

Letters

Relativity

Mr. Frary was incorrect in saying I withdrew my claim to the \$400 offered for an irresolvable conflict between the Bible and scientific fact (ODE, Feb. 20). In our meeting he showed me how the words in the Bible could be read to mean that a day is not necessarily 24 hours (God's day could be 1000 years).

I admitted that I could understand his interpretation. In retrospect this appears to me a slick interpretive trick. The word day can be interpreted to mean any length of time desired. Any claim against the validity of the Bible based on chronology is therefore indefensible.

Frary further claimed that evolution can not happen because the Bible says God created the animals and plants after their kind (a single species can not give rise to a new group of species). Scientists the world around, regardless of their religion or particular world view accept the fact of evolution. Evidence for evolution comes from the disciplines of geology, molecular biology, microbiology, taxonomy, anatomy, embryology, applied genetics, population genetics, and biogeography.

I do not relinquish my claim to the \$400 but am fairly certain not to get it. There is no purpose in arguing with an individual who will twist my words and those of the Bible to suit his own needs, with disregard for truth and the spirit of academic inquiry.

Dr. Walter Dodds
Visiting Assistant Professor
Biology

Double standard

I must admit I find the current debate over condom advertising amusing. I find it amusing that network television fears (of all things) polluting the morality of American youth. Ironically, this same institution exposes youth daily to the activity for which condoms were invented.

How concerned can network television representatives be when television presents sex in a completely irresponsible and unrealistic manner? Actors have sex all the time and they never get pregnant! This portrayal of sex gives youth a false sense of security. They believe they can have sex and not worry about the consequences.

Opponents of condom advertising believe that such ads give a message of societal approval about casual sex. However, regular television programming already gives the go-ahead on non-committal sex.

Another fact we know for certain is that American youth are already having sex. Those who continually deny this fact are living in fantasyland. Children are giving birth to children every day in this country.

We can't stop kids from having sex if they want to. What we can do is teach them to do it with some degree of responsibility. At least condom advertising would expose a great number of youth to a method of birth control.

Network television encourages sexual freedom. Those in control of network television Oregon Daily Emerald

must take responsibility for this role. Advertising should be allowed because it educates the youth of this country to be responsible for their actions. Actions which network television cannot control...but perhaps can influence.

Lynde Lachman-Ritzow
Eugene

New party

This letter is being written to inform you that a new coalition is being formed on this campus. The purpose of the Coalition of Students for Equal Representation is to promote the equal, non-biased representation of all University students by the student government.

In the recent IFC hearings we have seen that the present student government is incapable of providing this type of representation. Continually we have seen the IFC, which is dominated by Students for a Progressive Agenda, provide funds to groups with similar political beliefs while limiting the funds received by educational groups such as the marching band, or cutting the funds of civic groups, such as Circle K.

Student funds must go back to groups directly involved with the students on this campus and the surrounding community. If this government is incapable of doing this we must elect people responsible enough to get this accomplished.

If you would like more information or would like to know what you can do to help call me at 484-7384.

Gary W. Cannon
Chairman, CSER

Let's talk

ASUO President Steve Nelson's commentary on the insurance program was interesting. However, the Emerald violated its commentary policy by printing a falsehood.

Nelson claims that the Emerald editorial board did not contact anyone involved with the insurance problem before writing the editorial. This is patently false and Nelson knows it.

As editorial page editor, I talked with Nelson himself before writing the editorial. He did not supply a tenth of the information then that he did in the commentary, calling into question whether he even wrote it.

Members of the editorial board have not only been talk-

ing to key figures in the insurance controversy, but have been overseeing the coverage of the story for almost a year.

I talked to ASUO Insurance Coordinator Shirley Chase, the head of the ASUO Insurance Committee; the Insurance Commissioner's office; and Bill Kittridge, who administered the insurance program last year.

I did not, I admit, talk to Susan Sowards. Sowards has been one of the key figures calling the shots on insurance since its inception. Although she is an employee of the University, I have heard she also spent a good deal of public-paid time reorganizing insurance through Student Projects Inc., a private corporation.

The commentary, however, was signed by Nelson, so I must accuse Nelson of not knowing what the hell he's talking about. The only aspect of student insurance that remains unclear is how players behind the scene, such as Sowards, helped make the situation become such a mess.

Rob Young
Senior

Facts 'n fiction

Many people feel the airing of the mini-series "Amerika" was an inaccurate portrayal of the USSR. But a closer observation reveals that fact and fiction overlap one another.

FACT: The Soviets have invaded other countries (Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, Poland, etc.).

MOVIE: The Soviets invade a country.

FACT: The Soviets persecute dissidents in their country.

MOVIE: The Soviet Union persecuted dissidents.

FACT: Civil rights are non-existent in the USSR.

MOVIE: Civil rights were non-existent.

FACT: The Soviet Union has destroyed countless cities with their military arsenal in Afghanistan, Angola, etc.

MOVIE: The Soviet Union destroyed a small town in Nebraska with their military arsenal.

FACT: Under communist economic policies there are shortages of food, housing and other basic needs in the USSR.

MOVIE: There were shortages of food, housing and other basic needs.

Hmm, seems to me that the mini-series "Amerika" was more fact than fiction.

Dan Goulet
Political Science



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