

Bad gas

IFC one-year candidate William Gaskill's diatribe against the gay and lesbian, as well as the animal "rights" community, indicates that we, as students, have a lot to learn about each other if we are to coexist on this campus.

Although SETA may not, in fact, promote "basic cultural assimilation," our goals are deeply rooted in the open exchange of information and ideas.

Gaskill's apparent ignorance distorts the purpose of the IFC which is not, as he purports, to uphold the values of a "strong, free America." The role of the IFC is not to allocate ideologies, but rather to distribute fees to student programs. The IFC is a budgetary committee and not the supreme court of campus morality.

Gaskill proposes "zero-funding" for programs that do not conform to his ideas of homogeneity and cultural assimilation. This threatens to undermine issues of diversity and is detrimental to the academic freedom and self-determination of all students.

IFC positions represent student interests and should remain outside of the self-serving interests of certain candidates.

Todd Hausman
SETA

Dunlap/Seeley

In regards to the ASUO spring elections: I would like to make the point that not one of the candidates would make a poor leader. From the debates and interest meetings that I have attended, I have been impressed by the experience and charisma of every ticket.

I think that we sometimes get lost in the enormous amount of rhetoric surrounding issues; that we lose sight of what is most important — a solid ticket.

What I thought was most effective in the Bailey/Stickel administration approach was the teamwork approach. I know the Constitution Court has passed a ruling against co-presidencies, but I think candidates can still approach the ASUO as two strong executive officers even though their titles are president and vice president.

I see this same balanced ap-

proach in Dunlap/Seeley. Both of these candidates are strong as individuals and their cooperation makes them the most appealing ticket.

On April 24 and 25 I encourage you to vote for Dunlap/Seeley.

Renee Bertolina
Political Science

Don't blame prof

In the April 3 *Emerald* an article attacked Professor Hatzontonis for his planning of the Perugia program. The article neglected to state the cultural differences between Italy and the United States that may, instead, have been the cause of problems.

I studied and lived in Italy for a year and a half and have studied under Hatzontonis both in Italy and at the University. When students decide to study abroad they must take the responsibility of finding out what the program involves and be ready to face and accept changes from their customary lifestyle.

Italy is not America and should not be expected to have American values. This should not mean that we condemn the professors who are trying to offer a cultural experience to students.

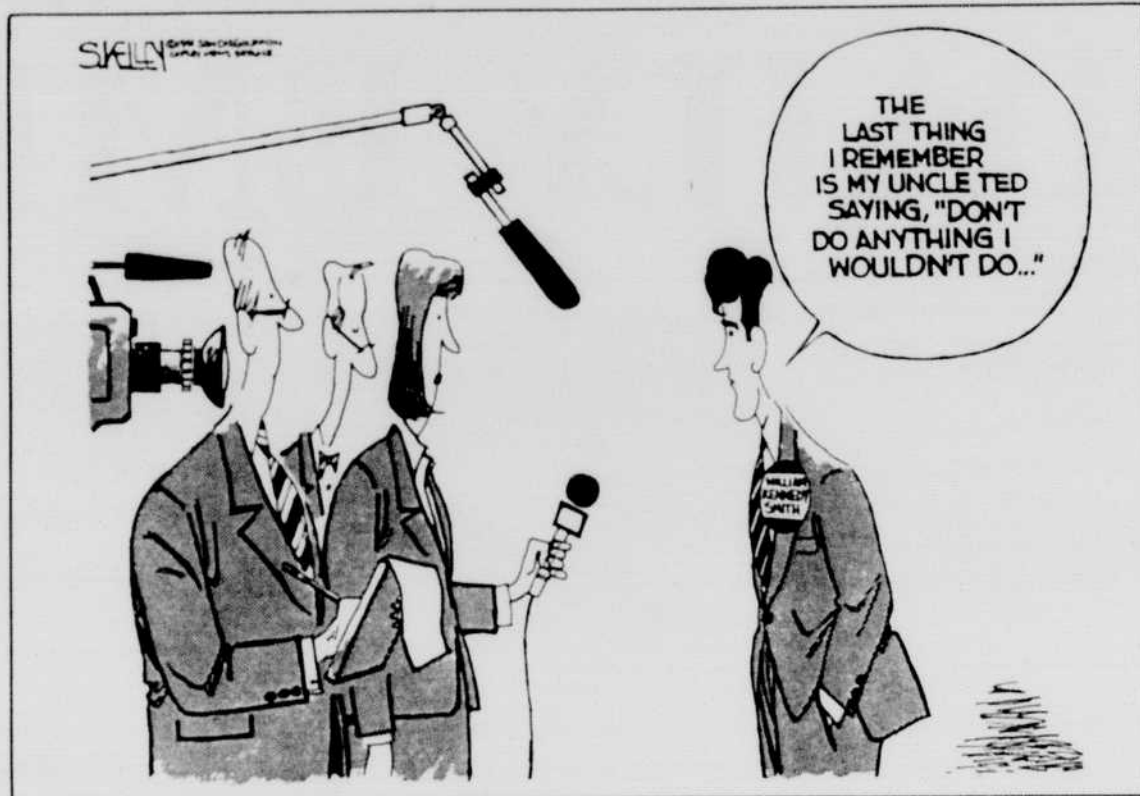
Italian schooling traditionally does not include daily assignments or examinations during the course. Americans studying in Italy have to study under the Italian standards.

Whether this type of study is better or worse is not the issue. The important thing is that a professor should not be blamed for the cultural differences.

Hatzontonis not only loves and works year-long for the Perugia program, he has dedicated over 20 years to it. He is more than willing to work with students on any complaints they may have, both academic and personal.

Although he is willing to take responsibility for students' complaints, he is not to blame for students' lack of responsibility in understanding the program, and for basic cultural differences.

Christine Bell
Journalism



Ethnocentric

In response to "Americans friendly, not friends" (*ODE*, April 4), and Naz Negishi.

The problems expressed by the international students are not unique to the American experience. All exchange students encounter these problems, whether you're an American in France, a Norwegian in Japan or a Chinese in Nigeria.

As exchange students and travelers, I and many of my friends also have experiences the same things that you have in your stay in America. That is, international students tend to hang out and it is often difficult to make friends with the natives.

I cannot deny that the United States is ethnocentric, but it is important to realize that all cultures are ultimately ethnocentric (though admittedly some more than others). An important step to overcoming these barriers is to realize that the problem is not unique to the country you are visiting, and that your experience is not unlike the experience of the foreign students in your own country.

On a more positive note I would like to thank the International Student Association for their efforts during Internation-

al Week. I would also like to know how I and others can get involved with the international students and activities on campus. I think that I have valuable experience to share with international students as I am sure other American students do.

Aaron Kilber
Arts and letters

Penetrating

Jon Wollander's link between homosexuals and pro-choice activists (*ODE*, April 4) is appalling. What is the relationship to Gay Pride Week?

I'm not gay but proudly support the homosexuals in our community. Gay Pride Week is not used to gain attention or to annoy the prejudiced but instead it is a fight for recognition and acceptance despite their minority beliefs.

Homosexuality is against the laws of nature? What laws of nature haven't we tried to change through science? One may also say nature never intended sex between the same sexes and our sexual organs are designed to accept the opposite sex. Your argument concludes that sex is used merely for reproduction. Yet, today the main aspect of sex is pleasure.

Women no longer need penetration, there's always artificial insemination from willing donors.

Homosexuals are already discriminated against without bringing up their personal views. How does Wollander assume that abortions are favored more by homosexuals and women than by men? What he fails to say is that women support abortions more often because it is women who go through the physical dilemma. Homosexuals somehow recognize this.

What responsibility do women have to keep an unwanted, unborn child? If these groups are anti-christian why would they rather send a baby to heaven than give birth to future abuse?

Family does not necessarily mean men and women living together. Wollander concludes homosexuality to be an assault on the family. Explain the divorce rate. Clearly there are more problems with divorce than homosexuality within the families. Homosexuals: Be proud, happy and never give up the fight for your lifestyle.

Christie Nichols
Eugene

FORUM

Popularity contests in student elections must end

By Mike Colson

It's nice to know the campus never changes. Around election time a small group of individuals continues to control and manipulate elections through coercion, threats and misinformation.

Commentary

These political "elitists" first resort to mudslinging — and now they have gone further and used a kangaroo court process in complete violation of constitutional rights and simple fairness in attempts to politically intimidate those of us who are not politically correct like they want us to be.

As your elected representative on the Incidental Fee Committees I have asked tough questions this year. I have rocked the boat. No longer is the IFC a mere

"rubber stamp" body handing out your \$100 a term without justification. I have worked to save you money this year. Because I have gone after waste that rips off students I have had to take a hard look at the special interest groups that line up at the student fee trough to take your money.

These special interest want your money with no questions asked. With Ballot Measure 5 hitting all of us in the pocket-books on campus — \$200 surcharges and tuition hikes — student fees cannot afford to go up any more.

Your fees, which have gone up 42 percent in the last four years, will go up unless across-the-line vetoes occur by the student body president. We lost almost \$500,000 in income this year; yet, the IFC has not cut budgets this year. This means you will pay more and you can thank your student government for

charging you some of the highest student fees in the nation.

The bottom line here is simple: I have stood up for fiscal restraint in hopes of doing my small part to make your education affordable and accessible. If your student government can't act responsibly and hold off charging you more money, do you think the state Legislature will? The answer is probably no. If we can't get our own "house" in order here on this campus who will do it for us?

There are many popular things that are not right. There are also many things that are right but not popular. This election is not about personality contests. It is about policy consequences and how these policies will affect the lifestyles of everyone on this campus. Popularity contests in government must end. Much like the federal govern-

ment's inaction on the budget deficit and savings and loan problem, our student government must put the political considerations aside and get down to business.

I have taken some unpopular stands on this campus in regards to special interest groups and I have been made party to untrue accusations and lies as punishment for it. Yet, if I had it to do all over again, I would choose to take the same path. It is a matter of standing up for what is right and that means saving students money by preventing special interests from ripping off students. This election will be decided by you and the student body. You alone have the power to right the wrongs. Vote on April 24 and 25.

Mike Colson is an ASUO presidential candidate.