

LETTERS

Just a Jew

I am a Jew. I do not identify myself as a Zionist, or a non-Zionist; just a Jew. I do not support the actions of the Israeli government against the Palestinians. I support peace. I see only one answer to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and that is peaceful co-existence. Neither the Zionists nor the Palestinians are going anywhere, and their only option is to learn to get along. The spewing of hate and intolerance only perpetuates the problem further.

As a Jew I feel obligated to help stop the current holocaust in Bosnia. In the wake of the mass genocide of six million Jews, many people have become acutely aware of the need to not let the Bosnian situation escalate any further. Almost no one stood up for the Jews, but if we stay up for the Bosnians we can help end the holocaust. I have been working jointly with the Muslim Student Association, Communities Against Hate, Committee for World Peace, Spirit of Sarajevo and the Jewish Student Union in organizing a humanitarian relief benefit today, Feb. 17, at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid, at 7:30 p.m. We will be showing a film, discussing the current situations, and also ways to get involved further. This is a concern of all people everywhere to stop the horror in Bosnia. Never again!

Rachel Kraft
Director
University Hillel Foundation

Childish choice

I happened to be at the forum held by the University Assembly on Multicultural Curriculum on Thursday, Feb. 10, and was struck by the display of arrogance and ill manners on the part of ASUO executives Eric Bowen and Leslie Warren. They came not to listen and share ideas, but to deliver a manifesto. Their decision to remove the ASUO from the process of modifying the multicultural requirement is childish and will do nothing to effect

a resolution of this issue.

I happen to be against adding any more requirements of this sort, since one required class seems to be enough. I came to the meeting interested to hear other perspectives on the matter, and I heard people articulately expressing points of view on all sides of the issue. I did not anticipate the blustering arrogance exhibited by Bowen and Warren.

It is not the curriculum committee that has arrived at a pre-formed judgment in this case, but the ASUO executive. Instead of trying to influence the debate, they prefer to sit on the sidelines and form their own (sideline and divisive) proposal that will likely be even less acceptable to the University Assembly than the one last spring. They will be in a fine position to denounce the decision of the committee without having to engage in the arduous process of compromise and consensus building that does and ought to go into any decision of this sort. In doing so, they have abdicated their responsibility to the students of the University and the University community at large.

Joseph Renaud
German/History

What's normal?

What truly is "normal"? I hypothesize that humans — deep down — are naturally caring, energetic, cooperative, diverse, tolerant, free-spirited nature lovers. It is not "normal" to sit idly by as Earth's ecosystem is severely harmed. It is not "normal" to cheer as bigotry and poverty grow. No, it takes many years and a world of hurt to alter a naturally wild human into some obedient clone.

What got me wondering about "What is normal?" was a recent bizarre comment on KWVA by the publisher of the *Oregon Commentator*, Owen Brennan Rounds. He described his journal as the "white student union."

For the *Commentator* to represent us Americans of European

descent, Mr. Rounds would have us believe a "normal" white person is an uptight, conformist, narrow-minded, greedy, hateful grotesque clown, kind of like Rush Limbaugh. And unfortunately, far too many of us European-Americans do act like such stereotyped "death clowns in suits." Some can be found hooting it up at the *Commentator*.

Our European-American ancient tradition is actually more like Schindler's, in the film by that name. I am proud of my Lithuanian heritage of questioning the ruling elite, of paganism, of loving Earth, of tolerance and of resistance.

If you waste time glancing at an offensive article in the *Commentator*, be aware it doesn't really represent the true essence of European-Americans. Imagine it's just the howling from the bunker of some Bozo-gone-bad, scowling face smeared with white paint. I have hope they can heal.

David Oaks
Eugene

Cut 'em all off

Well, the *Emerald* certainly had a lot of nerve referring to the *Insurgent* and *Commentator* as "rags" (*ODE* Feb. 9). Equally audacious was the claim that the *Insurgent* was having its funds cut for "inefficiency." The *Emerald* is unquestionably as much an inefficiently-run rag as any of the other tabloids on this campus. It can't seem to get through a week without inspiring outrage, not through cogent thinking and incisive reporting, but through its bewildering habit of devoting the editorial page to public displays of stupidity by some staff member.

I see no reason whatsoever why student fees should subsidize any of the papers on this campus, the *Emerald* included. After all, "journalism" as defined locally seems to entail one of two types of writing — the rabid rhetoric of radicals and the mindless musings of mouth-

breathers. Cut 'em all off, I say. If the cub reporters on the various rags actually had to sell their papers, we might see some efficiently-run, thought-provoking newspapers. But if we are going to subsidize these newspapers, then IFC money should be doled out equally along the ideological lines the various papers represent. Even the Junior Limbaughs at the *Commentator* would agree that the strength of our society is based in part on giving voice to diverse social perspectives.

Daniel Jones
Biology

No follow-up

The Jan. 26 *Emerald* carried a brief article in which the ASUO Multicultural Advocate Eden Ajrian-Omari was accused of taking issue with IFC member Caitlin Twain's "white butt" ("Police break up ASUO conflict").

The story came out on a Friday, and it did mention that no reports from OPS or the Eugene police were available at press time. There wasn't much substance to the article. Twain was quoted as saying that Ajrian-Omari affirmed that it was her "white butt" that bothered him. I was sure there would be a follow-up the next week when more information became available, but you've been silent.

What happened? Why haven't you followed up on this story? The use of racial epithets by any ASUO officer is inexcusable. Ajrian-Omari is our multicultural advocate. What's wrong with this picture?

Greg Conquest
Philosophy

OCA n' KKK

James Patton's characterization (*ODE*, Feb. 14) of the Oregon Citizens Alliance as an organization that "loves," because it started a program "aimed at helping homosexuals overcome their deviance," got me thinking. Perhaps the Ku Klux Klan could also be seen as an organization that "loves." Since Klansmen believe that African-Americans are not human beings, but rather animals, they might actually consider that hanging blacks by their necks from a tree is an act of mercy. Obviously, much depends on your point of view.

Having seen the OCA's campaign literature, and since I don't suffer from Patton's unfortunate preconceptions, I characterize the OCA differently than he does. It is an absolutely disgusting and revolting organization. The OCA uses all manner of deceit, divisiveness and fear, based on ignorance, to promote its agenda. In one fund-raising letter, OCA director Lon Mabon made the outrageous claim that homosexuals were "actively recruiting in grade school classrooms." "Some of your children may already be lost," he wrote. This is not "love."

The OCA will always find a few people who will believe that the lies, cruelty and hatred that they so liberally dispense in their endless crusade against people who view the world differently, are "love." As for me, Oregon with the OCA is a much worse place in which to live than Oregon without, and I'm not even gay.

Jim Remington
Physics

LETTERS

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.

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