

Letters

New viewpoint

I would like to express my opinion of accordance with the essence of the "Don't Print Hate" letter in the 5-21-86 ODE. I have recently started discovering who I really am inside of this superficial physical shell and have a totally new perspective. With this new viewpoint have come realizations about my previous self and what I see in others.

Although this is one opinion, I feel it is very pertinent to what I see as a very painful observation. It has to do with the issue of personal insecurities and the pitfalls of coping out. It hurts me deeply to see others use convenient labels to draw premature conclusions and make assumptions about other people. It shows the worst ignorance or unfounded opinions about anyone or anything they don't fully understand.

This ignorance and negative type of attitude evokes deep sadness in me. From my present experience, I feel that focusing on positives and truly having an open mind is what real learning and growing in a healthy fashion are all about. I would hope that more people choose to find out who they really are before expressing their insecurities and ignorance in the forms of such cruel and negative "labels."

I would further like to salute Mary Ann Martin in the strength shown through her condemnation of these labels and have confidence that she is a person truly in touch with herself. She has my total respect and admiration!

Eric Ryder

ASUO press ?

If student government and the student press are supposed to provide a model by which students can better understand their "real world" counterparts, the current controversies concerning The Record, the Oregon Daily Emerald and the Oregon Commentator are serving that purpose well. They are a perfect illustration of the folly of government being involved in any way with the press.

The Record by its own admis-

sion is a government newspaper. Its analogy in the real world is Pravda. What would Americans think of a "newspaper" published by the White House, whose purpose was to provide "proper coverage" of governmental activities? It would also include "investigatory" stories condemning abortion and praising various foreign dictators.

I hope the American people would not find such an arrangement acceptable — why do students accept it?

The Emerald and Commentator are supposedly non-governmental, but they necessarily sacrifice their claim to complete independence by relying on the incidental fee, which is the "tax" of student government.

It is as if The Washington Post and Wall Street Journal went before Congress every year for part of their budget, and then expected people to trust them to investigate that same Congress.

If the IFC has the power to allocate money to newspapers, it cannot avoid taking "content" into account. Should it fund any and all regularly distributed sheets of folded paper, even if they contain gibberish? Even if the review is only once per year, editorial choices cannot be free of government influence in a government subsidized newspaper.

Joseph W. Dean III
Eugene

Reactor truth ?

Anti-nuclear activist Lloyd Marbet (ODE May 20) is correct that misinformation and confusion have surrounded the recent nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Unfortunately, in their zeal to use Chernobyl to discredit nuclear power Marbet and other activists at the anti-nuclear rally added misinformation of their own to the confusion.

For example, Professor Joe Austin, whose class I took and whose opinions I generally respect, accused the media of being ignorant and uninformed in their coverage of the disaster and of feeding the public a "frenzy of unabashed lies and distortions."

Marbet claimed that the U.S. media had not reported the "fact" that the Chernobyl reactor had a dual containment structure around the reactor, adding that "we have no better protection against a nuclear accident than other countries do."

Although some media outlets did engage in spreading outrageous distortions and superficial hype (so what's new), a number of responsible newspapers and magazines featured in-depth stories about the disaster, including articles about Chernobyl's "containment" structures.

U.S. News and World Report, for example, ran detailed articles and insightful editorials about Chernobyl in its May 12, 19 and 26 issues. Also, the May 20 Oregonian quoted the chief designer of the Chernobyl reactor who said the Soviet Union does not build western-style containment domes around its reactors.

The articles I've read make it clear that the 4-foot thick concrete domes that house 100 of America's 105 nuclear reactors, though not foolproof are safer than the scanty "boxes" that housed the Chernobyl reactor.

Tom Visoky
Journalism



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