

EDITORIAL

Morales

Finn John wrote, "Who the hell is Morales?" when he knows very well who Morales is. John, along with Ed Carson, came up with these letters to confuse students on the facts concerning Mike Colson.

The fact is that "(Colson) was found responsible for altering committee minutes from a Jan. 31 meeting" (ODE, May 9). The fact is that Colson has been accused of carrying a gun on campus even though OPS members aren't allowed to carry one, just as police cadets aren't allowed to carry a gun on campus.

Finn John also wrote that "the IFC has been deadlocked by the vote of the entire IFC committee."

Of course Morales shouldn't sit at the same table as Colson, the man who has been accused of altering minutes and has appeared to change his "story" after being more closely questioned. And we're all getting tired of hearing about the petitions he's filing.

The only thing Colson is sure of is "What I consistently told these guys is that I can't be sure of anything." (ODE, May 9.)

Alex Peterson
Telecommunications

Apathy

I'll tell you why apathy is king around here. People are sick and tired of listening to issues get blown out of proportion. Let me supply an example of an important issue.

Each time the space shuttle takes off it releases 10-billion

cubic tons of ozone-eating material which destroys 25 percent of the ozone layer. This is as much as a fluorocarbon-producing factory gives off in a year.

Currently, shuttle flights are responsible for 10 percent of total ozone layer damage. It will only take 300 more shuttle flights to completely destroy the ozone. Pretty soon there won't be anymore trees, women, homosexuals, minorities, animals, or anything else for that matter.

Yes, this is certainly an enlightened, aware, and politically correct campus. We would sooner bitch about a few trees being cut down or squabble over someone's integrity than truly do something about a problem that is going to kill us all and that the government is allowing to continue. That is political correctness in the truest sense.

By the way, two shuttle flights were launched last month. Unless we do something about this, we are all going to fry.

Erin Shafer
Pre-engineering

Not Quayle-ified

The editorial cartoon (ODE, May 13) of Dan Quayle's move into the White House causing mass heart attacks would be funny, except it overlooks the method in the GOP's madness.

Just as the media and the public began to take seriously charges that George Bush sabotaged the rescue of hostages in Iran, the president had a trans-



parently fake attack of heart flutters. That, in turn, caused similar symptoms in an electorate stunned by the possibility of Quayle succeeding to the Oval Office.

We're late with concern over substandard nominees. Granted, as president Quayle would be a threat to our democratic system; but no more so than Bush already is, and that Ronald Reagan was before him.

An administration that depends on lies and propaganda to brainwash the public isn't above staging a fake heart con-

dition to once again divert attention from presidential corruption.

It's apparent that Quayle — as a frightening diversion —

now plays the very role that caused his party to nominate him.

George Beres
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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.

FORUM

Hate flier investigation turns tables on harassment

By Kristen Hammerstad
and Sue Dockstader

University President Myles Brand would like to have you believe that he will not tolerate discrimination on this campus. According to Elaine Green, student conduct coordinator, and Carey Drayton, director of the Office of Public Safety, (Commentary ODE, May 6), Brand has "called on each student, faculty or staff member not only to desist personally from making discriminatory comments and taking such actions but also to make it known that they expect their classmates to respect all persons regardless of their "differences."

We want you to ask yourselves this question: are Brand's actions consistent with his words?

Consider the following: Last October when law school Dean Maurice Holland censored Professor Greg Johnson for coming out as a gay man in class, Brand not only failed to call on Holland to "desist from taking discriminatory action"; on the contrary, Brand backed Holland when he required Johnson to make an apology to his class. In January Brand issued a statement claiming that no action would be taken against a professor who made a comment of a sexual nature to a female student.

More recently, Brand refused to support a lesbian couple's petition for Married Student Housing because Oregon law does not recognize their marriage, even though Oregon Administrative Rule 580-15-015, which applies directly to University students, faculty and staff specifically prohibits discrimination

based on sexual orientation in all University programs, services and activities including student housing.

Finally, Brand has not set into action the recommendations of the President's Gay and Lesbian Task Force. A task force he appointed for the expressed purpose of helping him make decisions which would make the campus safer for lesbians and gay men. Brand ignored the task force when it found that Greg Johnson had been a victim of discrimination and urged Brand to support him.

He ignored it again when the task force recommended that he support the lesbian couple in their effort to get Married Student Housing. Brand must do more than have his name linked with "the President's Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Concerns" to receive the description "tough on discrimination."

He must act on the recommendations. The fact that he has failed to do so suggests that his appointment of the task force as well as other high-profile attempts to appear sensitive to minority oppression, such as the statement on the back of the spring schedule of classes, are nothing more than hollow gestures aimed at creating good publicity for the administration.

The recent hate-flier incident that Green and Drayton refer to in their commentary is no exception. There were two different sets of fliers that were posted on campus last winter around the same time. The first depicted a bullseye target on the foreheads of a black woman and a chicano man, both of whom were depicted as gay. These fliers, which were extremely offensive and were considered to

be death threats by some, were posted in front of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance and the Black Student Union.

These fliers were threatening to gays and lesbians and people of color — the posting of these fliers was definitely a hate crime. The second set of fliers were anti-war statements that attempted to link misogyny and militarism. Because of their offensive depiction of women and poor design the satire was lost on many who interpreted them to be sexist.

Even though the second set of fliers were made in bad taste and reflected poor judgment, they were not threatening to the degree that the death-threat fliers were.

However, it is this second set of fliers that the Office of Public Safety conducted 100 interviews and spent 200 hours pursuing. They have apparently done virtually nothing to pursue the maker of the first set of fliers. Drayton's and Green's commentary does not make this distinction clear.

They make other statements in their commentary that are misleading also. They state that "four suspects have been identified. Two were subsequently cleared." In the context of their commentary this statement gives the impression that the investigation was a particularly thorough one in that it turned up not one, not two, but four suspects. What Drayton and Green fail to say is that there were actually three innocent people mistakenly accused of making the second set of fliers.

These people had absolutely no connection to the fliers whatsoever except that they fit the description of a tip given

to the Office of Public Safety that the maker of the fliers was a lesbian. These three lesbian students were subjected to the overzealous investigative techniques of the OPS and the Student Conduct coordinator while being accused of making both sets of fliers, which was particularly repugnant to them considering they belonged to one of the groups targeted by the death-threat fliers. All three suffered severely in the process.

In addition to failing to investigate the truly hateful fliers, the OPS and the Office of Student Conduct severely disrupted the minority community of lesbians. In the course of their false accusations they made the lesbian community feel more unsafe than the fliers ever did to begin with.

Drayton and Green have added insult to injury by using the hate-flier incident to make the administration appear "tough on discrimination." Instead of admitting their mistakes and making sincere efforts to start over on the right foot.

Once again, campus administrators seem to be more interested in looking good than actually doing good when it comes to minority discrimination. We hold Brand and his administration responsible for creating a climate on campus that has allowed harassment and intimidation of gays and lesbians to occur by the very institutions designed to protect and serve them.

Sue Dockstader and Kristen Hammerstad are students at the University. Dockstader is co-director of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance.