

New requirements a good first step

Beginning this fall, all entering freshmen or transfer students must complete a race, gender or non-European-American course requirement.

All bachelor's degree students, including those who have received associate of arts degrees, must earn three credits in an approved course involving one of the above areas.

The policy is an excellent one. With racial injustices and gender inequalities evident all over the world, the best place to start is right at home.

Students must realize that their paths will inevitably cross with someone with a different cultural background. For example, their future boss may be non-white or female. An unsettling thought for many students.

Too often the only way different cultures react with one another is through confrontational incidents. The attitudes manifested in these random acts of violence begin with cultural misunderstanding.

This misunderstanding can best be eliminated by learning about others. But learning about and interacting with other cultures are two different processes.

Since this is a university, the classroom is the first step. But it is far from the final one.

Most classes that satisfy the credits of the new requirement are specified anthropology, history, and art history classes, but the list includes a dose of ethnic studies, international studies and political science classes, among others.

The University needs to be serious on this issue. The harassment of citizens because of race, color, religion or sexual orientation is on the rise. But can tolerance be taught in the classroom?

Not likely. Students can gather in a classroom for an hour three days a week, but you can't make them learn.

History and anthropology classes can introduce students to foreign cultures, but how much of an impact will it really have? The University administration, the media and elected officials remain dominated by white Europeans.

Most students are still unaware of the new regulation. It's just another class to take and pass to fulfill educational requirements.

The University is trying to encourage students to think about what goes on around them. It's a beginning step in a long process.



Brad contemplates his cultural diversity term project: "Heineken vs. Corona."

Zero tolerance will produce zero results

The new zero-tolerance policy adopted this year for the University residence halls has the potential to cause more problems than it will solve.

The policy mandates that students under 21 or those caught drinking in "party" situations will no longer receive warnings from their resident assistants. Instead, they will immediately be sent to the Office of Student Conduct. The most obvious problem with this no-party policy is that the term "party" is not defined. Leaving this up to the individual RA's judgment will lead to inconsistent and unfair enforcement.

University Housing is under pressure from the federal government to implement this new zero-tolerance policy. The University, along with other institutions receiving federal funding, could have funds pulled if it does not comply.

Once again, the federal government is, in effect, blackmailing these institutions into

complying with a sweeping policy that leaves no room for the diverse concerns of individual institutions.

While younger students have always had to find ways to get around the laws, students who are over 21 and have the legal right to drink should not get caught in the zero-tolerance net.

Students who wish to exercise their legal right to drink, and those who will drink illegally, will have to leave campus to do so. So far this has not created any problems. During nice weather conditions, many students have been walking to off-campus parties and bars. But when the inevitable rain sets in, those students will begin using automobiles. The zero-tolerance policy will add to the number of drunken drivers on the road.

While Housing has few options other than to comply with the federal mandate, it should stress to the government that this new policy is a burden rather than a help.

LETTERS

Tax money

Yes! on Measure 11. Your children deserve the best, and you deserve a choice.

You say you don't have children yet? I can share my experience at the hands of the public school system.

I have three sons, and I am a modest homeowner. My first son spent his first three years learning bad habits, attitudes and a failure cycle in public schools. His last three years at a Christian school have been years of struggle, sweat and tears — overcoming that destructive start. But yea, we did it. He now feels he's a success in the 6th grade. He's finally working at the same level as his peers.

My second son started with the same public school disadvantage and is now in the third grade at Emerald Junior Academy. He is involved with that painful, same long struggle. Yes, he will eventually succeed. (He has a very determined mother.)

My third son started his education in his Christian school. What a joy to see him fly through the first grade. How

can I afford to support two school systems? I support both the excellent Christian school with the high standards and a loving, supportive staff and a useless, academically dead public school system.

Believe me I do want my tax money to support the school that works so beautifully for my family.

Arik, my oldest, was exposed recently to public school students at his grade level. His joyful comment was, "If I was back in public school I would be an A student! It's so easy." I replied, "That's exactly why you're at EJA and you know it."

Carol Graham
Psychology

Elect Dix

Eugene National Abortion Rights Action League has endorsed David Dix in the race for District 41 because he is the only candidate who has taken a strong pro-choice stand on the issue of abortion.

David Dix has not wavered in his belief that government has no place in a woman's difficult decision to have an abortion.

He understands that this is a decision for a woman, her family and her doctor — not the government.

The recent Webster Supreme Court decision gives state legislatures the power to restrict women's freedom to choose. It opens the door for the Oregon Legislature to interfere in our private lives.

As a state representative, David Dix has and will continue to fight for our right to choose. He has pledged to keep those difficult decisions where they belong — with the individual.

Please join us in supporting the only candidate in District 41 committed to protecting a woman's right to choose.

Vote for David Dix as our state representative.

Catherine Piercy
Eugene NARAL Chairwoman

Attacks

Two attacks on Christianity appeared in one *Emerald* issue (ODE, Oct. 4). The first, Bert Tryba's "Two plus two," displayed the typically antagonistic tone of Tryba's often printed slurs.

However, this year Tryba has given me a glimmer of hope — hope that he has exhausted his creativity. Only 20 percent of the letter is Tryba's progeny, and what little he spawned is ludicrous. Only men incapable of faith can be so spiteful toward others who find solace in it. A good humanist should be less resentful.

The other attack, "Celibacy," is not as bellicose as Tryba's. Yet, Catherine Desmond exercises flawed logic. One cannot arbitrarily attribute the frequency of molestation in the priesthood to celibacy.

Most men entering the seminary already have sexual hang-ups. Abolishing celibacy will not flush out filth. Whether the Judaism of Christ's time disdained bachelorhood is irrelevant. Jesus expected his disciples to follow him, to give up their old lives. Of priests, we expect the same sacrifice of the flesh.

Desmond is really arguing against the official church teachings on birth control, divorce and obedience. Celibacy

is the sideshow meant to lure the gullible.

Anthony Cracolice
Eugene

Memory

Lynn Bond, who had worked as a custodian for many years in Allen Hall until he retired in 1970, passed away Sept. 22 at Ivorena Nursing Home.

If you could somehow mention this in your paper so that his many friends associated with the University could be informed.

As per his wishes he was cremated and no memorial was held. Anyone who would like to send anything in his memory can please send it to Buckley House, 605 W. 4th, Eugene, OR 97402.

I did not know any of his University friends and there was no address book in his personal effects. Thank you very much for any consideration you may be able to give this.

William R. Bond
Springfield

Thursday, October 11, 1990