

PERSPECTIVES

A little give and take

What is deemed a compromise in the PRIDE Hall issue fails to live up to the meaning of the word

University housing and PRIDE Hall advocates made a compromise on the PRIDE Hall issue. No PRIDE Hall, but unofficial clusters of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, which existed prior to the discussion, are now officially recognized as unofficial.

Confused as to the meaning of compromise in the situation, we looked it up in the dictionary to gain insight.

"A settlement in which each side makes concessions — something midway" is the definition of a compromise, according to Webster's New World Dictionary.

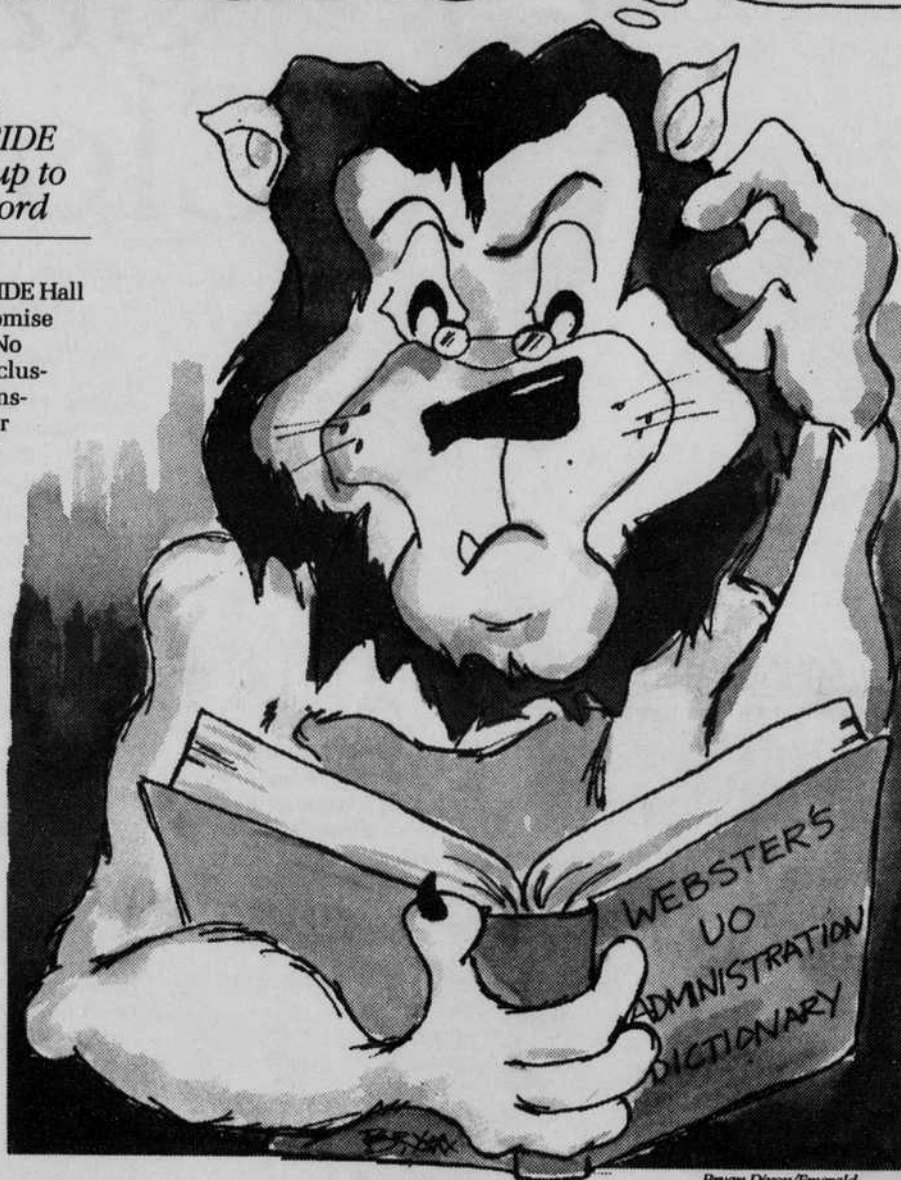
Apparently when you make a compromise with the University it means something else.

Not only is this a one-sided non-agreement, but this compromise fails to protect LGBT students from hate crimes and separatism — the two primary University concerns for not creating a PRIDE Hall in the first place.

Originally, the University was worried that a specific hall for LGBT students could be dangerous for the safety of residents and a sitting target for hate crimes.

The cluster idea does little to protect against the same thing from happening. The location of these groups within the residence halls will be published and common knowledge and just as susceptible to hate crimes.

Does the University think that a hall would provide less protection from hate crimes than a cluster



Bryan Dixon/Emerald

within a hall? At least in a separate hall, if something were to happen, residents would not have to wonder if someone in their own building was responsible.

The second contention the University administrators had with establishing a PRIDE Hall was that

they did not wish to segregate students, but how is a cluster within a group any different than a separate hall?

It's not.

Banding together in a common experience, whether it be a drug-free hall, international hall or a PRIDE Hall, is what all theme halls try to build upon. Is the University concerned that the drug-free hall is unfairly segregating itself from those who choose to use drugs?

The bottom line is that residence halls are here to provide a safe living environment.

It is clear that segregation and hate crimes are things that happen whether students live in clusters, PRIDE halls or individually.

Ignorant people are everywhere. It is not a segregation issue. It is a living situation issue and a comfort level issue. Refusing to designate a PRIDE Hall will not stop hate crimes or segregation. It may, however, alienate students.

The University has put little thought into the new resolution that effectively changes nothing in the residence halls. We suggest a true compromise: maybe the housing administrators should look it up.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Thumbs



THUMBS UP

To convenience
Wednesday was the first day in University history that students were able to vote in ASUO spring elections through the Internet.

To The Oregonian
Reporter Richard Read won a Pulitzer Prize for his series on the Asian economic crisis "The French Fry Connection." The Pulitzer is the highest award in journalism. The Oregonian has won the award three times.



THUMBS DOWN

To double standards
House Bill 2806 was debated on the floor of the Oregon Legislature. If passed, the bill will take away local governments' right to ban smoking in enclosed areas such as restaurants. However, the bill would apply to all communities except Corvallis, which has a ban on smoking already in place.

To new statistics
Oregon drug-related deaths have increased by 160 percent, according to a recent article in The Oregonian. Heroin is responsible for 70 of the 80 drug-related deaths in 1999.

Letters to the Editor

Concerns unwarranted

I've become quickly bored and agitated by the multitude of attacks on Vince Medeiros' column (ODE, April 2) after seeing postings on the library doors calling him names and the recent letters to the editor saying he condones violence and degrades women.

Granted, it wasn't the best column we've seen from the Emerald, but people need to stop jumping to the drastic conclusion that depicting the joy a heterosexual man feels from a beautiful woman is in some way a sexist attack and misogynistic in some sense.

I make no apologies for my feelings for the opposite sex, and I would hope others would be reasonable enough to stop idealizing and do the same.

College students are at the age when their sexual drive is at its peak and spring naturally brings feelings of "glad animal movements."

These feelings need to be kept within social bounds, but to print a column about them is nothing to cause this idealistic attack.

And, by the way, prostitution is not a victimless crime. In fact, it isn't a crime at all. It's a transaction, a service rendered between two consensual adults. We shouldn't be so quick to attack a perfectly justifiable and natural human urge.

Jim Svajgl
Religious studies and English

Alternative view

KWVA's policies for determining what shows are alternative enough to get air play are disgusting.

In defending why the Grateful Dead show was not appropriate programming, Michael McLaren, the station's music director, said you can hear the Dead on other Eugene stations, which makes it mainstream.

KWVA will not dedicate one of its many shows to Grateful Dead fans, and there are many of them at school, because the Dead are mainstream?

I listen to one of the three stations mentioned that supposedly play their music and the Dead are rarely played.

When they are, it's just one song. Just because many people have heard of a group, that doesn't make it one that popular stations currently play. There are many Grateful Dead songs that people haven't been exposed to, and those people could hear those songs through campus radio.

KWVA should strive for involvement. Every student should have the opportunity to have a show where he or she can play reggae, rock and hip-hop all in the same hour.

No mainstream station caters to such a wide variety of listening tastes, even though many student don't just listen to one type of music. This music, with the spice the DJ brings to the show, is alternative.

Lastly, Michael McLaren, don't tell us that your alternative ethic shouldn't be called into question. Our funds go toward the station, and we have every right to make sure they go toward something we stand for.

Tami Miller
Journalism