

End CIA hiring 'til agency hires fairly

Every November, there's a certain charge in the air as students get worked up. It's not the Civil War game with OSU — it's CIA recruitment time.

Students disgusted with terrorist tactics the CIA uses around the globe decide to interrupt interviews the agency schedules. It happens every year, and you wonder why the CIA bothers coming around anymore.

This year, after recruiter Thomas Culhane gave up and left, two students were arrested. One, a minor, has been released, but the University is pursuing charges against the other, philosophy junior Tim Hughes.

The CIA's annual coming also touches off a storm o' debate. Some see the CIA as providing a form of national security, an important service. They're not bothered by the CIA's acts. Shouldn't a government agency with a necessary mission be allowed to function here on state-owned land?

Perhaps looking for legal means to keep the agency at bay, protesters are increasingly becoming critical of the CIA's discriminatory hiring practices. The CIA, like the military and other government agencies, does not hire gays or lesbians and has a poor affirmative action track record.

Discrimination would be the least of the complaints about the CIA. But the matter does bear some thought. Regardless of the so-called federal allowances for discriminatory hiring by government agencies, we cannot support the University's allowing any employer to hire on campus and knowingly discriminate. It goes against the University's mission. The CIA should not be allowed to recruit until it cleans up its hiring act.

You'd think University Pres. Myles Brand, a self-proclaimed affirmative action champion, would agree. Sadly, he appears not to. The decision to pursue trespassing charges against Hughes (who was in the EMU when arrested) doesn't sit well with us. It appears to be another example of Brand's determination to quell student activism he finds objectionable, such as the October science complex dedication protests.

Now, let's take a trip to Fantasyland briefly. We'll assume the CIA has cleaned up its act — slightly. It now has an active affirmative action program and recruits gays, lesbians, bisexuals, women and people of color. Yet it still engages in terrible human crimes around the globe. Should our dream CIA be allowed to recruit on campus?

Sadly, our answer to this hypothetical must be yes. There are students of a conservative stripe who might desire a chance to contact the agency. They should have the opportunity they'd have with any other potential employer.

At that stage, politics shouldn't interfere with the hiring process. People could still protest CIA activities, but recruiting would have to be allowed. For protesters to continue disrupting our remodeled agency's hiring would be a double standard: They would want the CIA to hire fairly, but once the CIA's agreeable, they'd not allow it to do so.

And at that point, disrupting CIA recruiting would be the waste of an opportunity. Any change in the CIA's methodology is probably going to have to come from the inside, not from outside pressure. Education of CIA crimes in the form of protests might lead to people joining the agency to put a stop to those crimes. Remember now, this is all a dream.

We doubt the CIA will come around to our thinking anytime soon. But until it agrees to recruit under these conditions, it should not be allowed to recruit here at all.

Commentary Policy

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes commentaries from the public concerning topics of interest to the University community.

Commentaries should be between 750 and 1,000 words, legible and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified upon submission. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and length if necessary.

Commentaries will be published as space and time permit. Because of these limitations, the *Emerald's* commentary space cannot be used as a forum for debate and response between individuals or for matters that are better dealt with in the letters section. Writers may only submit one commentary a month.



"I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS BREED IS BECOMING EXTINCT."

University should put bike lanes on 13th

The finishing touches are finally being put on the new science buildings, but a legacy of what they brought the University will live on.

Before construction began, the section of East 13th Avenue between Agate and University Streets was a two-way street. But with all the heavy equipment and vehicles needed to build the facilities, the University turned it into a one-way street.

This Tuesday, the University Transportation Subcommittee recommended to Vice President for Administration Dan Williams that the University keep East 13th a one-way street, and create two-way bike paths.

The proposal calls for two bike lanes to be constructed between Agate and University Street, one on each side of the road. A center island would separate parked cars from the bicyclists.

In addition, the plan would involve the section of street between University and Kincaid, which is closed to cars but still has heavy pedestrian and bike traffic. Two seven-foot-wide bike lanes would be painted in the middle of the road. Crosswalks for pedestrians would be made at regular intervals. Both plans are similar to bike lanes around Eugene.

Williams and the rest of the University administration should accept this proposal. The section of East 13th in question is an accident waiting to happen. Bicyclists and pedestrians mingle freely in the middle of the street trying to avoid each other and the occasional passing car.

The University has a large amount of bike traffic. Bike lanes would separate cyclists, pedestrians and drivers and drastically reduce the risk of an accident.

But as a subcommittee said, this proposal would not end the bike-pedestrian problem. University officials know they need to do something more, and, to their credit, they've started the process. The University Planning Office recently has installed many new bike racks, and students are beginning to use them.

All the subcommittee members said the 13th Avenue plan would not eliminate the cyclist problem. On this we wholeheartedly agree.

The bicycle traffic problem is not going to go away overnight; University offices need to get involved, make suggestions, and think things out. But the East 13th bike lanes are a good idea. It is just a step, though. More needs to be done.

Letters

Hard right

The majority of Americans who favor privacy and choice on the question of abortion are finally asserting their views.

But it is critical that people who value the foundation American concept of freedom of religion and freedom from religion realize the religious right is working hard to impose their religious views on the public, through the government, in ways other than denying privacy and choice on the abortion question.

George Bush remains torn between the right wing, among them his Chief of Staff John Sununu and Dan Quayle, and the voting majority which is moving leftward and demanding responsible action on problems of the environment, constitutional protection and education.

But the hard right dominates the White House. Anti-abortion forces have compelled Bush to veto U.S. funding for the United Nations family-planning

progress, which is the most effective effort to control the population explosion crisis.

This is a major defeat for environmental protection and efforts to achieve peace and economic justice. The right has also ended federal support for fetal tissue research; some of the most promising research for curing some serious diseases, and the right wing continues to work to stop the teaching of biology in public schools by demanding that Bible stories be taught instead of the foundation concept of evolution.

Americans must realize that the anti-choice offensive is but one arm of the fundamental Christian octopus.

Tom Ribe
Student

Problems

In response to Kelly Johnson's letter "Take a stand" (*ODE*, Nov. 6).

If the Earth and its inhabitants are to have a future, we must realize our responsibilities to our fellow man, even if he or she is homeless. Johnson should come to terms with the fact that the "just-not-in-my-yard" attitude is an obstacle in the way of social justice.

Getting the homeless out of sight may perpetuate your suburban fantasy, but it will not solve the deeply-rooted problems we all must face.

Kirk Rinaldi
Student

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.