

Third time's no charm for requirement vote

This week, for the third time in as many months, the University Assembly will vote on proposed revisions to the race, gender and non-European requirement. And whatever the outcome, a substantial portion of the University community will be unhappy.

One of the greatest problems with the revision and the debate on it is facts: either a lack of the facts or misrepresentations of them. This was made further evident in a set of commentaries that appeared in Sunday's *Register-Guard*, where proponents and opponents voiced their concerns.

One significant conflicting point is the revision's cost. Proponents claim it will be about \$350,000 per year. Opponents claim it will cost \$1 million per year for the first two years and \$2 million a year thereafter. This is a disparity not easily overlooked.

If the opponents are right, the University could find itself stuck with an unplanned outlay of an additional \$1.65 million at a time when the effects of 1990's Measure 5 will be truly just beginning.

The pro commentary states, "there are mechanisms in the proposed requirement that prevent its implementation." This is not so. In fact, there is no language in the proposed revision that addresses costs.

In fact, the opposite is true. The revision's implementation may be postponed for one year if there are insufficient classes to meet the demand — not because there is not enough money for the classes.

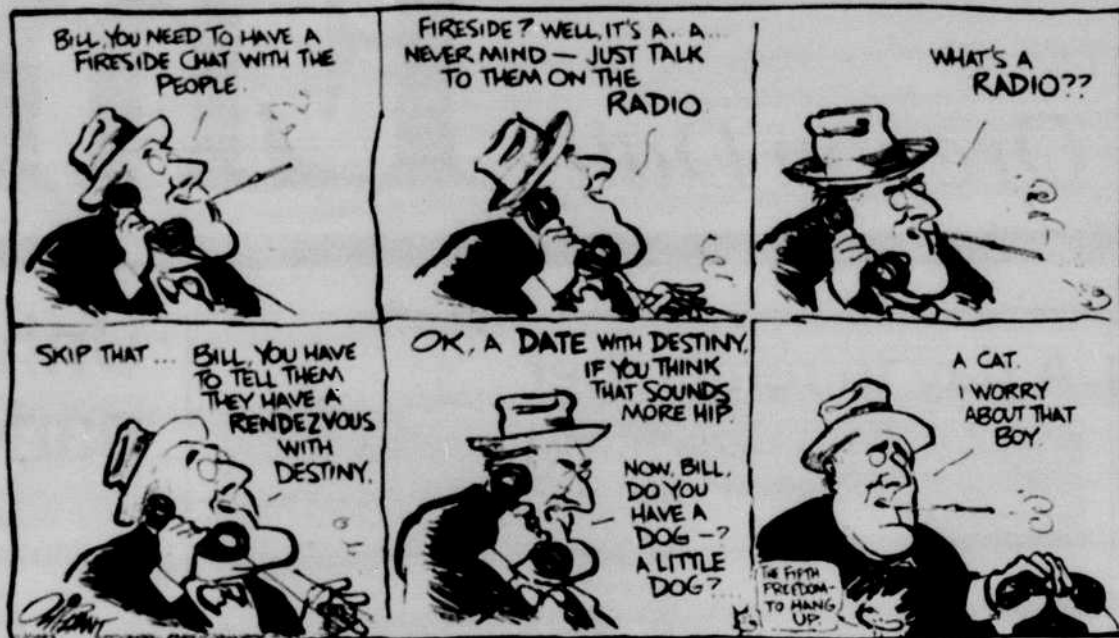
Further, the requirement requires "that the University administration commit sufficient resources to support additional classes over the next two years to provide the array of options necessary for the implementation of this requirement." The proposal requires the courses to be funded — there are no "mechanisms that prevent its implementation without adequate resources."

However, the money issue is just one of the proposal's many unanswered questions — but one that can be dealt with, assuming both side are willing to cooperate and compromise. Of course, because the committee that drafted the proposal was rather heavily weighted with proponents, much of this discussion was passed over.

It's not too late to address the many flaws in the proposal, although that should have been a part of the drafting processes. However, the current committee that drafted the proposal should be replaced with a more even representation of the many viewpoints that surround this issue.

The University Assembly should not be spending its time rewriting proposals that come before it. It should be voting on polished motions that reflect the viewpoints of more than half the members. After all, isn't that what "diversity" is all about?

The current committee that drafted the proposal should be replaced with a more even representation of the many viewpoints that surround this issue.



LETTERS

Laughed, cried

When a fellow graduate student from the linguistics department called to tell me the *Student Insurgent* had denounced Tom Givon as a racist, my first reaction was to burst into laughter. In fact, I laughed until I cried.

If there is one thing Givon is not, it's a racist. I have been in the linguistics graduate program for five years, and I have been black every day of those five years. I think I would have noticed any racist attitudes or behavior on Givon's part. He is not a man who hides any aspects of his character under a bush.

I do not agree with Givon's position on the motion to revise the race, gender and non-European requirement. However, the fact that Givon and I disagree does not make him a racist. It makes him a human being with a different viewpoint, and he has a right to express it.

The opinion voiced by the *Insurgent* is tasteless, misguided, immature, irresponsible and inaccurate. Apparently, it is not interested in Givon's true reasons for opposing this requirement.

If the *Insurgent* plans to continue its campaign of intimidation and name-calling, it might want to consult with some experts on thinly-veiled character assassination and half-baked rantings. May I suggest a call to Lon Mabon and the OCA, or perhaps the anti-Catholic Printed Page Ministry.

As methodological soulmates of the if-you-don't-agree-with-me-you-are-morally-unfit-to-draw-another-breath mindset, I'm sure they could give the *Insurgent* a few helpful hints.

Belinda Young-Davy
Linguistics

Ignored Islam

The *Emerald's* coverage of the open meeting on anti-Semitism that took place May 25 and reported in the *Emerald* the next day was shamefully incomplete.

At least one half of the time spent in discussing courses on multiculturalism was devoted to debate on inclusion of courses on the sociology of Islam and the Middle East.

It's obvious that the Middle

East and Islam don't exist in the conscious of the University administration, faculty and the campus newspaper.

Shame.

Wira Kurniawan
Eugene

Which ones?

The *Emerald* ran a commentary from Eben Fodor in which he stated that each year more than 87,000 species become extinct (*ODE*, May 10). Perhaps he could back up that statement by enumerating to the readers just one fourth of that number for 1991, as published in 1992. Or to make it even easier, he could inform us as to which 238 species became extinct in any one day.

Tom Lakin
Eugene

Helmet choice

I believe the editorial about bicycle helmets in the May 24 *Emerald* misses the point entirely. The problem with the bill is not whether there is a statistical need for such a law, but rather how much freedom of choice we as Oregonians wish to surrender to the intrusive state and national governments.

I am increasingly incredulous over how much we "free Americans" are willing to surrender all responsibility for personal action to the government. I believe this is the real concern in the (unfortunately) passed seat-belt law and the abortion issue.

Are we going to learn personal responsibility and respect, or are we going to elect to have a parental government leaning over our shoulders all the time telling us to behave like good little children? Even Plato said that you can't legislate morals (*Republic XI*).

Jenifer Sheldahl
Fine and Applied Arts

Missed it

This letter is regarding the event put on by the Asian/Pacific American Student Union the weekend of May 22-23.

Helen Zia, a prominent Asian-American speaker and leading advocate for minority civil rights, came to the University May 22 as part of Asian-Ameri-

can Heritage Month.

"Racism in America" was addressed, as well as the 1983 Vincent Chin case, where in Michigan, a Chinese-American was beaten to death with a baseball bat by a man and his stepson. Both were let off with probation and a fine of \$3,780 each because the judge said, "These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else."

Our event was covered by radio, television and *What's Happening*, but actions seem to speak louder than words for the *Emerald*, which was not present.

Tina Koida
APASU

Missed thrust

It seems a few people totally missed the point of my commentary (*ODE*, May 18). The thrust of my letter was to help people become aware of "politically correct bigotry" that is developing toward groups like celibate men and women. From those who actually spoke to me personally, it seems those points were made well. (Politically correct bigotry existed here against people of African ancestry, so it's no new idea.)

In the May 24 *Emerald*, Peter Shair's opening statement pulled a phrase from the end of my commentary, where I referred to a specific group of people with a specific problem, and he applied it to a statement I made about everybody on campus.

That is a contextual reading error, so Shair should hit the books and try again. All I have to give him is real love, which calls for a spanking in this case.

Regarding Paul VanSickle's letter (*ODE*, May 24), I did not say I was "more righteous because I lead a pure life." Jesus, who lived a perfect life 2,000 years ago, became my righteousness. When I start looking at my own deeds as source of righteousness, you can start looking for me at the porno stand or stalking someone to rape (i.e. self-righteousness is a killer).

I prefer talking with Shair and VanSickle, as I frequently extend the invitation to anyone who'd like to talk about things, but they don't seem to have phones.

Bob Weigel
Lab Technician

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3155 EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.
The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.
The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor: Pat Malach
News Editor: Judy Riedl
Editorial Editor: Jake Berg
Graphics Editor: Martin Fisher
Entertainment Editor: Jeff Paslay
Freelance Editor: Mandy Baucum
Editorial Editor: Rivers Janssen
Sports Editor: Dave Charbonneau
Supplements Editor: Calley Anderson

Night Editor: Pat Malach
Associate Editors: Tammy Batey, *Student Government/Activities*; Daralyn Trappe, *Community*; Colleen Pohlig, *Higher Education/Administration*

News Staff: Chester Allen, Matt Bender, Justin Brown, Sarah Clark, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Jen Ellison, Amanda Fernie, Anthony Forney, Beth Hege, Teresa Huntsinger, Rebecca Merritt, Steve Mims, Katy Moeller, Tiffini Mueller, Trista Noel, Ellen Shaw, Erick Studenicka, Marion Sultor, Randy Theoben, Michele Thompson-Aguar, Amy Van Tuyl, Todd Williams, Clayton Yee

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Production Manager: Michele Ross
Advertising: Tom Leech, *Sales Manager*; Shawn Berven, *Office Manager*; Jane Irola, Teresa Isabelle, Philip Johnson II, Chris Kanoff, Jeremy Mason, Van V. O'Bryan II, Gillian Oh, Rachael Trull, Angie Windheim

Classified: Becky Merchant, *Manager*; Barry Logan, Sharon Sauve
Distribution: Brandon Anderson, Graham Simpson
Business: Kathy Carbone, *Supervisor*; Judy Connolly
Production: Ingrid White, *Production Coordinator*; Kristine Granger, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith

Newsroom: 346-5511
Business Office: 346-5512
Display Advertising: 346-3712
Classified Advertising: 346-4343