

GTFF blowing smoke over irrelevant issue

The Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation's petition calling for an independent committee to review the University's sexual harassment policy is not only unnecessary, but shows a lack of cooperation and true concern on the part of the GTFF.

The GTFF says having the Committee on the Status of Women explore the problems in the harassment policy presents a conflict of interest because it is part of the institution under investigation. The petition proposes an outside committee review the issue.

This action is redundant. The Committee on the Status of Women has been researching the need for a new sexual harassment policy and potential changes in the current system since it was formed in November 1986.

In an open forum May 21, the committee spoke with faculty, students and community members and developed several proposals for change. They suggested hiring a grievance hearing officer to act as an advocate rather than an advisor, making the grievance officer independent from the Office of Affirmative Action, re-writing the current sexual harassment definition, and improving the filing system for complaint records.

All of these suggestions reflect the strong, positive position the University has taken to solving the problem of sexual harassment. Granted, there could be a conflict of interest, but the committee has shown it is eager to find solutions.

Provisions in the GTFF petition call for protecting those who file complaints from retaliation and keeping complete records of all complaints filed. These are valid issues that were covered in the forum.

The GTFF did not attend the open forum even though Chuck Hunt, GTFF president, claims they have been concerned with the problems of sexual harassment on campus since the conviction of professor Stephen Reynolds in August 1986.

The committee has shown its dedication to solving the problem. If the GTFF is sincere about improving the problems with harassment, then they should be working with the committee and not against it. By complaining about a conflict of interest, the GTFF is creating controversy where none exists.

Governor gets pat on back for signing divestiture bill

When Governor Neil Goldschmidt signed House Bill 2001 Friday, he made a statement against the South African government. The bill calls for Oregon to divest funds from South Africa.

Legislation for divestiture has been considered for the past five sessions of the Oregon Legislature, but former Governor Vic Atiyeh refused to sign it when it finally passed both the House and Senate.

The bill received strong support as it passed the House and Senate again this April, and Goldschmidt should be commended for following through on his campaign promise to support divestment legislation.

This law will not hurt the Oregon economy. It does show we are against the policies of the South African government and it should be supported.



Letters

Norwegian bash

Having just read John Tapogna's bunch of sour grapes (ODE, May 26), I feel compelled to give a non-Norwegian, non-American version of events that happened on May 17, Norway's Independence Day.

Rather than "economically segregating" their celebration, the Nordic students went out of their way to make sure as many non-Norwegians could share their day of freedom.

In answer to Tapogna's monetarist view, the Norwegians were asked to pay \$15 each to cover the cost of the bash, with "foreigners" only paying half that — hardly a case of being economically locked out.

And what did one get for this princely sum? A mere champagne breakfast with all manner of Scandinavian delicacies, as much beer and barbeque as one could want in the afternoon, with more champagne if necessary, and free entrance to Guido's (which normally costs a dollar in any case).

The morning parade on a cold and windy day was a lot of fun, attracting large numbers of bystanders to join in and hear uplifting bursts from the band.

No, Mr. Tapogna, the Norwegians continued with their high standards of cultural diversification, and I think

many Eugene residents are awake and glad that they did.

Neil Cowie
Graduate, physical education

So sorry

Dear Lori Parkman (ODE, June 1):
Hitler was not a socialist. Sorry.

Aaron Schutz
History

Syntax

In May 28th's Emerald, your editorial on our Supreme Court's stronger anti-crime laws ruling contains the sentence: "With jail overcrowding becoming an increasing problem, confining people who haven't been convicted of a crime is presumptuous." Is that so?

I'm probably wrong, but I'm under the impression that nothing factual in that sentence's second clause is NECESSARILY contingent, nor worthy of contingency, upon its first clause.

Yet, since the first is a dependent clause and the second is an independent clause, it appears as if this syntactical contingency is a logical or factual one as well. Which isn't true.

In effect, your sentence borders on implying, "The only time we care about due process is when jail overcrowding becomes a problem for those not in jail."

In other words, you are so familiar with the position of constricting (if not outright eliminating) the rights of alleged criminals or, for instance,

the rights of the surely criminal male Saferide driver applicants, that when trying to write your ONLY pro-due process column of the year, all hell breaks loose, syntactically, logically, everything.

Editor: please retrace your steps back to the position that looks better on your resume...if not for your own economic prosperity, then do it for the sake of the language.

Tim Jaques
Student

Helping hand

The University campus seems to be getting more than its share of the anti-gay hate mentalities.

There is a wide range in this. Some of it is merely a sort of perverted Christianity, whose adherents profess that they love everyone, including gays, and that they just want to "help" gays overcome their "sin."

Much more vicious are individuals like Lane County Republican chair Floyd Beam and the recent visitor Paul Cameron.

These individuals devote themselves to spreading false and misleading statements about AIDS, which is for them just a convenient excuse to push their real agenda — including putting gays in concentration camps, making homosexuality a capital crime, and so on.

There is conclusive evidence from psychiatric and psychological research that individuals who carry around and feel compelled to act out such extreme anti-homosexual emotions are really themselves latent homosexuals with violent conflicts caused by their inability or refusal to admit and deal with their own gayness.

Probably then, Floyd Beam, Paul Cameron, and others like them are really gays deep down inside. We should try to help these unhappy people by helping them to face their own homosexuality, to admit it to themselves, and thus to have a happier and more satisfying life.

Richard Sharvy
Ph.D.

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