

## EDITORIAL

### Actions, not words win battle with hate crimes

Several recent incidents of hate crime have given rise to a statement from the ASUO that it will not tolerate such acts. Also, a new group called the Racial Advocacy Group for Equality has been formed to address discrimination issues.

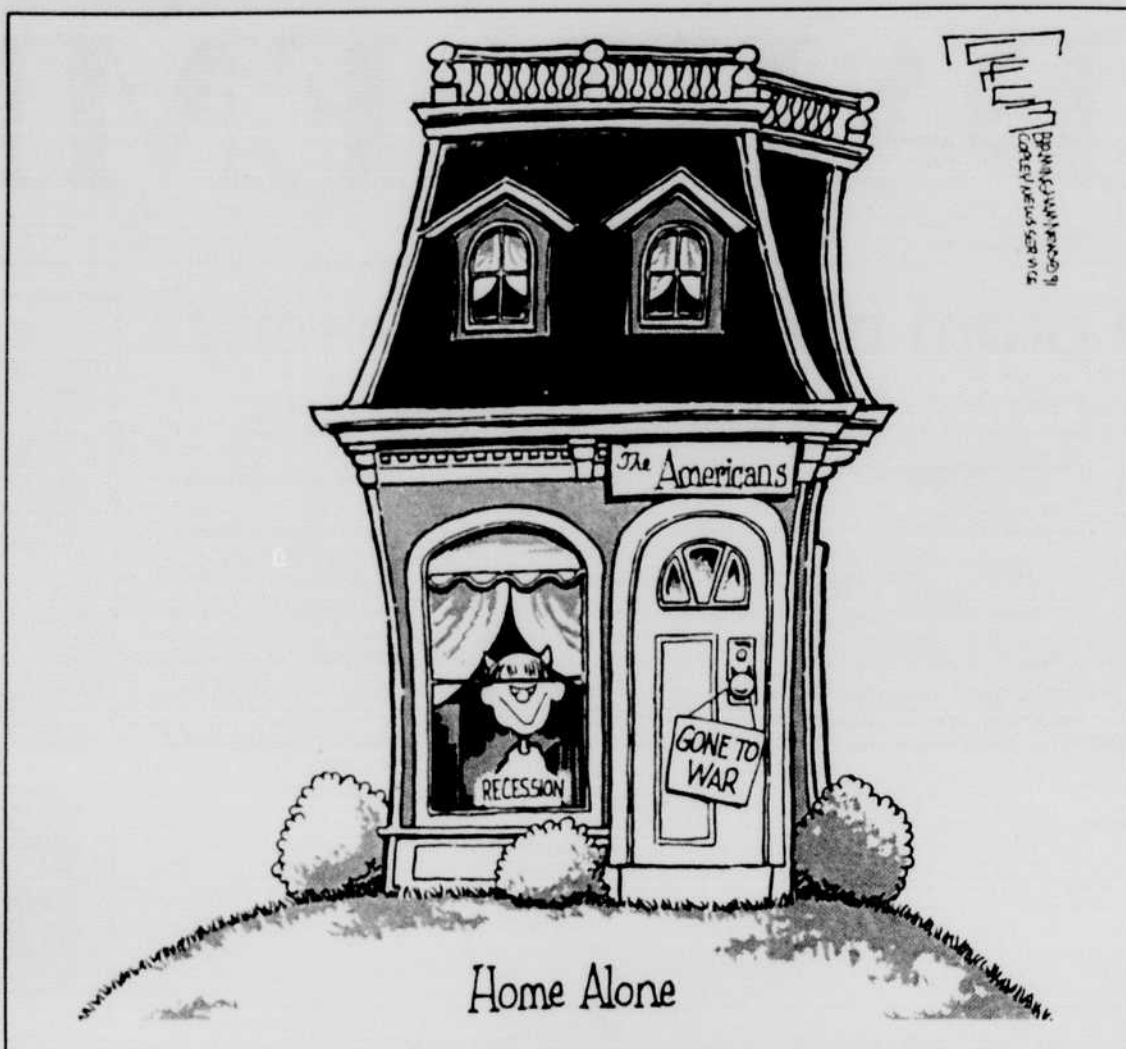
The ASUO should be applauded for taking such a strong stance on the issue. And RAGE can be an effective tool for giving students input into dealing with incidents of harassment and discrimination on campus.

However, taking strong stances by saying you will not tolerate something, and actually being able to do something about it, are worlds apart. Only time will tell if the ASUO's statement is going to be, or can be, backed up with actions.

RAGE also will face the same problem of backing up its strong words against hate crimes. RAGE should concentrate on informational forums and working with the media to bring specific cases of discrimination — institutional or personal — to the attention of the press and the community.

Many people who have never been victims of such ignorant actions do not understand the seriousness of them. Just like any other societal or personal problem, you need to identify it before any changes can be made. That is why specific cases of discrimination, harassment and bigotry must be brought to the public's attention.

Everyone on campus with knowledge of such crimes should report them immediately to the authorities or the ASUO.



## LETTERS

### Interested?

Are you really a Duck?

I am. I swim, I quack, I chuckle. I am lazy. I sunbathe. Sometimes I migrate. I know that I have no responsibility to anyone other than myself. I am American-bred, college-educated and pure-bred.

Sometimes I am a paddle duck — Drake Mallard. Sometimes I am a black duck. Other times I am a diving duck — bluebill, canvasback, goldeneye.

I really like those secluded country places — ponds, marshes, lakes, lake shores, bullrushes, lily pads, wildlife refuges and mountain marshes.

Do you know you really are a duck?

Hint: Ducks don't work all the time and are wild.

Eating is a top priority.

Life would be easier for me if I had others in my flock. Does this interest you? If it does, I am for now.

Donald Moody  
Eugene

### Reasonable

I was intrigued by your editorial concerning the law school (ODE, Feb. 13). I agree that "since the University has the only public law school in the state, it would be foolish to cut it completely." Below is my reasoning.

Law is a field which is vital to the maintenance of a free society. In so being, it is imperative that all members of that society have a voice in the creation and interpretation of the law. If just one class or section of society has these powers, then law can be used to enslave the others (as with apartheid).

With this in mind, the importance of having relatively inexpensive (public) law schools is clear. The study and practice of law must be open to as great a diversity of people as possible in order to assure that all interests will be addressed. This can only be accomplished through cost-accessible law schools.

Kyle B. Dukelow  
School of Law

### More than oil

In their letter to the editor (ODE, Feb. 14) Jim Bridge and Johnathan Bernstein are absolutely correct in asserting that this war is about more than oil.

Consider what might have happened had the United States given the economic sanctions a fair chance to work. According to the *World Fact Book, 1990* (published by our C.I.A.), in 1988 agriculture accounted for less than 10 percent of Iraq's gross national product. Iraq exported \$12.5 billion in crude oil and refined products, machinery, chemicals and dates. Iraq imported \$10.2 billion in manufactures and food. Iraq was deemed "not self-sufficient in food output."

Twelve percent of Iraq's land is arable, but only 4 percent of their land is irrigated. Since the early 1980s the government of Iraq has implemented austerity measures because of war expenditures.

Doesn't it seem likely that the economic sanctions would have worked? After all, an army cannot fight or operate without food. We would have seen a peaceful resolution to this conflict. And then what would we have done to justify our continued military build-up since the end of the Cold War? Do the pro-peace supporters realize how hard this has been for our last two presidents?

In a global economy it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a country such as Iraq to survive for very long when trade has been cut off. After all, it does take a lot of resources to maintain an army (like Hussein's). That is why President Bush had to act so quickly.

And I think that Bridge and Bernstein belong in the Persian Gulf right now. So do us a favor and go volunteer, guys.

Janet Borschowa  
Eugene

### Doesn't fit

The *Emerald's* letters policy states that "comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others." I'm writing because Meredith Kaplan's letter (ODE, Feb. 2) appears to violate this policy.

Kaplan accused Dr. Ron Wixman of the Geography Department of: "Academic dishonesty," "shoddy scholarship," a "soft belly" (perhaps this is a metaphor) and of being a "false expert." Is this the sort of correspondence the *Emerald* seeks when it asks writers to "refrain from personal attacks"?

Kaplan says "Wixman has never lived in the Middle East, does not speak a Middle Eastern language and has never published on the Middle East in a scholarly journal." To be factually accurate, Wixman has lived in Egypt, Morocco and Turkey. He speaks Turkish and has done scholarly research on Middle Eastern affairs.

I admit I'm not familiar with Wixman's publications. But how are they relevant? Are only those who've published allowed to speak at this university? More than 200 people felt Wixman had something worthwhile to say. Surely our judgment of his "expertise" has some value.

If Meredith Kaplan disagrees with what Wixman said on the causes of the conflict in the Middle East, I encourage the discussion and I would applaud the *Emerald's* decision to air that discussion. But printing a letter which seeks to defame is a disservice to the University community. I am deeply disturbed at the *Emerald's* decision.

Alan Rice Osborn  
GTF, Geography

### Don't be fooled

In their letter to the editor (ODE Feb. 14), Jonathan Bernstein and Jim Bridge conclude that it is ignorant of war protesters to believe that the Persian Gulf War revolves "around materialistic gains, such as oil, rather than a war for democracy and freedom."

To this, gentlemen, I would have to say that if you're looking for ignorance you need only to look at each other. Don't be fooled by the promises of democracy; instead stay with the promises of capitalism.

It's not you or I who decides if America goes to war or not; it's the upper class, that one percent of the population in the United States that has the key to the political gate. They are the "special interests" that tell the hounds what to do.

Oil fuels their money machine. Without it the process of the machine comes to a halt and their power position is in jeopardy. Do you think the upper class wants to lose their social status? I don't think so.

As far as your conclusions on world peace, whose world peace do you mean? Is it that "new world order" thing again, i.e. Bush's way of pacifying the world through his own brand of tyranny and suppression. Please, let us not forget Panama.

Lastly, to the question of freedom I would have to say, yes, I do believe in freedom. The kind of freedom that doesn't kill in the name of its political ideology or world peace.

Don't let patriotism or nationalism cloud your eyes or the issue.

Jay B. Johnson  
Sociology

### A guy like this

Why did Saddam Hussein think he could get away with invading Kuwait?

We knew that Iraq was having a border dispute with Kuwait and on July, 25, 1990, according to the *Seattle Times* (Jan. 16), Ambassador April Glaspie received the following written instructions from the secretary of state, approved by the president, to deliver the following message to Hussein: "We will not become involved in a border dispute with Kuwait and we take no position on this dispute." According to Ohio Representative Mary Rose Oakar, Glaspie is now incommunicado.

Why did President Bush give the green light to Hussein in July and then a few weeks later start calling him a "Hitler"? Was Hussein set up by Bush?

Now Bush wants the Emir of Kuwait restored to power (status quo ante). The Emir is not the American way of life — 70 wives, seven personal 747's, and sole owner of Kuwaiti Oil Company with half of the oil money going into his personal pocket.

Are America's sons and daughters to be sacrificed for a guy like this?

Alan Rhodes  
Willoughby, Ohio

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