

EDITORIAL

New requirement is no catch-all solution

An important symbolic gesture was made Wednesday, as the University Assembly overwhelmingly approved a new multicultural curriculum requirement, which would effectively double the old requirement, raising it from three credits to six.

Thankfully, there was little of the antagonism and name-calling that characterized last year's debate over multiculturalism, which eventually forced the Assembly to throw up its hands and send the issue to committee.

However, the relative absence of such venomous words should not be interpreted as a signal that the new requirement pleases all parties.

In fact, it pleases very few.

Four student unions — the Mexican-Chicano Student Union, the Native American Student Union, the Asian/Pacific-American Student Union and the Black Student Union — all voiced their opposition to the new requirement in a prepared statement, read at the Assembly meeting. They stated that it is "not in (the unions') interests to force a reluctant populace to learn to appreciate" their cultures and histories.

This, of course, assumes that it is possible to force a reluctant populace to learn or appreciate anything. Merely increasing the requirement from one class to two will have a negligible effect on the acceptance of diversity — either here at the University or elsewhere. Students who are interested in learning about the issues that will be taught in these classes would probably take the classes voluntarily anyway; those who aren't interested will simply blow off the new requirement.

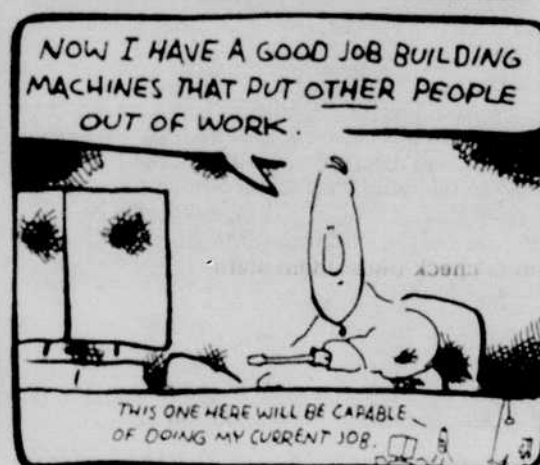
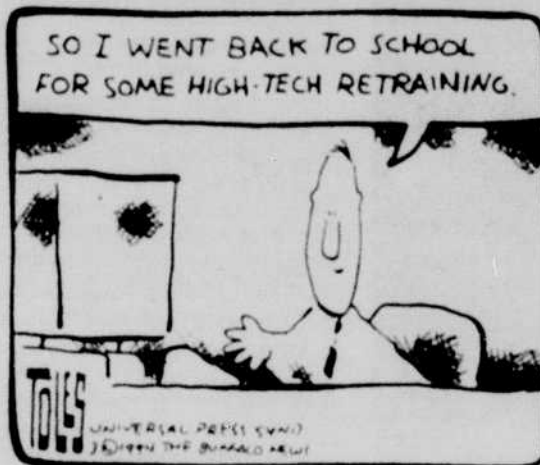
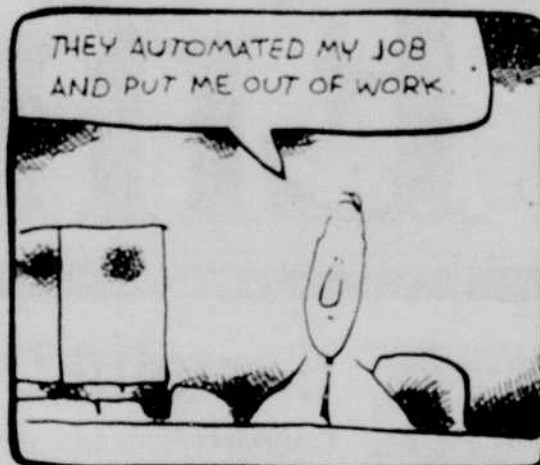
The best alternative to a new and expanded multicultural curriculum requirement is the increased incorporation of multicultural perspectives in the general curriculum. Although it is absurd to suggest that multiculturalism should be taught in every class (astronomy, for instance, has nothing to do with multiculturalism), it can certainly be worked into more classes than it has been so far.

And, when it is financially possible, the University should pursue an expanded curriculum that offers more and more courses from outside the traditional, European-American-male perspective. But these classes should be optional.

And, the expansion of multicultural curriculum, if and when it takes place, should not be at the expense of current offerings, as long as the majority of the student body feels satisfied with those offerings.

There is little doubt that the new multicultural curriculum requirement is well-intentioned, but it should not be considered the catch-all solution to the problems of intolerance, prejudice and discrimination that exist on this campus and throughout our society.

Merely increasing the requirement from one class to two will have a negligible effect...



LETTERS

A better man

I am shocked and quite frankly disgusted by the viewpoint by C. Constantine Poulos (*ODE*, April 6) in his commentary regarding the labeling of men in relation to their sexuality.

He says that the labeling of men as potential rapists is the product of irrational fear and ignorance. He uses the word "penises" entirely for shock value, then proceeds to preach about the oppression he bears, with labels that have nothing to do with the topic, such as "potential pedophile." He even has the gall to claim that men have been "sexually and emotionally sterilized" because of the awareness and recognition of sexual assault.

Well, excuse me, Mr. Poulos, if I don't stop and applaud your brave stand in a society that obviously oppresses poor helpless men, making unwarranted claims despite their innocent behavior.

Your accusation that women's fears are irrational and ignorant is shameful. Many women live a life in which fear for their own safety dominates nearly everything they do. Many a time have I thought that I would almost thank the attacker who took only my purse and left my body alone. Saferide is a service offered so women do not have to make the decision to compromise their physical and emotional well-being because of the necessity or desire to accomplish something outside of the home.

The worst you will probably ever have to suffer as a result of sexual awareness or sexual assault is the exertion of a little more effort in getting to know a woman before your affections become welcome. And you'll probably be a better man for it.

**Barbara Grimes
Pre-Journalism**

passion, or to a "spare the rod, spoil the boy" mentality, which not only approves the barbaric punishment of "caneing" (flogging), but may find some relief from our own country's failure to curb crime by cheering another country's harsh punishment for them.

Either choice brings up some emotions to any reader of your editorial "Plan to vandalize? Prepare for flogging." Let's get one thing very clear; the head, however, "caneing" is "torture" as defined by Amnesty International, as do most of us who choose to be civilized.

Should you choose, with me, for compassion and concern, you can write your U.S. senator to support a Senate bill headed by Mettenbaum/Glenn to ban worldwide use of this form of torture and support human rights.

**A.J. Riggs
Eugene**

Support

On behalf of the Religious Directors Association at the University, I want to publicly state that we deplore the recent violent attack on Temple Beth Israel in Eugene.

As campus religious leaders, we stand in support of our Jewish friends and families at the University and within this community. As an ecumenical/interfaith organization, the Religious Directors Association stands for love and cooperation among all people of faith. We seek to promote mutual respect, trust and healing within this community.

**Rev. Janet Cromwell
Religious Directors Association**

Representation

Orientalism persists on the international scene but also at the local level.

Pope John Paul II started Palm Sunday ceremonies by sermonizing to the Catholic world that Christians should remember the significance of Israel and Jerusalem to Christianity. The Pope's comments reflect the new detente between the Vatican and the state of Israel. However, the Pope conveniently left out the significance of Jerusalem to Islam and the Palestinians.

Some Jewish American immigrants to Israel have committed crimes against Muslims in their homeland for four decades. The American media have covered Palestinian violence against Israelis, but not the reverse. The enormity of the Feb. 25 mosque massacre could not be ignored. An American emigre in an Israeli army uniform killed at least 30 Muslim worshippers. A subsequent investigation indicated that the Israeli army had standing orders not to shoot at Israeli settlers even when they were shooting at Palestinians.

Of the two courses offered this term at the University dealing with the Middle East and Muslims, none is taught by a Middle Easterner or a Muslim.

The Pope, American media, and the faculty selection process all exemplify, at its best, a lack of compassion and understanding for the plight of Muslims and the force that guides them; and at its worst, an assault on the integrity of their culture.

Years ago the Oregon State System of Higher Education relegated Middle Eastern studies to Portland State University. Middle Eastern politics, especially Islam, have captured the interest of students everywhere. The University must respond by giving Middle Easterners and Muslims representation on its faculty.

**M. Reza Behnam, Ph. D.
Eugene**

No flogging

As intended, your editorial (*ODE*, May 5) regarding the fate of an American student in Singapore, Michael Fay, caused sparks to fly, or perhaps to say be "flogged in the wind." One is either brought to rage or com-

LETTERS

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

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159, 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.

Managing Editor	Calley Anderson	Editor-in-Chief	Jake Berg	Sports Editor	Steve Mims
Editorial Editor	David Thorn	Editorial Editor	Jeff Pickhardt	Photo Editor	Michael Shindler
Graphics Editor	Jeff Paslay	Supplements Editor	Kaly Soto		
Freelance Editor	Jeff Winters	Night Editor	Kaly Soto		

Associate Editors: Edward Klopfenstein, Student Government/Activities; Rebecca Merritt, Community; Heatherie Himes, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Mandy Baucum, Lori Bettineski, Eric Buckhalter, Wilson Chan, Dave Charbonneau, Amy Colombo, Jim Davis, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Malia Fields, Martin Fisher, Sarah Henderson, Yin Leng Leong, Marius Meland, Trista Noel, Elisabeth Reenstjerna, Robbie Reeves, Lia Salocchia, Scott Simonson, Stephanie Sisson, Susanne Steffens, Michele Thompson, Amy Van Tuyt, Daniel West

General Manager: Judy Riedl

Advertising Director: Mark Walter

Production Manager: Michele Ross

Production: Brian Davis, Subir Dutta, Nicole Herzmark, Teresa Isabelle, Jeff Marion, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Kelsey Wekel

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager; Victor Mejia, Sim Tze Teck

Distribution: John Long, Graham Simpson

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor; Judy Connolly

Production: Dee McCobb, Production Coordinator; Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

Newsroom: 346-5511

Display Advertising: 346-3712

Business Office: 346-5512

Classified Advertising: 346-4343