

Not black and white

I note that the *Emerald* continues to publish the biased vitriol of M. Reza Behnam, a man who, until he was exposed several years ago, used to write op-ed pieces to the *Register-Guard* claiming to be director of the utterly fictitious Institute for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies (he still carries on that masquerade from time to time in the pages of *The Oregonian*).

Your readers should be aware of this history as they consider comments like those published in his letter in the April 22 *Emerald*. According to him, the issues of war, peace and justice in Israel are all black and white: the Israelis are completely at fault, the Palestinians are completely innocent.

I submit that any reasonable person will conclude that there is right and wrong on both sides — that both sides have been and continue to be guilty of injustice and atrocities. The *Emerald* does not need another one-sided view of the Middle East such as the one Behnam tirelessly offers.

Jeffrey Hurwit
Art History

Respect Israel

In his April 22 letter to the editor, Reza Behnam came up with yet another masterpiece of anti-Israeli fanaticism. It took me a while to realize that Mr. Behnam actually considers human bombing a

heroic act. I always considered that unnecessary human sacrifice, especially while Yassir Arafat claims that he's firmly set on finding a peaceful solution to the "Palestinian Question."

Let's consider the facts that actually have something to do with Reza Behnam's laments. He calls the Palestinians the "natives" of the land. Obviously he never heard about the historically famous Muslim conquests of the middle ages when the natives of the Arabian Peninsula took over vast areas of the Middle East, Europe, India and even China within less than a century. Most of that area is still populated by the descendants of those people and is known as the Arab World.

On the other hand, an area roughly the size of Lane County was legally purchased by the Rothchild family early in the twentieth century and is now known as Israel. The reason for that was to bring the only surviving natives of that area — the Jews (the Scythians, the Persians, and other such peoples having long since moved on or gone extinct) — back to their homeland, which was denied to them for centuries. Grasp the difference?

Now, we may disagree with the Israeli methods of gaining recognition from the Arab countries, but let's call things by their own names. Israel is surrounded by nations which are really unfriendly toward it. It is pretty much a won-

der how it has lasted so long, having such unstable supporters as the United States (remember Iran-Contra?)

Yassir Arafat and his friends will not sleep, eat or drink until the last Jew is kicked out of the Middle East. Israel is not "expanding and prospering," it's fighting for survival. So let's have some respect for Israel, Mr. Behnam. If anything, Israel deserves respect.

Artem Y. Lyubimov
Biology

Rape awareness

I am a proud member of the greek system and also a concerned student at the University. In conjunction with our social policies, all greeks are required to attend "social issues seminars."

Last evening, my chapter hosted a presentation by the Sexual Assault Support Services of Lane County. In light of recent events, such a seminar has special value.

This letter is not a defense of the greek system, nor a damnation, but rather an admission of ignorance. Our ignorance of the American rape culture is shared though, and most students are subject to it.

The representative who spoke to my chapter was insightful, persuasive and disturbing. Disturbing in that her persuasive insight revealed how deeply rooted acceptance of rape has been constructed.

So deep that when we are conscious of sexual assault and rape

incidents, we are still blind to the millions of women (and men) who suffer because sexual assault and rape are so easily questioned and dismissed.

The deconstruction of our constructed ignorance can only come through education. Rape is a problem at this University that is not limited to any specific group. I hope that such seminars like that which I attended can have an equal impact on other greek members, but I do not think that they should be limited to greek members.

As of now, the University only requires the greek system to offer informative seminars. I contend that the safety of all students at this University relies on all students actively participating in such education.

Many students have been unwilling to attend "open" seminars at student residencies, the EMU, etc. I challenge these students, and moreover the University, to make rape, alcohol abuse and other preventative seminars mandatory.

Joseph Perko
Comparative Literature

Where's the money

I read an article in the April 21 *Emerald* that outlined all of the new buildings and additions that the University is planning to build. These include a new indoor workout facility at Autzen stadium, a new law complex, a new recreation center near the Esslinger building and four other

projects.

In other articles in the *Emerald* there has been speculation about building a new basketball stadium because the one we have now is ugly. In the mail this week I received the proposed student budget for an out-of-state student.

Next year will cost \$20,025 to go to school. Two years ago when I enrolled here it was \$17,713. Since that time a big deal has been made about the fact that Oregon voters do not believe in funding higher education and that the entire school must make cut backs.

I would like to know exactly what this school is cutting back on. Every year tuition gets more expensive and the administration does nothing to help us, the students. The majority of these new buildings come from us.

I can't see how the University can think of taking on so many expensive projects in the next few years when the students can't afford school now. I don't want to continue paying out more money every year for athletic buildings.

I don't want to pay more money for any reason. In three years, I have accumulated over \$22,000 in debt and I know there are many students who have it worse off than me. So if any administrators care about us, the students, they should consider acting in our interests and try to bring the tuition down to a reasonable sum.

Adam Moule
Chemistry

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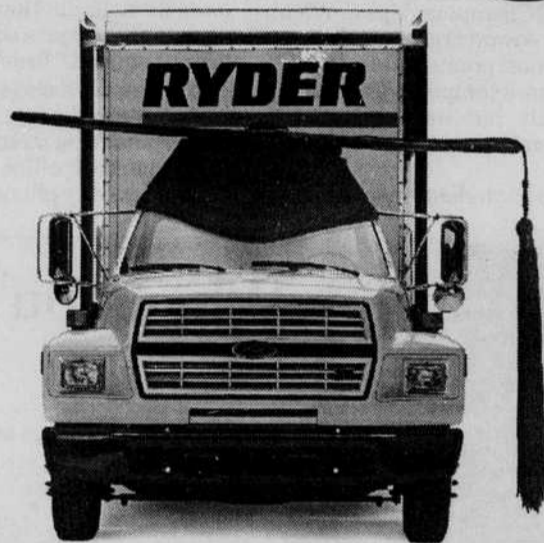
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