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LETTERS

ion statements in Eugene are as diverse or alternative as New Kids on the Block fans.

These people claim to be fighting for human rights. Tim Hughes calls for a restrictive speech code while whining about his own inalienable, special interest rights.

Lesbian groups attempt to ban "objectionable" material from local bookstores. Students are coerced by their more politically astute professors to adopt a standardize set of "sensitive" vocabulary as one of many indoctrinating measures.

These stifling campus authoritarians assume the pretense of liberalism, but certainly their actions suggest totalitarianism in nature.

Ryan Blacketter
History/English

We were good

I had the pleasure recently of speaking to a class at the University on the Spanish Civil War and the *Emerald* carried an article about me in the Dec. 3 issue.

It was a fine and well-written article but I think I got the wrong message across to the writer at one point. I believe she did an excellent job of reporting and the fault is mine.

The sentence that bothers me is in the first column, "...he can now see that neither side was absolutely good or evil." I readily admit that the Republican army (my side) had its flaws — and what army doesn't — but there was a world of difference between the two sides.

The Republic was a democratically elected government fighting for its life. The rebellion and civil war to destroy

that democracy was supported by Hitler and Mussolini. No doubt there were atrocities committed on the Republic side — I never witnessed any — but they were few and opposed by the government and army, whereas on the Franco side, Republican sympathizers were rounded up and slaughtered as a matter of government policy.

Thousands were executed or died in Franco prisons after the war ended. The Republic depended on the support of the people, Franco won by superior arms and terror.

Yes, there was a big difference in the two sides. The Spanish Civil War has been called by historians the beginning of World War II. Our side lost; had it won, the millions of deaths that occurred later might possibly have been prevented.

I was also in the larger conflict of World War II, the last one our country has been in-

involved in that I felt I could support with a clear conscious. Even there, our government and army had some policies that we now regret: the army was segregated, Japanese citizens were thrown into concentration camps, more could have been done to save Jewish people in Europe from death camps.

You couldn't consider those flaws the equal of the gas chambers of Hitler. We were the "good," not the "evil."

Bob Reed
Seattle

Revolution

Timisoara, Vilnius.
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Erica Yungen
Psychology



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