

Adults only

Evelyn Krull questions the value of multicultural curriculum for adults. Disdaining required study of "social life and morality" in preference of "science" at the university level, she deems the former, "principles you should have learned ages ago," and claims we underestimate her capacity for independent thought.

Evelyn, you study Geology. I quit playing with rocks and dirt "ages ago," but wrote a senior thesis on "The Concept of Childhood in Children's Literature," that explored connections, made in literature for children, between childhood and cultures marginalized in modern western society. You did not invent the association of multiculturalism with childhood. Its presence in your letter marks the success of a socially-produced strategy for keeping power exclusive by teaching children that fairy tales, rabbit stories and other literature derived from "peasants" or "primitives" or "folk cultures" are for children, maybe women, but that "we" (notice who?) outgrow them, gaining "adult, scientific objectivity." It's hard to independently unlearn childhood lessons, so in encountering multicultural texts, readers get stuck struggling to simply respect the material. I know you aren't playing with rocks and dirt. Why don't you enter a Comparative Literature class with the same awareness? An early social lesson you missed? Bad independent thought? No. You learned, along with me and everyone else.

Your best point: if it's sincere, multiculturalism, like all culture, is the way we live, not just something we contemplate. But conscientious action logically follows careful thought; how can it come from diminishing the importance of the very idea?

Shanta Kamath
Comparative Literature

Kitzhaber

John Kitzhaber's approach to the crime problem is right on the mark. He believes in keeping dangerous felons behind bars, but he knows that this alone is no solution to the crime prob-

lem. Equally important is dealing with the economic and social causes. A large percentage of the serious crimes today are committed by very young people, many in their teens, often school dropouts from dysfunctional families. They are unemployed and lacking in the education and skills needed to get and keep a job. If we are ever going to make a dent in the crime problem we must find a way to keep kids in school, to give them the skills they need to earn a living. That is why John Kitzhaber has been talking to school administrators about the relationship between education and crime prevention, and why he is emphasizing developing an economy that will provide jobs for young people when they get out of school.

The causes of crime are complex. They have been developing over a long period of time, and they won't be solved overnight. But we need a governor who is willing to make a beginning and who believes we should put as many resources into preventing crime as in locking people up after they commit it, and who understands the relationship between crime, lack of education, unemployment, and social problems in the home. John Kitzhaber is such a man.

Wendy Cole
Eugene

In Bloom

An open letter to KWVA:

I read your quote in the *Register-Guard*. When I was in high school, my best friend blew his head off. When he died, his parents couldn't deal with the fact that he died so bitterly angry at them. They found this drawing of a skull and said that he must have been a Satanic dabbler, and that all of his friends pushed him to his untimely demise. Pretty dumb, don't you think? Even dumber, a whole bunch of people agreed. There were even some articles about it in our local paper.

But that's the past. What's said is said, and what's done is done, but I can't watch another suicide be treated so unjustly. Kurt's an idiot? You are even weaker than the man who chose the easy way out. You kicked that man when he can't kick you

back. Do you really believe that Kurt Cobain gave a toss about being a "legend?" You said that Kurt was a sellout, and now you say he's an idiot. Kurt was a songwriter, a musician, a human being. Nothing more or less, like all of us.

Please just play the cool music that you could never hope to write in a million years, and stop wasting our time talking for way too long about nothing at all. Stop flaunting your ignorance!

Leigh Latta
Eugene

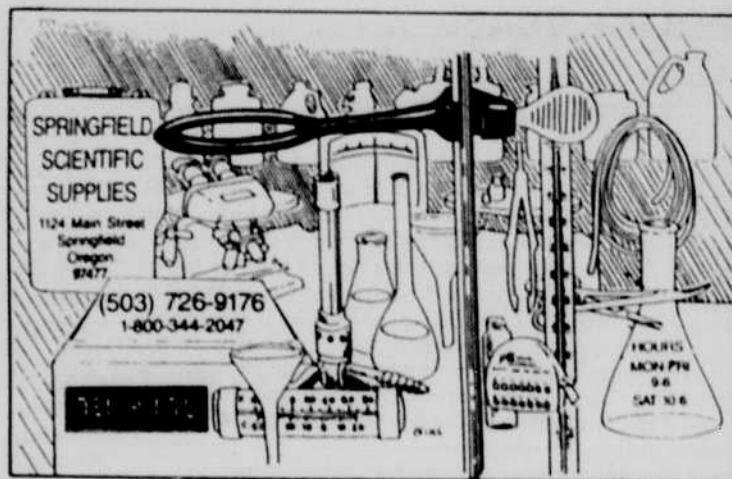
Settlement

I recently received a money settlement for damages arising from sexual harassment by a professor at the University. I had a number of experiences that are at odds with the University's self-promotion of their Affirmative Action process. When I first went to the Office of Affirmative Action, I was strongly encouraged not to file a formal complaint. Fortunately, before choosing the informal route, I spoke with someone at another department who referred me to the Office of Student Advocacy (OSA). There, I learned the full consequences of each of my options, and I chose the complaint route.

I learned at OSA that there had been previous complaints against my perpetrator. The University consistently denied this fact, just as they denied the existence of a previous formal complaint against a professor in Philosophy provided evidence of a previous complaint. Apparently, it is more important for the University to protect its professors from complaints that it is important to protect students from sexual harassment.

Fortunately, I sought representation from an attorney who settled my case for significantly more than the president's legal counsel was willing to offer before I filed suit. I think it is a shame that the University fails to take the responsibility for the misconduct of its professors, and treats as adversaries the student victimized both by the professor and the University complaint process.

Tanya Miller
Denver, Colo.



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By reducing the amount of meat we eat, we're helping to stop the destruction of our environment while preserving our precious resources.

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Eating less meat also helps to conserve our water supply. Because livestock and the grains they eat require a lot of water, quite a bit of

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What's more amazing is that if each of us simply ate 10 percent less meat, we would be able to help 60 million people from starving to death this year with the grain saved.

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