

EDITORIAL

Covert tactics hurt unified peace effort

Thursday, a group of University students calling themselves "Students Concerned About the Reinstatement of the Evil Draft" printed and distributed 5,000 flyers about the United States' draft policy.

The flyers included information about the Selective Service System and the draft lottery and gave phone numbers to call for more information. The phone numbers turned out to be for University President Myles Brand and the *Emerald*. An unsigned letter dropped off at the *Emerald* later in the day contained story ideas and information SCARED believed would be important to students.

The same day in Binghamton, N.Y., a group of students called "Looking Left" printed a fake edition of the school newspaper carrying a headline proclaiming "U.S. invades Iraq."

In both cases the groups claimed they wanted to increase public awareness of the possibility of war and the draft. While the aim of these students is noble, their means of attainment are not the most productive.

The reason the threat of a war in the Persian Gulf exists in the first place is because instead of communicating with each other, leaders of the United States and Iraq are intent on making grandstanding gestures.

Now, on the home war/anti-war front, a few of the more radical anti-war groups want to educate people about the threat of war. They do not do this by discussing their views with policymakers, administrators, editors and others who would most likely be interested in their ideas. Instead they prefer to alienate a large part of the population by launching grandstanding campaigns that emphasize shock value.

Now is not the time for polarization and picking sides. The American mainstream seems to have strong reservations about starting a war in the Middle East. Why break down that opposition by turning the effort into a radicals-against-the-rest struggle? Work with people. Alienation through shocks or trickery will not foster unity in an effective anti-war movement.

It was the loss of mainstream support after the Tet Offensive that led to the end of the Vietnam War. The average citizen was not inspired to oppose the Vietnam War by bombings of ROTC offices. Average citizens changed their minds when Tet proved the Vietnam War was not being won as the government claimed. And when mainstream support disappeared, political initiative did as well.

Don't alienate the mainstream from the anti-war movement. It only weakens the cause.



The college entrance exam of the 1990s

It's Christmas time again. And each year it gets harder and harder to find reasons to be joyful and triumphant.

If we are truly living in a post-Cold War world, why are 400,000 American troops going to spend Christmas in the Middle East?

If AT&T and Sprint have all these amazing communication systems, why do countries still talk to each other through the barrel of a gun?

If President Bush is going to deliver us a kinder and gentler nation, why are the biggest selling toys for boys still G.I. Joes, along with those obnoxious pistol-toting turtles?

If we rant and rave about how crooked and evil our elected representatives are, why do we keep returning them to Congress?

If the liberal arts are steadily phased out of academic programs, will they be replaced by the conservative arts?

If the government can bail out Chrysler and the savings and loan industry, why can't it bail out the homeless and the hungry?

If George Bush becomes incapacitated, will Dan Quayle really know what to do?

If we really believe in a free press, why are the media owned by so few people, or rather, by so few corporations?

If advertisements and commercials induce us to act a particular way, why are "peace on earth" messages broadcast only one month out of every year?

If the customer always comes first, why are students always heard last?

If some bicyclists on campus are allowed to disobey the law and almost run people over, why can't pedestrians clothesline those who do?

If white men have been ruling this country for 400 years, and we're trillions of dollars in debt and on the verge of a war, isn't it time we give women and minorities a chance to govern?

If Santa Claus discussed Legos while teaching his elves to make Lincoln Logs, would he be told to read a letter of apology?

Happy Holidays.

LETTERS

No comment

The University's central administration will not comment on discrimination issues raised recently at the law school while the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity review is in progress.

It is important to re-emphasize this point at this time because of the publication of a paid advertisement in the *Emerald*, Dec. 4.

It is unfair to all concerned parties to pre-judge the situation before all the facts have been gathered. It also is not appropriate to comment on possible outcomes of the review because matters of principle, such as academic freedom, and issues affecting people's reputations and careers are involved.

For these reasons, it is our belief that the advertisement placed by the Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Concerns preempted the process. The views expressed in that advertisement do not necessarily coincide with any conclusions that may be reached or actions that may be taken as a result of the Affirmative Action office's re-

view.

Norman K. Wessells
Vice President for
Academic Affairs
and Provost

Not productive

Recently I received a note from the ASUO suggestion box — which, in case you would like to know, is located just outside of EMU Suite 4.

I encourage you to use this box as it tells the student government what you, the interested student, has to say about our performance and where or if we can improve.

The note in the suggestion box conveyed a very strong message which I would like to share with the University community: "Let's get the serious money decisions out of the hands of -S?*& 18-year olds."

If you don't know it already, the Incidental Fee Committee decides what and where your money will be spent each year.

Every term you pay close to \$100 in IFC fees, so it is easy to see why this person was upset. When you talk about money

this can and does happen.

However, I would like to suggest to whoever wrote this little note — and you know who you are — that next time you try more constructive criticism.

If you've got a complaint then come talk to me in person or attend the meetings — they are open to the public. If you want us to take your criticism seriously then please be serious, too.

Michael S. Colson
Chairman, IFC

Irresponsible use

Has this great, civilized society finally evolved to the point where it is vogue, expedient and enlightening for our instructors of higher education to have a discourse in their classroom on their sexual orientation.

Dean Holland is being zealously criticized for taking steps to assure that this irresponsible use of classroom time is discontinued.

In Dean Holland's defense,

the classroom, be it in pre-school or a college institution, is not an appropriate medium for the instructor to vent his or her or its sexual preference, be it heterosexual, homosexual or any other sexual orientation.

Lee J. Garber
Elmira

Incorporate

Animal rights, Animal rights, mentally ill people's rights, children's rights, women's rights, minority people's rights, fetuses' rights, differently-abled people's rights, "dif-

ferent" people's rights (homosexuals, short people, non-Western thinkers, non-Christians, never-married people, virgins, not-at-all virgins, idealists ...), poor people's rights, elderly people's rights, workers' rights and criminals' rights.

What is this world coming to? The next thing you know, instead of taking a special class in ethics, people will be incorporating concern with ethical issues into their real, everyday lives.

Alice Berry
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily 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.