

## Teacher apologizes, as should students

Should law instructor Greg Johnson have to apologize for discussing his homosexuality in class? He already has.

An undisclosed number of students complained to the administration because Johnson made personal statements regarding his homosexuality in his legal research and writing class on National Coming Out Day.

Although the class was discussing a law case that concerned right-to-privacy and its application to gays and lesbians, complaints were lodged because Johnson brought up his own homosexuality, which has no technical bearing in the case.

To us, this appears to be a case of homophobia.

We agree that instructors should stick to class topics. But how often have instructors strayed off the topic a little to relate real-life experiences?

Would anyone have complained if an instructor reminisced about experiences in Vietnam on Veteran's Day? Would anyone complain about an instructor that talked about civil rights on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday?

We seriously doubt it. Instructors relay anecdotes all the time about situations and instances they incur during their teaching lives. Quite often they prove enlightening.

But Johnson's "mistake" was to state he is gay. He admits the last fifteen minutes of his Oct. 11 class did not specifically relate to the subject matter. But Johnson said that his "desire was to make the basic principals of LRW come alive by using a very controversial case."

Johnson believes the class is better off knowing he is gay. And many students told Johnson that they found his discussion in class on Oct. 11 to be very worthwhile.

The complaints stated that Johnson "held them captive" with his own "agenda." It's too bad the objecting students didn't approach Johnson with their concerns first. For that they owe him an apology.

University President Myles Brand has asked the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity to conduct a review of discrimination issues raised at the law school. Johnson has not been disciplined and will be teaching here next year.

At least the issue is out in the open. It's time for the law school to set aside class time and discuss gay and lesbian concerns, among other matters.



## Pentagon should foot bill at Hanford

Although the Hanford nuclear weapons production site has been the cause of concern for scientists and environmentalists for some time, the release of information that had been kept secret for more than a decade has raised the controversy over the plant's safety to new heights.

For the past 10 years, one of the million-gallon tanks housing radioactive waste has been belching out pockets of hydrogen every 80 to 109 days. While experts say the hydrogen build-up is a chemical reaction inside the tank, they do not know the exact cause. They also don't know how to cure the problem.

Tank 101-SY is apparently not the only storage tank that is plagued by the problem, though it is by far the worst. It is also believed that 66 other single-shelled cauldrons may be leaking their contents into the ground.

Warnings about the waste storage policies have been coming since 1948, but have been ignored until now. In the Cold-War years, the need for weapons fuel outweighed safety concerns. Now those attitudes of complacency are slowly beginning to change.

With the end of the Cold War and the dwindling need for massive nuclear arsenals, it is time for the Defense Department to clean up its mess. The billions of dollars needed to clean up Hanford and other sites should come from the Pentagon's budget.

Because there is no longer a need to spend large chunks of the nation's wealth on non-productive nuclear weapons, the money should be diverted into cleaning up the danger of the weapon byproducts.

We no longer have to worry about defending the country from the red menace. Now the biggest threat to the safety of Americans is our own ignorance.

## LETTERS

### In the dumps

How unfortunate and how sad that most of the environmental ballot measures nationwide were defeated this last election.

What are the reasons? For the corporations that raised millions to defeat the measures the reason was obviously bottom-line greed.

What about everyday people? The people who got all excited on Earth Day, blew a few whistles and bought recycled party hats for their kids.

What about the people who, like lemmings rushing into the sea, collectively showed huge shifts in the polls every time a

slickly produced 60-second spot was shown on television.

Commercials were very often sponsored by out-of-state corporations. Hitler would have had a field day propagandizing this bunch. Until people begin to do a little research on these issues, our position can be seen as no less than gullible.

Measures that ban certain carcinogenic pesticides, or promote the purchase of recycled materials when our landfills are overflowing, are not extreme. A little preventative action at Hanford decades ago could have saved \$200 billion in cleanup. Of course, there's that inconvenience thing again.

Many of these environmental

ballot measures reflected a change in cultural attitude. A shift away from the take, rape, utilize, throw-away and move-on kind of thinking. A bizarre and strange concept called stewardship of our land and resources.

What will future generations think of our country? Among other things, amazement at its technological breakthroughs, and a measure of rage aimed at the everyday people who, when given the opportunity at the ballot box, did nothing to prevent a ravaged world ecosystem.

Gerry Rempel  
Eugene

tion, and only at the end of the term after they had seen his grades. He worked summers as a janitor to pay for school.

The autopsy on Garret showed a minute amount of cocaine (almost immeasurable), which is proportional to the amount he used it; very rarely. However, Garret had a heart irregularity and this along with strenuous exercise (two hours of full-court basketball), and the trace amount of cocaine in his system caused the cardiac arrest.

In slandering Garret, and blaming the Greek system for Dan Williams' unfair and un-

just decision, Loew was guilty of her own style of "bigoted ignorance." There are hundreds of Greeks who are against Williams' decision. Attacking the Greeks is a waste of energy which should be channeled into letters to Williams, State senators, State representatives and into circulating petitions.

If anyone wants to help, call the Grateful For The Dead Committee at 343-7858, and ask for Bo.

Let the dead rest, and let the Dead return.

Jeffrey Oswald  
Student

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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 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.

### False picture

While reading Michelle E. Loew's letter (*ODE*, Nov. 12) I nearly became sick. She paints a picture of an "obnoxious" fraternity boy with "too much money" who snorted "a good portion" up his nose. I met Garret Hughes (not Bennett) when he was in the fifth grade, and it is obvious to me that Loew never met him and knows nothing about how his family worked.

His parents paid only for tui-

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