

Questioned motives

I am responding to the ROTC article (ODE, April 7). ROTC student Indira Rice states, "We love this country enough to fight for it, to die for the peace of the land."

This is 1999. Don't give us that pre-Vietnam love-this-country-or-leave-it stuff. Our leaders, soon to be Rice's and Nash's bosses, protect multinational interests, not our basic freedoms.

The feel good patriotism the writer enjoyed while interviewing the cadets does not even hint at the horror and brutality we subject our poorer students to, in exchange for an education.

Go ask veterans at the Eugene Mission if there is any doubt. My World Almanac states more than 57,000 U.S. troops died in Vietnam and 300 died in the Gulf War.

Do you think the families of these men and women are proud that their kids died for the peace of the land?

Maybe a few. Most families, however, agree with Robert McNamara, U.S. Secretary of Defense 1961-1968, that Vietnam was a mistake, and we have 57,000 deaths to prove it.

Furthermore, most would agree that the Persian Gulf War happened for one reason: cheap oil. Kuwait sovereignty my foot, and we have 300 dead to show for it.

In light of the above mentioned numbers, I feel anyone entering the ROTC should ask themselves two questions: Whose interest am I really serving and 30 years from now, if I die while serving my country, will history say we shouldn't have been there anyway?

Donald E. Burton
Eugene

Support boycott

Students have the opportunity to play a role in correcting social injustices, which plague our society at large and plague the Willamette Valley. It is a situation of injustice in which the University administration, through pretending neutrality, promotes and perpetuates farmworker exploitation on the farms of NORPAC owners. Exploitation is suffering the highest rate of chemical-related illness of any occupation and being refused the right to minimum wage. Injustice is working six straight hours in the field because growers illegally refuse workers a single break. These are realities on farms of NORPAC growers.

In 1992, PCUN, the farmworkers' union, levied a national boycott in response to years of NORPAC refusing to negotiate the abusive labor conditions. Readers should recognize student efforts to remove Flav-R-Pac and Gardenburger from campus as a movement in support of the farmworkers' boycott.

To clarify the issue, which Gardenburger CEO Lyle Hubbard whitewashed readers in a letter to the editor (ODE, April 20), Gardenburger uses NORPAC as its distributor. Gardenburger enjoys profit-saving distribution costs due to NORPAC's exploitation of its underpaid labor force. PCUN informed Gardenburger of NORPAC owner's exploitation of farmworkers and asked Hubbard to sever economic ties. However, Hubbard chooses to continue using NORPAC as his distributor. Hubbard's financial support of a repressive regime of Oregon growers spurred PCUN to add Gardenburger to the boycott in 1996.

While numerous universities have stopped purchasing Gardenburger/FLAV-R-PAC (NORPAC's label), the University administration refuses to support Oregon farmworkers. Please voice your concern!

John Riordan

Planning, Public Policy and Management

LGBT+ welcomes all

My counselor recommended the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance to me because I wanted greater support and acceptance within my environment. However, I was afraid and nervous because I did not know whether I would be included. One day, I gathered my courage and decided to head for the LGBT+. The staff was friendly and warmly welcomed me. I participated in educational and intellectual discussions on topics such as religion, relationships, history and discrimination against gay people. I have also enjoyed activities such as hiking, movies and bowling. At the LGBT+, I gained support from straight allies, too. LGBT+ has made a great difference in my life. Therefore, if you are new, lonely or need support within your own environment, I strongly encourage you to come by the LGBT+ office in EMU Suite 34. We welcome you regardless of your ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Laynah Tan
Psychology/Business



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Hearth Café - Lawrence Hall ▶ Atrium Café - Willamette Hall

* Trip compliments of Council Travel. Includes: round trip airfare from Eugene to LA, travel by AmeriCan Adventures van, (Itinerary: Los Angeles to Joshua Tree NP, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Monument Valley, Moab, Bryce Canyon NP, Zion NP, Las Vegas, Los Angeles), services of AmeriCan driver/leader, two nights at Rocking R Ranch with free lodging, meals and use of all ranch facilities, river rafting, jeep tour, mountain bike tour, camping and cooking equipment. Must be current UO student to win.

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