

## Cluster requirement due for an overhaul

With all the attention focused on the University's multicultural curriculum, other equally important aspects of the curriculum have gone untouched.

One of those issues, the three-cluster system, was discussed last week by John Nicols of the University Academic Requirements Committee. Nicols proposed changing the system to make it uniform throughout the University.

Currently, various departments and schools offer clusters that do not conform to University requirements. Most of these classes are four credits, yet are considered clusters by whatever department offers them. However, the University requires three classes. Not nine credits, three classes.

Obviously, this leaves students in a lurch. When a department only offers two classes in a cluster, how can students take a third? They can't, and must instead take yet another cluster of three classes. And with the state establishing a credit cap, these unneeded and unwanted extra nine credit hours can only hurt students.

Instead of a required cluster system, a better approach would be to require students take a minimum number of credits in some disciplines, but allow them to choose whatever classes they want to meet that minimum.

Students would take more of the classes the piqued their interest, and thus their intellects, while ensuring a broad education. In such a system, an expanded multicultural curriculum would fit nicely. Students would take a minimum number of multicultural credits, and if they wanted to take more, they could do so with no detriment to their graduation requirements.

Such a system would also require a maximum number of credits be allowed so students cannot spend four years taking nothing but literature classes.

At last week's meeting, a proposal to create a computer data bank allowing students to determine their cluster status was criticized as being unworkable. Balderdash.

One of the greatest obstacles students face in trying to graduate is determining their requirement status. Academic advising offices, counselors, faculty and peer advisers often provide conflicting answers to requirement questions. Any move to unify the source of information can only be beneficial.

Critics of a computer system say students will simply screw it up because they get confused and push the wrong buttons. Unlikely. More likely is some people at Oregon Hall don't want the extra work.

As the University faces continued budget cuts, it is going to have to learn to adapt, giving students more flexibility over their choices in a dwindling supply of classes. If restructuring the cluster system will further that goal, then work should begin immediately.

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WHEN I USED TO CUT HIS HAIR HE'D SAY, 'JIMMY BOB,' HE'D SAY, 'I'M GONNA TAKE Y'ALL WITH ME TO TH' WHITE HOUSE!' IS WHAT HE'D SAY. TURNED OUT TO BE ANOTHER O' HIS DAM' PROMISES!

## LETTERS

### Degrading

D. Lee Williams' centerfold story (*ODE*, May 21) is a tasteless contrived advertisement for pornographic establishments in Eugene. That my academic fees went into the production of this article is appalling.

The mild disclaimer at the beginning of his article does not excuse his obvious glee in exercising "journalistic freedom" to make objects of women and rate how "good" and erotic are the dancers at various strip joints around town.

With regard to Williams' "lucrative industry," how much money does the club owner rake in for dishing out the food of fantasy for people like Williams? What is life like for a female stripper? Williams mentions "bruises" (which he recommends ignoring). Who gave the women these bruises? Is it humiliating to serve as a peep show when these women shower after dancing?

Williams' "base element of eroticism" (the female strip dancer) twists both my identity as a woman and the self-esteem and image of other men not like himself. If Williams wishes to write pornography, he should seek employment with *Penthouse*, not our campus newspaper.

In retribution for this extremely offensive article, the *Emerald* should publish a more realistic and scrutinizing story about the objectification of women's bodies and the strip club industry.

Enna Dole  
Anthropology

### Good advice

Having read the editorial regarding the Constitutional Court decisions (*ODE*, May 19), I have a suggestion for the future: If you don't understand the First Amendment, don't try to rely on it.

Will Portello  
Law

### Not anti-Semitic

I am quite distressed at the level of discourse in the current campus battle over requirements for multicultural education. Real and important issues have been raised and addressed. Sincere and thoughtful students and faculty on different sides of

the issue have spoken and shared legitimate concerns.

The people who have been smeared as racist or anti-Semitic are not deserving of such unfair and untrue accusations. I myself wrote an angry response to the Multicultural Curriculum Committee that appeared in the *Emerald* several months ago (*ODE*, Jan. 7).

Following that response, I spoke with several members of the committee and met with its chair, Sandra Morgen. From those conversations and meetings, I have come to the conclusion that the committee really did hear me and that I had been unfair and overly judgmental of its members.

I wrote an apology to the committee and notes to Sandra Morgen and Clarence Spigner apologizing for any personal attacks or judgments I might have made on them either directly or by innuendo. I did not, nor do I now, apologize for the legitimate concern I have about embracing ethnic communities such as my own or others in the new course requirements. Again, I feel the committee heard me on that and acted to expand the requirement.

Sandra Morgen, Clarence Spigner and Quintard Taylor are not anti-Semites. Nor are the faculty (the ones I know) smeared in the *Student Insurgent* racist.

Rabbi Hanan Sills  
Hillel Director

### Middle East

In response to University President Myles Brand (*ODE*, May 24), I must say that while I don't agree with name calling, sometimes it is necessary to do so to open up the system.

Take the curriculum change debate. It is actually no debate. By and large, faculty decide and students must obey. Some faculty members aren't even honest enough to want to debate and vote openly.

For instance, I am bewildered that in the recent debate dealing with cultural diversity, no mention of Islam and the people and cultures of the Middle East have been made. As a matter of fact, this university doesn't offer any courses teaching Islam, the religion of one billion people, or teaching the politics of the Middle East, the most politically misunderstood region on our

planet.

Why are the students denied access to instruction on the Middle East? Is it perhaps that faculty would prefer to keep students in the dark in order to perpetuate ignorance, bigotry and hatred against Muslims and Middle Easterners? If gender and race courses are to help eliminate bigotry and intolerance, then why not place them in the curriculum as one offering?

Esther Harrison  
Eugene

### Slings trash

In trying to gauge my reaction to the *Student Insurgent's* most recent piece on possibly "racist" professors, I don't know whether to feel disgust or rage.

Not only did the *Insurgent* overstep its precious right of free expression, but it personally attacked two professors I deeply respect. To imply that J.T. Sanders and Paul Csonka are racist is not only absurd, but also grossly inaccurate.

The inclusion of Sanders as "racist" is absurd. His suggestion was for the inclusion of all oppressed minorities in the United States for the new requirement. Rather than accepting the dogmatic concept of "the four" standard oppressed, Sanders called for all-inclusiveness. To consider that a sign of racism is the musings of a mind thoroughly disconnected from reality.

I can personally vouch for Professor Sanders' absence of racism. His knowledge and understanding of other races and cultures is something the *Insurgent* knows nothing about. To imply he is racist, from the standpoint of the *Insurgent's* ignorance, reveals the paper's breach with reality and its total lack of good journalism.

Instead of making knee-jerk, reactionary comments about Sanders' or Csonka's beliefs, perhaps the enlightened staff of the *Insurgent* could benefit from doing a bit of research into these men's real beliefs.

Open your eyes to what was truly said at the meeting and you will see the truth, not the twisted, stinking heap of trash that the *Insurgent* feels compelled to sling.

Jerry Pierce  
History

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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