

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Editorial

Ducks should find their voice, demand end to KUGN contract

KUGN-AM promotes itself as "the voice of the Ducks." Cumulus Broadcasting paid the University \$1,000,000 for the right to use that name and broadcast Duck games, and the University should now find a new voice — one that lives up to our standards.

The University's Affirmation of Community Standards Policy says it promotes "a culture of respect throughout the University community." But the ongoing, hate-filled diatribes of national radio personalities such as Michael Savage and Michael Medved promote no respect. And they don't promote a culture that "rejects bigotry, discrimination, violence or intimidation of any kind."

Is the cash-and-benefits package really worth the association with hate that the station's talk-radio hosts are buying from the University? These personalities are broadcast on some 1,200 stations nationwide, which is fine — they are entitled to their opinions, and they have the right to express them.

However, by being "the voice of the Ducks," KUGN's association appears to represent every Duck — including women and minorities.

And Hispanic students should take affront to being compared with rabbits and their breeding habits. Female faculty should take offense to being called "too emotional" to have the right to vote. Staff of Jewish faith should be outraged that Savage played tapes of Adolph Hitler's speeches over German military music the day after Yom Kippur. Gay community members should be offended by the notion that homosexuality was called a "grand plan ... to cut down on the white race."

These are not sentiments that the University should support or promote — or so it declares in its policies. But by taking money from KUGN, the University is giving tacit approval, or at least it's keeping quiet for the sake of money.

Either case contradicts the University's mission, which proudly declares its "dedication to ... freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the University community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community." We couldn't agree more; diversity is what makes this country great. But many demographic groups on campus could hardly feel welcome in the kind of environment KUGN provides.

All students, groups and departments on campus should demand that the University break its contract with Cumulus Broadcasting. Students — and student leaders — need to make it clear that we believed what the University told us: Diversity is welcomed in our community, and freedom of expression does not mean freedom to hate in our name.

Editorial policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submission must include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

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Inorganic legislation

Ever heard of bovine growth hormone (bgh)? How about Agent Orange, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), dioxins, saccharin, or aspartame? These are just a few of the products lovingly brought to you by your neighborhood biotech company, Monsanto. This is the same company that Oregonians allowed to pump more than \$5 million into "No on 27" ads, which made knowing the origins of our food sound like an infringement on their rights to poison us. The "No on 27" campaign has become the largest public relations effort on a state ballot initiative in Oregon's history, and most of the money came from out-of-state and even out-of-country sources.

The "No on 27" campaign, largely funded by Monsanto, quoted the price a family would pay for the labeling of genetically engineered foods to \$550 annually; in fact, an independent study at Oregon State University estimated the costs at only \$4 to \$10 per person (or \$16 to \$40 for a four person family) annually.

While it has been argued that Measure 27 was badly written, I cannot suspend reality for even a moment to believe that 72 percent of voters actually read the measure and came to this conclusion on their own. They were fooled by special interest money that has a large stake in maintaining genetically engineered foods' invisibility.

Furthermore, isn't it ironic that more than half of the U.S. soybean crop was genetically engineered to survive heavy doses of spraying of Monsanto's best-selling herbicide, Roundup? According to Pesticide Action Network North American (PANNA), a corporate watchdog group, the amount of Roundup sold each year has increased by 20 percent over the past five years.

At the same time, an analysis of 8,200 university research trials revealed that farmers who are planting Roundup Ready soybeans (made by Monsanto) are using two to five times as much herbicide as those using the conventional varieties.



Meghann Farnsworth
Just think about it



Steve Baggs Emerald

Pat McCormick, a public relations executive who ran the "No on 27" ad campaign, was quoted in the Oregonian as saying that "Oregonians have emphatically rejected the effort to raise people's fear about the foods they eat." McCormick, who I am sure can buy high quality foods, neglects the fact that it is the underprivileged who are forced to buy lower-end products.

Organic foods have found a firm consumer base in middle-class Americans who can afford the more expensive prices in exchange for knowing how their foods were produced. It is the genetically modified and pesticide-laden foods that are able to hide their presence in foods that lower-income families are forced to buy.

Finally, it seems ironic that groups calling themselves Oregon Family Farm Association and Oregon Farm Bureau

Federation should align themselves with groups like Monsanto. Monsanto's genetically engineered seeds will drastically hurt the small farmer, not help him. While traditionally farmers have been able to save seeds to be reused the next year, Monsanto's genetically engineered seeds produce only infertile seeds at the end of the farming cycle.

Thus, farmers would be forced to buy seeds year after year from Monsanto, costing them more money. Simply because the November elections have passed does not mean this issue is dead; stay alert, and in all seriousness, watch what you eat.

Contact the columnist at meghannfarnsworth@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Prevent theft by protecting belongings

Guest commentary

I am a Eugene Police Detective who is assigned to the Property Crimes Unit. I am assigned the SW quadrant of the city, which includes the University.

A significant portion of my time is spent studying crime reports. Property crimes include all types of theft, burglary and mischief. Of these categories, theft is by far the most significant crime around campus. Bike theft is a reoccurring theme, as well as thefts of property from cars and of course the theft of backpacks from the Knight Library.

Whenever questions come up about bike thefts, we stress the importance of writing down the serial number and registering the bike with the Department of Public Safety. It may not be common knowledge, but many stolen bikes are recovered, but they are sold at auction because the owner cannot be identified.

I recently made some friends who were glad they registered their bike. When it comes to thefts from vehicles, most report they had locked the doors,

so that is not enough to deter a thief in itself. The best way is simply not to leave anything of value in your car.

Some of us are reluctant to give a dollar to a hungry, homeless panhandler, but we routinely donate thousands of dollars to methamphetamine addicts. Besides the CDs, we donate wallets, purses, cameras, musical equipment and athletic gear. These items should not be left on display in your car where a thin piece of glass is the only security you have. These things I've mentioned are the usual and most typical types of thefts.

Something you may not think about that is a huge problem is the theft of text books. Books are expensive, but if you take care of your books, you can sometimes sell them back and get a fair amount. Unfortunately, the crooks know this also. Books actually hold a higher resale value than most other types of property.

Many of you know that as soon as your books are stolen, you go to the University Bookstore or to Smith's to report the books were stolen. Sometimes you even report them to the police or DPS — but sometimes you don't. If the book is sold

by the thief, that constitutes a new offense and is automatically a felony crime.

The area bookstores are very good about documenting the seller and are required to obtain identification. All that's left is linking a stolen book to the person it was stolen from. To this end, I want to remind you of some ways to help us do that. Many people can identify their books by markings they put in the book. I suggest using your driver's license number somewhere within the book. Any police officer can run a driver's license number and get a name and address immediately. If you choose to go with the driver's license number, it is important to identify it as such. Use the following format, OR 123456 DL ... I suggest the number be written on a secret page number near the binder.

These thefts occur daily, and in an area as small as the University, there is a good chance that it will eventually happen to you. Keep that in mind and do what you can to safeguard your property.

Detective Greg Calef
Eugene Police Department