

Shut Up and Dance

Human rights hurting

A growing and saddening trend seems to be prevalent on this campus and elsewhere in the country. Not only is the younger generation becoming more conservative and closed-minded, but it seems to be more vindictive and nasty in its attitudes towards others.

An example of the "morality" of some people is reflected in the recent controversy over Pullman's Fair Housing proposal.

The act was finally approved despite an uproar from a local church group. The group tried to stop the proposal's passage because it would make it illegal to refuse housing to homosexuals, singles, or people with small children.

I often hear young people say things like "I can smell a gay a mile away" and "homosexuality is a crime against nature." A male friend of mine told me, "I'm very liberal, but I hate faggots." He said it as if he meant to obliterate any gay within a mile given the chance.

Such statements can only discourage the attempts of those trying to make the world a more liveable place.

Gays are not the only ones who have had to hide in a closet from members of the moral marauders.

What ever happened to the peaceful long-hairs and the femanists and those crying out against what was perceived as social injustice? Are they are now silent and

disguised in the garb of the mindless preppy junior conservatives? It is too risky to "let your hair down" or "let it all hang out" these days.

Of course "gayness" is something we are not accustomed to. But it is frightening the way many so-called "moral" people are quick to condemn others in the guise of religion.

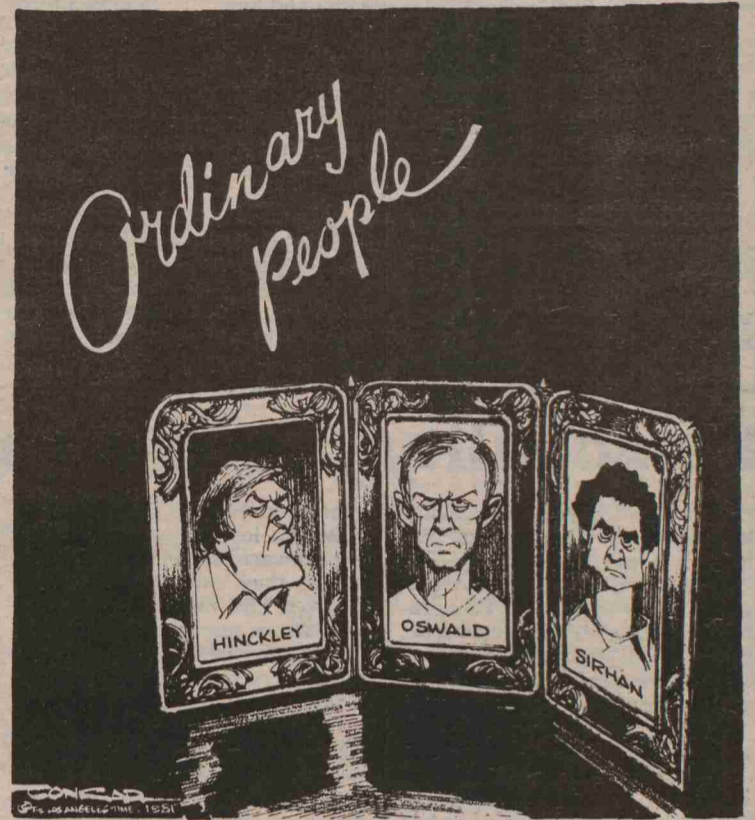
Some of these people have condemned others to an after life in hell for simply pursuing happiness and trying to cope with everyday life the best way they know how.

Jesus said, "How can you say to your brother 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is a log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye then you can see clearly." (Matthew 7:4,5 Revised Standard Edition Bible)

Next week is Gay Awareness Week on campus. It is also American Indian Awareness Week. There will be films and lectures about human rights and social issues in the CUB. If you are not a white, middle-class Protestant male, you may benefit by attending these meetings.

Every human being should have the right to live in a manner true to his or her own nature. Overbearing moralists take away the chance for persons to discover that nature.

Agnes Miller



Rights demanded

Dear Editor:

It's happened again. Our Constitutional rights are being threatened through the ignorance of those who propose gun control.

Mr. Koestler, in the beginning of your editorial in the Daily Evergreen of April 1, you stated that "Everyone points to everyone else, seeking to lay blame."

Is this not what you, yourself are doing, by condemning all firearm owners with gun control?

Gun control will not eliminate guns. Private owners will sell their firearms to other private owners and so on and so on until the ownership of said weapons is unknown. Sure, it may be fairly easy to obtain a gun now, but gun control won't make it harder,

just more expensive.

As to your interpretation of the Second Amendment—this is your opinion, which as you can probably tell by now, differs greatly from mine. I DEMAND my right to bear arms. I DEMAND the right to protect myself from bodily harm by another individual.

I enjoy the freedom of America's wilderness country, where I can hunt for food. Even if I never aim a firearm at another human being in self defense, (which I truly hope will not occur) I feel safe knowing that I am able to protect myself and that America allows me this privilege.

Patti Larkin Miller

Steam

Grammarian calls for change

Dear Editor:

All spring I have followed the continuing battle on the editorial page over "proper grammar" but Mr. Eatherton's recent letter has finally spurred me to respond.

So many literate speakers of English seem to think that grammar rules were set down by God and are thus unbreakable and unalterable. These people fail to realize that grammar rules are meant as descriptions of what people actually say—not as prescriptions of what people should say.

Many "rules" that we struggle with today (eg. split infinitives) were dictated by self-proclaimed authorities of the eighteenth century based on their own perceptions of "correct" and "incorrect" grammar—an attitude which obviously persists today.

To return to Mr. Eatherton's specific criticism, he fails to

recognize that the use of a masculine pronoun is merely traditional when referring to a noun of unknown sex—and I do use the word "sex" because gender corresponds almost exactly to sex in modern English so any distinction between these two terms is trivial.

This was not so in Old English in which "wife" was of neuter gender so the pronoun "it" was used—but this gender/sex contradiction soon collapsed into the more logical usage of "she" still used today. Other modern languages such as German and Spanish retain strong gender systems but gender is essentially dead in modern English, surviving only in a few—rapidly disappearing—uses of "she" for ships, cars, and countries.

In conclusion, Mr. Eatherton, you fail to recognize the fact that attitudes are changing about the traditional "rule" that a person

of unknown sex **must** be referred to as "he"—that this is not a divinely inspired rule and can be changed if literate speakers decide to do so—in spite of what you or other self-proclaimed authorities say the "rule" should be.

Derise Wigand
Department of English

Letters

The Daily Evergreen welcomes letters reflecting all viewpoints. Every attempt will be made to print all letters to the editor. Due to limited space, letters should be 250 words or less in length. The Evergreen reserves the right to edit all for length, libel and propriety.

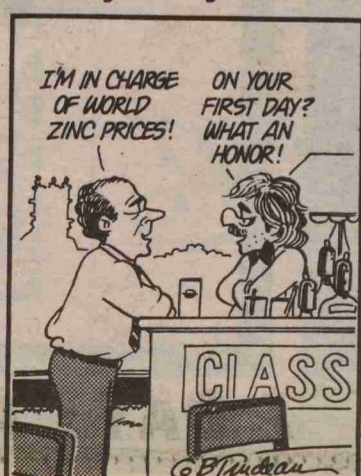
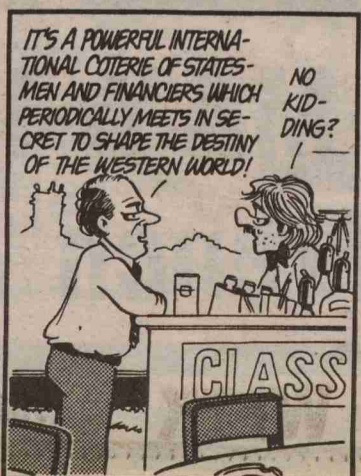
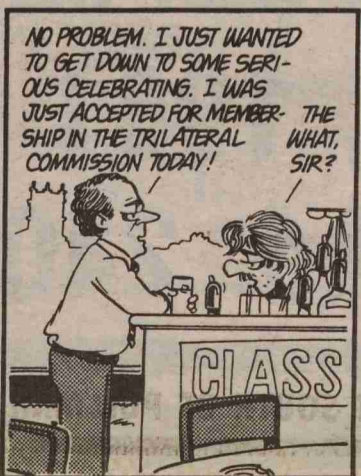
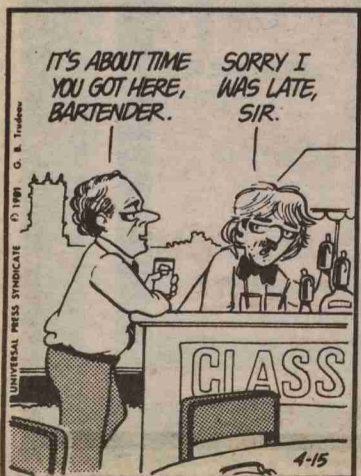
Liberty like charity must begin at home.

James Bryant Conant

What makes Western civilization worth saving is the freedom of the mind, now under heavy attack from the primitives...who have persisted among us. If we have not the courage to defend that faith, it won't matter much whether we are saved or not.

Elmer Davis

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

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