

'Taking AIM' right on target

As students come back to campus this term they will notice something new. The banner across 13th Avenue reads differently than it usually does at the beginning of each term. Usually it announces a street fair or festival, but this term the event is more serious and pertinent.

The event is AIDS Information Month, known as "Taking AIM." It's a four-week-long campaign to help educate students about the disease, which by 1991 is projected to be the leading cause of death among college students.

Student, university and community groups are joining together to help spread the word about AIDS. The program they have put together is comprehensive, diverse and well-organized. There are posters and event information all over campus, it is obvious that this is not just another one of "those awareness months—" this is something special.

Those who planned the event seem to have brought as many different forms of artistic expression into the activities as possible. There will be art displays, theater performances, musical performances and even a quilt-making project to commemorate the loss of those who have died from AIDS.

The scope of the program itself shows how concerned and involved so many people already are.

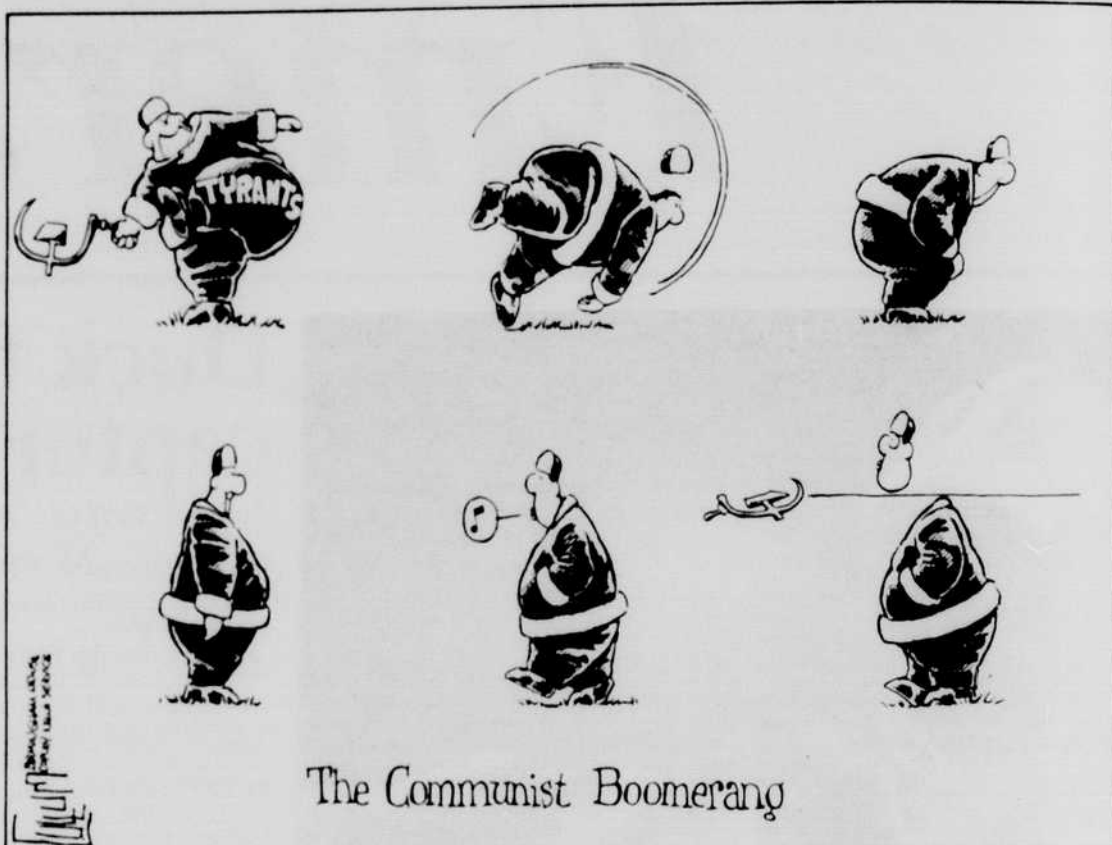
The main thrust of the program is to offer the most current and up-to-date information available on the HIV virus, and to break down and combat the ignorance and apathy that has built up around AIDS.

College students often feel that AIDS does not affect them, that they cannot get it — but this is untrue. Most college students are sexually active and statistics show that a majority of them do not use contraceptives, even condoms.

As the number of AIDS cases grows, the myth of "high-risk groups" is being quickly destroyed. This labeling practice has caused unnecessary and ignorant discrimination against people in these groups.

Take advantage of all the informational and educational opportunities that will be made available to you this month. Most events are free, so bring a friend. It is only through education and sharing of information that we can stop the spread of AIDS.

Show your support for "Taking AIM" by attending today's 3:30 p.m. rally in the EMU Courtyard.



The Communist Boomerang

Rogers' accusations on Rust unnecessary

As things stand right now, Jerry Rust's support on the Lane County Board of Commissioners has dwindled to just one member — himself.

Last week, Rust was ready to receive the chairman position. It is the custom in county politics to pass the title in a rotation, avoiding political posturing and allowing each of the five districts to have a chance to be represented by a chairman.

This year, it was Rust's turn to have the gavel. His official appointment was supposed to be only a formality. Instead, Bill Rogers shocked everyone by announcing he would not vote for Rust.

Rogers claimed Rust was not mainstream enough to represent the entire council, and he hasn't been a good enough commissioner to warrant being chairman. Both are serious allegations, with little or no supporting evidence.

That Rust is left-of-center is by no means

a secret. In his 13-year tenure on the board, (which includes two chairmanships), Rust has been consistent on following the liberal line. It is what his constituency wanted, as they have returned him to office.

Rogers' announcement could have turned into a full-fledged political battle — splitting the council — had it not been for Rust. Instead of fighting Rogers, Rust quietly took the vice chairman post and joined the other four commissioners in making Rogers a unanimous choice to succeed outgoing chairman Steve Cornacchia.

Since Rogers is in his last year on the board, Rust was smart to try and make it as peaceful a year as possible.

The chairman position is mostly a ceremonial post, so Rogers' motive for denying Rust is a questionable one. Rogers said Rust would use the chairman post to further his "liberal agenda." Conversely, does that mean it's acceptable for Rogers to use the post to further his conservative one?

Letters

Intolerance

'Tis the season for cultural intolerance in our public institution. The ideals of secularization, creating separations between church and state, fall victim to the inbred, inculturated ignorance and intolerance toward non-Christian peoples.

1) The daily calendar of events for the University displayed Christmas trees laden with decorations and presents.

2) The EMU Craft Center sponsored a "Christmas Fair" which conveniently, however benevolently or unintentionally, inhibits non-Christians from participating or attending. The end result — exclusion.

3) The University Bookstore had a gilded, decorated Christmas tree, and piped-in Christmas music in the second floor book department. Is this supposed to make me want to buy books? On the contrary, it makes me feel oppressed.

Celebrating Christmas is a wonderful thing, which brings light, warmth and love. However, it's not a University celebration, and to treat the society as a whole as co-celebrators completely ignores our identities.

When my phone company

wished me a "Merry Christmas" four weeks before the holiday, I then understood the nationalization of this holiday; its smothering qualities suffocating the diversity of our society because people don't know to think that maybe everyone isn't the same.

People don't think that I could possibly be any different, or that I have difficulties when my own culture is erased through ignorance and non-recognition. It's similar to the feeling a woman might get when she hears the terms "man-kind," or "history."

Hanukkah is not Jewish Christmas — I'll pass on the presents, but I'll see the beauty in your celebrations.

Jonah Bookstein
Student

Public response

To Stephen McGough, Director, University Museum of Art.

I am writing in response to your decision that the University Museum of Art not participate in "A Day Without Art" (Dec. 1, 1989), in which 600 arts institutions throughout the country darkened their galleries and temporarily removed or covered artworks in support of

a national day of mourning and action.

The director of education at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Phillip Yenawine, organized the day "... to use the prestige and credibility of cultural institutions to dramatically call attention to how widespread and serious the problem is."

In regard to this issue, you responded (*ODE*, Nov. 30) that the action "was not directly a statement about art, and there wasn't a purpose served by covering up a piece of art." I am disappointed in your decision, which I believe was made without enough information, a lack of concern regarding AIDS in the art community and in the world, or because you have in mind another act in support of AIDS action and acknowledgment of AIDS.

I am requesting a public response (in the *ODE*) to this letter, which will also discuss how the University Museum of Art will respond to AIDS.

Laurel Sharp
Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Statistics

This letter is in response to

the statistics in the Dec. 3 *Oregonian* "Harper's Review" excerpt. This article states that 52 percent of Americans are in favor of search and seizure without a warrant in matters concerning drugs.

So far in the war on drugs, our leaders have busted grow light retailers, students with Pell Grants and "head shops" (which also distribute liberal and underground literature).

We now have an epidemic crack/cocaine problem, a president who has been implicated in cocaine trafficking, and a lot of trouble for liberals and pot smokers.

What is the next logical step? To our "current administration," it seems to be a suspension of our Bill of Rights, and the majority of people are willing to accept this.

There must be something wrong when "we" try to add an amendment to protect the flag from being burned, and take away an amendment that protects people's rights.

Suspension of the Bill of Rights opens the door to harassment of those with different viewpoints, and suppression of alternative ideas needed for a troubled world. Let's get real.

Let's protect our rights.

Kirk Rinaldi
Student

Can't afford it

I had a sinking feeling the Student Health Insurance Committee was going to advocate mandatory insurance. Nobody from the committee has been quoted as indicating they had sought cheaper companies, although that would seem to be the natural reaction to raising rates.

A local Oregon company was selling cheaper health insurance door to door, so I know it exists. You can't call The Prudential's claim system "user friendly," so that isn't a selling point.

Maybe they're the only company who will deal with student-run health systems. Maybe having students in charge of the health insurance isn't such a great idea. They don't seem to have enough time to do a good job at it.

I can't afford to get sick now. Next year, I probably won't be able to afford to stay well, either.

Gary Jensen
Graduate