

Commonplace terms

In "A Civil Tongue" Edwin Newman tells of using the term "garbage man" when covering the strike by garbage collectors in Memphis when Martin Luther King Jr. was killed. A woman wrote to complain, "My husband is not garbage." Newman's point "is that respect should not come from titles. It should come from an understanding ... and the value of the person. ... It should come from reality, not from camouflage."

A further example of how real respect is given or withheld is from Professor Joshua Whatmough in "Language": "If a lover calls his love a peach or a disappointed husband his wife a lemon, here words of low frequency of occurrence and also a higher semantic content, having become emotionally overcharged, have displaced the commonplace 'girl' or 'woman,' which are too frequent to have much content."

The points of the compass are: East — oriental, north — boreal, south — austral and west — occidental. Granted, a native of the orient is not exactly east of Oregon, nor are women still girls, but the terms are common enough to preclude disrespect. And if we have both Ionic architecture and Ionians themselves, then just because we've got Oriental rugs does not mean disrespect to Orientals.

Out here we speak of Easterners as a neutral term. I don't know what they call us back east, but I wouldn't be offended by "Westerner." A civil tongue does not pick offense from the camouflage of ordinary terminology.

Earl Gosnell
Eugene

Wu's crusade harmful

Harry Wu, the famous American "human rights crusader," received a cold welcome from the hundreds of Chinese students and scholars at the University on Nov. 18 when he gave a lecture at the University. On behalf of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, we would like to have this opportunity to explain why the Chinese students and scholars at the University protested against Wu's presence on campus.

Harry Wu himself: Born to a rich family in Shanghai in 1937, Wu was educated by the Jesuits of prewar Shanghai. He belonged to the rich class and had no idea about how the ordinary Chinese who struggled in poverty and chaos for decades lived. The high living standard Wu enjoyed was taken away when the Communists took power in 1949. Wu's family lost not only their riches but also their power and privilege.

Hero and villain: Wu is widely considered by the U.S. media as a hero in the cause for democracy and human rights in China. He is often interviewed on TV and radio and speaks elegantly about human rights and democracy for China.

He is portrayed by the news media in the United States as someone who risks his life for human rights in China. He has also successfully manipulated the media in the United States to create a villain in the American people's minds. The evil Chinese government is now struck with an image of the worst human rights violator in the world. In contrast, Wu has risen to be a hero for human rights and democracy in China.

Truth and untruth: Wu has acted as a champion of human rights in China. He has given lectures and written books discussing the ills of China's political system and the need to respect human rights. In the process, he has engaged in fabrication and distortion of facts to feed the media sensational stories about China's human rights abuses.

In 1996, Wu accused the World Bank of financing an agricultural project in China that used prison labor. The bank spent \$200,000 investigating his claim and later found no ties between any of their projects and prison labor (Houston Chronicle, Feb. 4, 1996). In 1995, Wu made a videotape for the British Broadcasting Corp.

of alleged transplanting of organs from executed prisoners to wealthy or powerful Chinese recipients. When the BBC investigated, it discovered Wu's video was actually a routine heart operation (New York Times, July 9, 1995).

Profit and revenge: One often wonders what Wu really wants. Wu has two motives. One is profit. Wu has written three books about his experience in China. He distorts facts to make them as extreme as possible in order to sell his books.

The second motive is revenge. In 1949, when the Communist government took power, Wu's high living standard was shattered. He wants to revenge and destroy the government that deprived him of his wealth and privilege. He has, in fact, renounced his Chinese citizenship and become a naturalized American citizen.

Cause and effect: China needs democracy and the Chinese government must learn to respect the human rights of its people. If Wu was a true crusader for China's democracy and human rights, he would first need to get facts straight.

Exaggeration and misrepresentation of facts may help him gain attention in the media, but it will not advance human rights and democracy in China. While Wu may have used the media to make himself a hero, the people who are involved in the struggle for democracy and human rights in China do not see him that way.

The Chinese community is finally fed up with his misrepresentation of facts about China. The reaction from the Chinese students and scholars at the University was just one example of the Chinese community demanding that Wu stop fabricating facts because his personal crusade has been hurting the cause of human rights and democracy in China.

Beijing Wang
Chinese Students and Scholars Association
Lu Zhang
President, CSSA
and one co-signer

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Dear University Community,

UO Pres. Frohnmayer will close campus due to "lack of work" on Dec. 26. We feel it violates the spirit of the contract by requiring employees to use 8 hours accrued leave, to "make up time" or come & work on Sat or Sun.

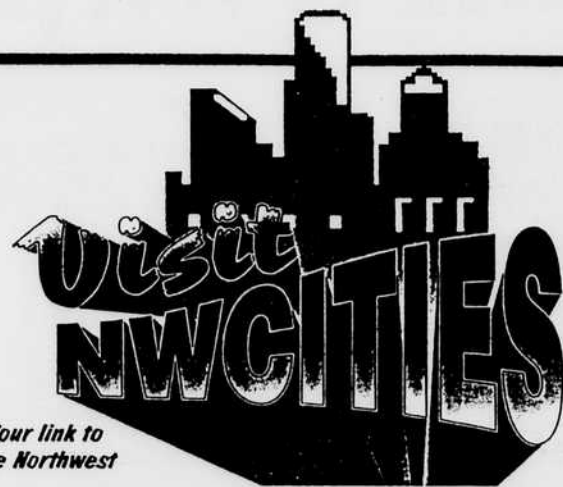
While it is true some departments on campus close during intersessions, many remain open and are very busy. A few examples are Registrar, Financial Aid, Payroll, Library, Computing Center, Facilities Services and Public Safety.

Some of us had already planned to use accrued leave on Dec. 26. Our concern is for workers who had decided to work in order to use our leave on a different day; or workers who are still in trial service and don't have any accrued leave to use. These workers had already made other plans which involve family & friends, travel, personal projects or observance of a non-Christian religious holiday.

Using the "Lack of Work" clause to shut any office down when there's work & then magnanimously letting workers select how they will "make up" those hours, IS WRONG, UNJUST, AND UNFAIR.

We ask you to support UO workers! Call or write Pres. Frohnmayer and tell him what you think!

Thank you for your support!
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GOING OVERSEAS?

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STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF Flu Vaccination

Influenza vaccinations will be given at the Health Center for faculty and staff every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and for students Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 15

Students \$3.50
Faculty and Staff \$4.00

Annual flu immunizations are recommended for the following:

1. Healthy persons 65 years or older.
2. Persons with long-term heart or lung problems.
3. Persons with any of the following: kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, anemia, severe asthma and conditions which compromise immune mechanism.

Influenza vaccine may be given to persons wishing to reduce their chances of catching the flu, persons who provide essential community services and students or others in schools or colleges.

For more information, call the Health Center at 346-4441