$35,000 is raised each year during their "fund raiser." Now, who do you suppose comes up with the bucks? I'll tell you — it's the people who also support the Eugene Opera, the Eugene Symphony, The Eugene Ballet and, of course, KWAX the "listener supported" classical radio station. They're the people with the bucks.

Lets face it — the rockers on campus would have to hock a lot of skateboards and ghetto-blasters to compete with those bourgeois little barrets that are driving Mercedes' around town.

So there you have it. ASUO votes, student awareness and apathy aren't issues here. You're being oppressed.

Joe Alexander
Music School

Wednesday, May 14, 1986

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, Oregon, 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.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff

Advertising Director: Susan Thelen
Production Manager: Russell H. Steele
Classified Advertising: Vince Adams
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: David Wood - Sales Manager, John Boiler, Jessica Cederberg, Michael Gray, Laura Goldstein, Robin Joannides, Carlos Lamadrid, Marcia Leonard, Shawn Leuthold, Catherine Lilla, Shawna Reed, Kathy Stein, Joan Wildermuth, Laura Willoughby.

Production: Vince Adams, Kelly Alexandre, Lynne Casey, Shu-Shing Chen, Ellen Cross, Stormi Dykes, Manuel Flores, Shannon Gaither, Ross Martin, Mary May, Rob Miles, Angie Muniz, Charla Parker, Ken Parrott, Jennifer Peterson, Geoff Rainville, Michele Ross, Alyson Simmons, Gregory Tipples.

Editor: Julie Shippen
Managing Editor: Michelle Brence
News Editor: Jolayne Houtz
Editorial Page Editor: Alan Contreras
Assistant Editorial Page Editor: Scott Harding
Sports Editor: Robert Collias
Photo Editor: James Marks
Friday Edition Editor: Sheila Landry
Sidelines Editor: Allan Lazo
Night Editor: Michelle Brence

Associate Editors:
Community/Politics: Lisa Loving
Student Government: Stan Nelson
Student Activities: Kim Kaady
University Affairs: Chris Norred
General Assignment: Mike Rivers

Reporters: Sean Axmaker, Tonnie Dakin, Deborah DeYoung, Craig Harris, Tom Hill, Kim Kaady, Jeff Lutzky, B.J. Thomsen.

Photographers: Lynne Casey, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Steve Gibbons, Derrel Hewitt, Ross Martin, Karen Stallwood, Mike Wilhelm.

News and Editorial: 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business: 686-3712
Classified Advertising: 686-4343
Production: 686-4381
Circulation: 686-5511