

Findings must lead to concrete actions

The official report regarding Instructor Greg Johnson and the law school was released over the holiday break, and the findings were predictably ambiguous.

Johnson disclosed his homosexuality to his classes during National Coming Out Day in October. He also apparently took about 15 minutes to read a poem that did not relate to his class subject.

While the report clears the law school of any official wrongdoing, it cites law school Dean Maurice Holland, Associate Dean Chapin Clark and Johnson's supervisor, Professor Mary Lawrence as being insensitive to gay and lesbian issues.

A number of students complained to the law school that Johnson's statements were inappropriate during class time. Perhaps they were, but the incident does raise a relevant and pertinent question regarding gays and lesbians.

While traditionally discriminated-against groups such as ethnic minorities, physically disabled people, and women are all normally distinguishable by physical appearance, gay and lesbians are not. Therefore, the only way for a gay person to let others know is to tell them.

The ambiguity in the report is that it says both sides acted inappropriately. But the good news is important questions such as gay and lesbian rights, and academic freedom, have been brought to the forefront of the University.

President Myles Brand appears dedicated to improving the campus environment for gays and lesbians. He plans to work closely with the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity to achieve these goals.

But there needs to be an avenue for gay instructors to inform their students if they so choose. It's important for instructors to relate to students on a personal level whenever possible, and if revealing their homosexuality will enable the instructor to feel more comfortable with the class, so be it.

The University administration has said from the beginning that it is important for professors to cite personal experiences in teaching a class. Problems begin to arise only when a professor, and this is true for any issue and not just that of sexual orientation, carries the issue too far.

More than 25 years ago, a lot of white people didn't want blacks to assert pride or teach in classrooms, but rather have them be invisible. There are no current guidelines regarding instructors' rights to reveal their homosexuality on the campus. We encourage President Brand to establish a policy in this area so that instructors and students can feel comfortable with each other, and get on with the business of learning.



New contraceptive a welcome improvement

It sounds too good to be true. But the Norplant birth control method that was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in December will be available soon.

The Norplant method works by using the same principle as the birth control pill. Hormones are released into the body, preventing the woman from becoming pregnant. The main difference between Norplant and the pill is the way in which the hormones are released into the body.

Women using the pill have to take a tablet every day. With the Norplant method, six tiny matchstick-size capsules are implanted in the arm. The capsules release the hormones into the body.

The most positive part of the Norplant method is that the capsules last five years. This removes any possible mistakes, such as forgetting to take the daily pill. The method's manufacturers claim it is 99.8 percent foolproof.

The Norplant method also does not contain the hormone that causes some of the side affects that the pill does such as weight

gain. The only side affect that has been found in 20 years of research on the method is irregular bleeding for the first six months.

Of course, as with anything that sounds too good to be true, we'll have to wait to find out the long-term effects of Norplant use.

While the Norplant method of birth control must be paid for at the time the capsules are placed in the body, the long-term cost over the five years is actually cheaper than the daily pill.

The Norplant method will be especially useful for teen-aged girls, the group that most often suffers unwanted pregnancies because of birth control failures. The federal government has also approved the use of Norplant by welfare recipients. This will be good for low-income women who are looking for a reliable, safe and comparatively inexpensive form of birth control.

The FDA made the right decision when it approved the Norplant method. Now it is up to researchers to find a long-overdue birth control method, other than condoms, for the male of the human species.

Oregon DAILY EMERALD

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor Alice Wheeler	News Editor Catherine Hawley
Managing Editor Christopher Blair	Editorial Editor Pat Malach
Editorial Editor Rob Ward	Sports Editor Ashley Conklin
Politics Editor Joe Kidd	Entertainment Editor Layne Lakelish
Graphics Editor Sean Poston	Night Editor Christopher Blair
In Touch Editor Anna Rembecki	

Associate Editors
Community: Don Peters
Higher Education/Administration: Peter Cogswell

Reporters: Tammy Baley, Jake Berg, Brian Bloch, Rene De Cair, Carrie Dennett, Ming Rodrigues, June Russell, Daralyn Trappe, Bob Waite, Robert Weber

Photographers: Eric Evans, Andre Ranieri

Advertising: Kevin Austermann, Mark Brundage, Elaine Dexter, Kathy Endicott, Michael Gray, Becky Hom, Michelle Knapp, Jennifer Kosta, Nicole Leahy, Kirsten Lucas, Ken McBride, Stephen Mosley, Marla Newman, Lisa Richman, Mary Sanderson, Kathy Smith, Kristi Strother

Classified: Kelly McMichael, Adrienne Radcliffe, Janet Schober

Business: Gorman Chapman, Judy Connolly

Production: Jennifer Archer, Kathryn Barton, Mia Bertelsen, Alice Cannon, Lotus Child, Carol Dopp, Jim Finch, Corine Frier, Susan Head, Jennifer Huey, Linda Klaastad, Sheila Lorenzo, Jim Mason, Anna Rembecki, Don Ross, Jennifer Smith, Anne Stephenson, Jennifer Thomas, Hon Walker, Ingrid White, Todd Williams

General Staff
General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Susan Thelen
Production Manager: Michele Ross

Classified Manager: Peggy McGinn
Advertising Coordinator: Sandra Dailer

Accounts Receivable, Circulation, Newsroom	346-5511
Classified Advertising	346-4343
Display Advertising	346-3712
Production, Letter Perfect Graphics	346-4381

LETTERS

Sexist comic

Let's deconstruct Michael Russell's "Week With Daltry" (Hudson Van Curren) to show how it perpetuates some of the most insipid myths about unwanted sexual attention.

The problem is an individual one, not a symptom of greater inequalities in our society: "It's all the same guy."

The problem is less widespread than we think. Most men are innocent: "It's all the same guy." The recipient's response to the attention determines her fate (also known as blaming the victim): "Wrong. Say something noncommittal. 'Oh, uh...maybe...something.' Boing."

Women by themselves do not have enough authority to say no in a convincing manner: "Didn't having five of my male

friends pose as my exclusive snuggle squad give you a clue I wasn't interested?"

Unwanted sexual attention is a sexual act rather than a power play: "Recently, I've been pursued as a love object by a guy named Daltry."

It is a women's responsibility to discourage unwanted sexual attention, not the responsibility of men to modify their behavior: "These strips are meant to give women the tools to recognize and resist Daltryesque dorks."

My cartoons aren't always politically correct either, but at least they don't exploit unwanted sexual attention toward women for "comic" relief at a time when the University seeks to demonstrate its sensitivity to this issue.

Michelle Rau
 Office Specialist 1
 Anthropology

Book 'em

Well, once again the "Great Bookstore" has seen fit to join the ranks of false advertisers and the Emerald has allowed them to contribute.

Every term the bookstore ad promises that they will pay you one-half of the new student price for books needed next term.

Not up to one-half, or anything below, but one-half.

Each term as students sell back their books they end up getting one-tenth the price paid for a book, if they're lucky.

Hey, Emerald, don't you require some sort of advertising standard for your clients, namely that they live up to what they say?

Hans Mitchell
 Spanish/Political Science

Tuesday, January 8, 1991