

LETTERS

Name-calling

Sara Swanborn raises a good question in her letter (*ODE*, Feb. 17) about racism and sexism: "Where do we draw the line between acceptance and special consideration?" From the context of the letter, I assume that by "acceptance" Swanborn means "even-handed treatment." And she is also right that careless allegations of racism and sexism can inflame unnecessarily. After all, motives can be difficult to assess.

However, Swanborn's defense of "JAP" as an institutional abbreviation in the slide library just won't wash. It is true that most other cultural or national abbreviations are derived by using the first two to four letters of the name in English, such as "FIN" for Finnish and "VEN" for Venezuelan.

But to argue, as Swanborn does, that re-labeling the slides of Japanese art with "JPN" would be a racist act because it constitutes special treatment, is just plain silly. Rather, Swanborn's inflexibility reflects a disregard for the history of the word "JAP" and a failure to extend common courtesy.

Howard Killion
Eugene

Atrocities

About the time that the co-director of the Jewish Student Union, Yohanna Kinberg, was busy distorting my letter (*ODE*, Feb. 8), soldiers blew up a Palestinian house for adding a room without a permit, and troops put a bullet in the head of a 13-year-old boy who was riding his bike in the occupied territories.

And it wasn't long ago when another Zionist organization, the Anti-Defamation League Bana'i Birth, was caught spying on tens of thousands of American citizens who, one way or another, might have been critical of the Israeli policies of occupation.

In the mid-1980s, the Ameri-

can intelligence suffered its biggest blow when it revealed that Jonathan Pollard had passed thousands of pages of top-secret classified naval information to the Israelis while he was acting under the direction of the Israeli Embassy and the American Israeli Political Action Committee in Washington, D.C.

But somehow criticizing such atrocities committed by the state of Israel and its collaborators is automatically (and intentionally) being equated with and labeled as anti-Jewish, anti-Semitic, "stereotyping, hate and intolerance ..." by the JSU and other blind supporters of Israel.

Israel is a segregated society where European Jews (Ashkenazis) are treated differently than the Middle Eastern Jews (Safardites), not to mention the total disregard of the rights of the Palestinians. Martin Luther King's legacy is enshrined in his efforts to break the barriers of segregation. So why do Israel and its supporters pretend to celebrate a life dedicated to the eradication of segregation? Is this hypocrisy, opportunism or both?

T.J. Fooladi
Eugene

Evil editorial

My father died of melanoma, one of the deadliest of cancers. I researched melanoma in the Science Library. Melanoma once was rare. In one decade the rate doubled. Many scientists considered ozone depletion a likely suspect.

On Feb. 21, the *Emerald* emitted an editorial against a Eugene initiative to save the earth's ozone. The editorial's amazing reasoning: Let the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Clean Air Act fix it!

The *Emerald* displays astounding gullibility with such faith in big government. It displays astounding ignorance of the significance of local responsibility.

E.P.A.'s corruption creates massive loopholes. National and local ozone proposals are different. For example, E.P.A. caved in to DuPont to allow the manufacture of HCFC's (at least one-sixth as bad as CFC's) for another 36 years!

The *Emerald* editorial is in denial of reality. Why not analyze the fact that 1993 showed record levels of ozone loss over the United States? NASA scientists urged the federal government to issue public health warnings, but even anti-ozone man himself, Al Gore, did nothing.

At first, I've laughed at the *Emerald's* buffoon journalism. For example, recently editors got the date wrong in their own masthead. The next day they didn't fret, but scolded the *Student Insurgent* for sloppiness!

Today, after extensive environmental research and warnings, there is zero excuse for the *Emerald's* evil editorial. Thoughtful students should cover news events themselves, such as upcoming free presentations at the Environmental Law Conference.

David Oaks
Eugene

Poor taste

In our opinion, the article on the back page of the second University of Oregon Queer Film Festival Program Guide shows extremely poor taste. The article's intention may be to inform a reader about the HIV virus and issues of safer sex in a hip format. However, it misses the point in a big way. The language is offensive, graphic, inappropriate for a college publication, and disrespectful of people's intelligence.

Cessa Heard-Johnson
Eugene

CORRECTION

A typographical error in the letter of Steve Jones (*ODE*, Feb. 24) seriously altered its meaning. The correct sentence should have read, "I choose to believe that the human race is *not* fated," rather than "is fated." The *Emerald* apologizes for the error.

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