

Editorial

Just who is this Bevel guy, anyway?

Reverend James Bevel is a religious firebrand who will let you know exactly where he stands, if you ask him. It's a pity that the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP), the campus group sponsoring Rev. Bevel's April 14 lecture, didn't let students in on where Bevel stands.

Bevel has gotten into trouble on his lecture tour recently. Two Portland groups that sponsored Bevel speeches charge that the lectures were misrepresented as tributes to Martin Luther King, Jr. while promoting the views of Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

On campus, Bevel's lecture was advertised by CARP as focusing on his experiences with King and civil liberties issues. CARP invited Bevel to speak at the University. Bevel refused payment for his services.

Bevel did work with King during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and has been called by many the "strategist" of that movement. Today, he appears to have broken ties with his past; he denounces Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign as a mere "gimmick," claims that Richard Nixon should still be president and contends that King's assassin, James Earl Ray, was not granted due process of law.

Bevel is now in charge of minority recruiting for the American Freedom Coalition, a body that has been linked to Moon. CARP is the official student branch of Moon's Unification Movement; the University chapter was established in February 1987.

CARP certainly has the right to sponsor lectures and guest speakers, but the chapter has an obligation to promote those events in such a way that is not misrepresentative. Those attending Bevel's lecture probably believed they were going to hear something other than what was actually said.

Civil rights ruling comes under fire by court

Thanks to a new conservative majority, the nation's Supreme Court unfortunately jumped on an opportunity to curb civil rights progress with Monday's decision to review the landmark 1976 Runyon vs. McCrary ruling.

The five justices (Rehnquist, White, O'Connor, Scalia and new justice Anthony Kennedy) of the majority claimed that the move to reconsider the Runyon decision was not unusual, and shouldn't be criticized simply because the 1976 ruling "benefitted civil rights plaintiffs." There is little reason to be hopeful that twenty years of progress will be left untouched when the court issues its final verdict next year.

It certainly didn't take much to prompt the court to leap to the attack, for example. At issue is a harassment suit filed by Brenda Patterson, a bank teller who was insulted by her supervisor's alleged comments that black workers were "slower by nature" than white workers.

The court was to decide whether Patterson was entitled to damages under a 1866 federal law. Instead, the court decided to take another look at the more important 1976 Runyon verdict, which modified the 1866 law.



Letters

Tax burden

Thanks to the Tax Reform Act of 1986, scholarships are now taxable and interest deduction on student loans has been reduced.

The new law has doubled our tax burden. First, scholarships for anything other than tuition, fees, books and supplies must be considered as income. Second, only 65 percent of interest paid on student loans is deductible. Eventually, interest deduction on student loans will be eliminated altogether.

Congress created the problem when they classified student loans as consumer interest, not investment interest, which is deductible. Legislators did not separate student loans from other kinds of loans.

No representative of student interests testified at a single hearing. Congress took revenue wherever they could get it.

Currently, no hearings are scheduled on student tax amendments because the tax committees, House Ways and Means and Senate Finance, are swamped with technical correc-

tions to the 1986 bill.

Please write to Oregon's representatives in the House and Senate and urge them to co-sponsor S.R. 628, H.R. 592 and H.R. 2649.

To Senators Hatfield and Packwood: Education is a national investment, not mere consumption. Students are counting on you to restore the interest deduction and full scholarship exemption.

To fellow students: Where is the ASUO, Oregon Student Lobby and United States Student Association when you need them? Elected candidates? Let's get it together.

L. Charles Carter
Former president
and co-chairman
Oregon Student Council
to State Superintendent
of Public Education

Big deal

Over the last several days, I've read a lot of reactionary responses to the University's new anti-drinking policy. What I'd like to know is, what's the big deal?

It's only been a few weeks since the crypto-fascist police shut down the Eugene gut, taking away the right of the citizens of Eugene to free passage in their streets. Now the University, in a similar manner, has moved to remove the rights of many of its students to relax and enjoy themselves in a positive, traditional manner.

Why does this surprise anyone? Government action to remove the rights of the people has become as trendy as the war on drugs. What is the administration's real motivation behind this policy? Could it be that they are trying to turn fraternities and sororities back into the academically based institutions that they were originally intended to be? Or do they just want a solid established policy with which to persecute the rest of the student body?

The Greeks have the power base and organization to remove this policy if they don't like it. I certainly hope that they won't just sit back on their laurels, letting the rights of people be stripped away by the government once again.

Richard Beers
Student

Unconfused

My first reaction to Jon Wollander's "Pride Week" letter (April 21) was extreme anger. Then I realized that everyone, including Wollander, is entitled to an opinion. Even though his opinions are very negative and quite incorrect!

Wollander is definitely confused concerning homosexuals (male and female), their sexual practices, and mainly, the spread of AIDS. And by writing his letter to the Emerald, he may have confused others as well.

As a proud member of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance on campus, I would like to challenge everyone to become "unconfused." Therefore, I encourage Wollander, students on campus and the community of Eugene to attend all of the events during Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. All of the stereotypical attributes that homosexuals have been labeled with will be cleared up, out in the open, and there will no longer be any confusion.

The campus, community and the world would be better places without the closed-minded and ignorant attitudes of people who feel that they have a grasp on capital "T" truth.

Again, I encourage everyone, gay and straight and those in-between, to attend and enjoy all the positive, prideful and healthy events going on during Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, April 23-30.

Erik J. Swanson
GALA member

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

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.

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.

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