

Task force demands cultural sensitivity

Last week, University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Norman Wessells announced the creation of a University task force to examine campus racial issues as a result of racial incidences both locally and nationwide.

Wessells also announced that Gerard Moseley, vice president for student services, has been instructed to form the task force.

While we whole-heartedly agree the University needs and could benefit greatly from a task force on racism, we do not believe Gerard Moseley should head this task force.

As Wessells pointed out last week, an institution of higher education has a "very special responsibility" to teach and encourage an open environment.

But a comment made by Moseley last week only shows that he lacks this "special responsibility" to teach and encourage an open environment.

Following a brawl between approximately 30 members of the Beta Theta Pi and Chi Psi fraternity houses a week ago, Moseley stated, "This is not a ghetto. It's a campus community ... The University won't have a group associated with it that has (this) attitude."

Ghettos, however, are sections of a city where groups live because of social, legal or economic reasons. So according to a dictionary definition, a ghetto is not the place of violence that Moseley would have us believe it is. Urban violence is not confined to the ghettos where minority groups are forced to reside. (Unless, in this particular instance, one thinks the fraternity members are living in their own form of a ghetto.)

If Moseley is to be in charge of the University's task force on racism, he needs to realize that violence is not inherent to ghettos. He needs to be culturally and racially sensitive.

The composition of the task force will be announced this week. If Wessells truly believes we all should be more aware of racism and that we need to take more initiative against this problem, he would be wise to announce a task force this week without Gerard Moseley at the helm.

Court should stay Bundy execution to clear cases

As a federal judge referred to him in 1986, he is "the most competent serial killer in the country at this time ... a diabolical genius."

Tomorrow, Theodore Bundy is scheduled to face death in Florida's electric chair after losing a Supreme Court appeal last week. In a 7-2 vote, the justices rejected arguments that Bundy was mentally incompetent when he stood trial in 1980 for the murder of a 12-year-old Lake City, Fla., girl.

Bundy also has received death sentences for the 1978 killings of two Florida State University sorority sisters, and has been linked to as many as 36 sex murders or disappearances of young women in Utah, Colorado and Washington.

But James Coleman Jr., one of the Washington lawyers representing Bundy, has sought to stay the execution — in a last-ditch effort to save Bundy's skin.

We think the execution should be stayed as well, but for different reasons.

The Bundy case already has dragged on the course of a decade, so to keep the case open longer — allowing Bundy to confess what only he knows about the other murders he's connected with — should help, not burden the legal system.

Bundy has tied up time and money in police investigations that would remain open, and perhaps unsolved, if he's executed tomorrow.

Moreover, allowing Bundy to clear the cases he's connected to also would help clear the consciences of the families involved — families who deserve answers to questions that only Bundy seems capable of answering.

It's up to the courts now to decide whether Bundy will be executed tomorrow. While we realize Bundy is a surly, sneaky criminal who has manipulated the court system for the past decade, he should be granted an emergency and temporary stay of execution in order to confess and clear the remaining open police investigations.

Rest assured, though, Bundy won't get off and go free if the execution is stayed; he'll only will be saving himself for a little while longer if he doesn't go to the chair tomorrow.

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.



Letters

Living beings

Timothy Barnes' letter (ODE, Jan. 18) represents the views of a sector of society that is uninformed about the basic tenets of the animal rights movement.

SETA does not, in any way, want the general public to believe that all researchers are bad people "creating teratogenic mutants." However, there are many heinous experiments involving animals taking place around the country. Mr. Barnes has obviously not heard of Louisiana State University's military ballistic studies conducted on cats or Cornell University's barbiturate addiction study using cats, which was subsequently halted due to the pressure of animal rights advocates.

Mr. Barnes stated, "a rational person cannot put animals on the same level as human beings." I caution the use of this type of statement. Similar attitudes were held (and in some cultures are still held) about blacks, women and the mentally disabled.

All species fear injury and death, so don't all sentient beings have a right to live a life free of pain and distress?

Mr. Barnes asked "without animal research, what else do we have?" While alternatives for every animal experiment do not yet exist, there are alternatives for many. New alternative methods are being researched, developed and perfected everyday. However, unless we agree that there is a moral question involved, then the existence of alternatives doesn't really matter.

Contrary to Mr. Barnes' assertion, the money given to research is not carefully distributed. Case in point: The University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's (IACUC) 100 percent approval rate in the past five years and its refusal to appoint a student or a community member willing to listen to the concerns of animal rights advocates, shows a lack of critical evaluation of research projects. The IACUC is a rubber stamp committee. Former IACUC member Lucinda Muniz testified during the Roger Troen trial that Laboratory Animals Services Director Greg Stickrod once told her that he would approve anything that

Professor Richard Marrocco proposed, even "if it was written on a napkin." Can we call this careful distribution? I think not!

What the problem seems to be is that Mr. Barnes suffers from a case of specicism. SETA, as well as many other animal rights groups throughout the country believe that this whole issue is a matter of equal consideration for all living sentient beings. There is no deadly competition between a five year old boy and a laboratory rat or monkey. Mr. Barnes' suggestion and willingness to exploit minority groups is frightening. The truth is, no one needs to be exploited, not even the animals.

Brigette Leach
SETA Coordinator

Rabbits

The graphic details of sex, birth and other natural acts detailed in letters to the ODE recently have been delightful. Most recently we read that Christian marriage rituals might shield one writer from the base inevitabilities of our biology.

The point remains: Humans are animals, proliferate beasts, multiplying rampantly like rabbits, kennel cats or mice. Since 1950, 100 million people have been born or moved to the U.S. Three hundred thousand per year come to be in California alone. World-wide the population explodes beyond the imagination of the most Saganesque imagination.

Society will fail to solve any of its major problems until the population is brought under control. The grossly excessive population in the U.S. must be curbed by restraint, increasing and diversified contraceptive techniques, and by the continued availability of first trimester abortion.

The environment is straining to the breaking point under the weight of human throngs and their arrogant consumption. The diversity of creatures that we evolved among for millions of years has been chased into the void by our stamping feet. Each one of us must take personal responsibility for our part in this daunting crisis.

Tom Ribe
Graduate Student

Disguise

It doesn't take a great deal of discernment to realize that "wollander" activities inflict a monumental assault on reason, equality and justice. Permit me to expand. But be forewarned — it isn't pretty.

"Wollanders" subject facts to inevitable omission and distortion that the human mind was never intended to withstand. Such behavior is widely prevalent among "wollanders," who willingly choose to engage in unnatural, unhealthy and unsanitary ways of thinking.

"Wollanders" disguise their disgust for gays and lesbians as a genuine concern for society and humanity. Inevitably, there are catastrophic implications; namely that society and humanity begin to display their disgust for "wollanders."

Worst of all, "wollanders" inevitably and incessantly send letters to the local papers, where innocent minds are exposed to their grossly irresponsible and disease-disposed remarks.

Without question, "wollander" behavior harms readers and endangers all humanity.

Ken McClain
Eugene

Lower level

In response to "student of color" James E. Terry's letter entitled "Eye for an eye," I am a conscientious University student who just so happens to be white and non-racist. I found it hard to ignore your "Helter Skelter" solution to racism: arming yourself in case you feel the need to blow away a skinhead or down-home redneck who doesn't give you due respect because of your color. Congratulations! Not only have you wasted your energy by acknowledging these racist factions but you have lowered yourself to their level by taking arms. An eye for an eye indeed, for your solution puts you at an equal level as the people you so detest, who would thank you for the attention that you have brought to them.

Phil O'Shaughnessy
Advertising

Monday, January 23, 1989