The all OSU boycott: one year later

March 1996 students rallied against hate at OSU, but has anything really changed since then?

By CHRIS PETERSEN
Senior Staff Writer

Last year’s all OSU boycott was a momentous event without parallel in the annals of official history at OSU. On the face of things the boycott itself was in response to a gross violation of a fellow human’s rights as a person. Beneath the surface, though is the reality that OSU is an institution which has struggled to extend itself beyond the comfortable structures that have evolved and entrenched themselves in our enigmatic community. Students, faculty and staff are still preoccupied at OSU for the sake of maintaining our comfortable structures. Thus, we at the Chronicle were invited as members of the campus community to comment on what has happened since the boycott and what remains to be done in order for OSU to become an ethically great institution.

SUSAN PROCK
COORDINATOR, OSU WOMEN’S CENTER

F irst, a reality check: of the 158 administrators on campus, 34% are women. This is weighted towards the bottom end of the administrative scale with the majority serving as directors, assistant or associate directors, and country staff chairs. These figures are indicative that women still are not equally represented throughout the hierarchical structure. In addition there appears to be pockets of unfriendly places for women strewn throughout campus. On the other hand, I do see some work being done to remedy the situation. Women are increasingly encouraged to continue their education through Masters and Ph.D. programs. Some departments aggressively recruit women for their disciplines. Physics, for instance, has their own in graduate school to encourage women to go on in that area. In addition, Department Chair, Dr. Ken Krane, has had consultants examine the Physics department to ensure that women are treated with the respect they deserve. I also believe that OSU is on the brink of a paradigm shift. The structural hierarchy of the past is increasingly becoming the focus of a discursive critique. For instance, Student Affairs spent the last year collaboratively recreating their leadership style. A heartening indication of this change appears in their new Campus Compact which states that a basic right and responsibility of everyone in that area is the "positive treatment and care" to be accorded to all "because it is our responsibility to acknowledge the dignity of each person, not simply that person's perceived status." My conclusion is that OSU has a long way to go before I am able to apply the community for treating women as intrinsically equal to men. However, I am cautiously optimistic that the slow, steady elimination of such inequities will continue and perhaps even gain some speed.

MINA CARSON
DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY DFD PROGRAM

What I hear from the DFD, faculty, and what I observe myself, suggests that the OSU climate for underrepresented minorities is probably about par with other American institutions in which the dominant voices are white, heterosexual, and male. Things are changing, and overall (though as a historian I hesitate to use this phrase) for the better. Why do I say this optimistically? (1) We have programs like DFD and Ethnic Studies, programs designed to bring knowledge and awareness into the central stream of conversation here in the university. The programs must be staffed and funded to exist, and so far, so good. (2) This is not merely rhetoric, but the atmosphere over in athletics, and the persistence of ROTC on the campus despite its discrimination against gays and lesbians. (4) We are raking a period. Every so often a dissident voice is silenced - but many of us talk on, and on! Free speech is by large supported in the community even though the social consequences can be as high here as in most places. (5) There is more student participation in the President's Commission Against Hate Related Activities. The downside: Most individuals belonging to powerful social groups simply do not want to hear about the struggles of individuals in less powerful social groups. We maintain, as a society, amazingly strong defenses against empathy, and even against common-sense thinking about poverty and discrimination (like, they hurt all of us). On my down days I think of these things, and feel discouraged. But we must carry on. And I do believe that overall the world is better for many of us than it was twenty years ago.

LARRY D. ROPER
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

contend, though there have been legislative, judicial and social initiative our general social condition has not dramatically improved during the past 25 years. We have desegregated our institutions, but the lives of the people within them have not become integrated. We are, at once, together and apart. All of this while our institutions are being challenged to be more global in our thinking and functioning. I say this to preface that we must be realistic about what changes we expect to "see" in one year.

While we may not have seen major changes in the structure and functioning of the campus in the past year, I do believe there is a significant change in the force and direction of energy being exerted. I strongly believe this energy is the sign of hope. There is significant effort being poured into restructuring and constructing positive relationships, work is being done to foster stronger community on campus, and energy focused on improving our university.

"Significant effort is focused on bringing visibility, audibility, and centrality to those who have been made to feel faceless, nameless, voiceless, and marginal.

LARRY D. ROPER
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Turn to Boycott, Page 2

Need more information? Contact these campus representatives for ways to get involved:

- OSU Office of Affirmative Action: 737-5556
- OSU Office of Women's Affairs: 737-3556
- OSU Office of Multicultural Affairs: 737-3116
- OSU Office of Student Activities: 737-4372
- OSU Office of University Planning: 737-6349

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead
Boycott: University voices suggest opportunities for change at OSU

Programs and initiatives to challenge the status quo

students have reported that they were uncomfortable holding hands with a partner or having slurs yelled at them while walking alone or with a partner through campus. Queers on this campus report feeling physically unsafe both at night and in the daytime, especially when visibly "out" — wearing a necklace, a T-shirt, or hairstyle that identifies them as queer. Many students feel that it would be unwise to be "out" in their dorms; some worry that they have to be themselves at least when they are with friends of their own body. Marching into the future, we must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice. We must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice. We must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice. We must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice. We must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice. We must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice. We must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice. We must work together as a group and bring our issues to the "All OSU Boycott." Solidarity among the different groups in and outside of campus is necessary in order to bring about the changes we all affect as a community. We must all be active. We must all participate and we must all take it upon ourselves to fight for Justice.
Seizing the torch of leadership

Winter term, civil rights legend Julian Bond visited Oregon State University. He gave two presentations; one open to the public, the other directly intended for students. The student forum was attended by barely 30 people, almost all of them high school students. I was so disheartened by the poor turnout that I wrote a letter to Mr. Bond expressing my worries about civil rights activism today. Surprisingly, he replied. Not surprisingly, his short, humble response was a reminder that big things happen when many people take small, simple steps. What follows is my letter to Julian Bond, and his reply.

Dear Mr. Bond,

I sincerely hope that you enjoyed your brief visit to Oregon as much as we enjoyed being your hosts. Though I express my ignorance, I must admit that I had known little of you prior to your visit. What I did learn was that OSU’s President has been quite a ride. After a year of nearly every big-name, best-selling author or political leader coming to OSU’s campus, I watched students milling around, racing to and from theRep. is Resurrected." It almost seems as if since we’ve got the laws on the books, we believe that racism exists today as did when students staged a hunger strike in protest of the university’s lip-service to minority issues.

I spent several years in the Pac-10. I’m speaking, of course, of our sponsors at OSU, who run with a high-powered image that only the small cleanup operations rose up against hatred in the activism of students today, and we’ve got the laws on the books. It almost seems as if since we’ve got the laws on the books, we believe that racism is a thing of the past while we concentrate on other social problems.

As I walked home from this morning’s student forum, my mind slowly muddled through united behavior which reinforces group loyalty, and which renews the false belief that Oregon is seemingly superior, and capable of so-called progress. I am not important that the OSU is seemingly superior, and capable of so-called progress.

My experience isn’t strictly limited to OSU. I spent several years at Stanford University, in a very different racial and social environment. Though superficially, there may seem to be more student activism at Stanford than at OSU, I wonder whether Stanford students posses much direction to their activism. Several years ago, similar to the student lockout that you mentioned occurred at Howard, Stanford students staged a hunger strike in protest of the university’s purchasing of grapes for their dining halls. I am not important that the OSU is seemingly superior, and capable of so-called progress. I am not important that the OSU is seemingly superior, and capable of so-called progress.
College life extends beyond campus

By ELISSA EASLEY
Senior Staff Writer

Sharon DeHart’s speech from January’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Oratory Contest...

On January 20, 1997, this country paid homage to the life of a man who believed in love for his fellow man, a man who believed in equality for ALL people.

Hello. My name is Sharon DeHart. I am an older-than-average Senior following a Pre-Med track toward a bachelors of science degree. My present goal is to gain acceptance to college, to become a general practitioner—a partner with my patients in the care of their health.

I was asked to speak on equality or overcoming oppression, which caused me to say, "Wait a few years trying to think of the perfect phrase, the perfect opening, the perfect attention getter, when all of a sudden it struck me—maybe I wasn’t equipped to write about oppression—because maybe I am myself oppressed. I am a woman and women technically are oppressed—I just never thought of myself that way.

As I examined my life, I remembered many variables where, yes, I was oppressed but of course I am a woman and perhaps I didn’t give it much thought. I have always flown quite fast in the direction I am going, so when I was held down by anything, it wasn’t for long. I know, that makes me part of the privileged class.

I figured I just couldn’t write on this subject, as I really did not know what it meant to be oppressed. Maybe I wasn’t supposed to write about it—so I put it aside.

Then one afternoon, shortly before the keynote speaker was to address the celebration, I sat at the computer reading a biography about Martin Luther King Jr., which included key points from several of his speeches. It was then that I realized I may not know what it feels like to be oppressed, as others have felt, but I do know what it feels like not to be equally valued. As I read, I knew what equality means to me—equality for all mankind.

I closed my eyes and let my heart write what was feeling.

Characteristics, be they skin color or intellect or gender, are immutable if you have no value as a person.

So what is value?

This speech was presented at the fifth-annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Oratory Contest, on January 20, 1997, at the Lutefisk Stewart Center.

SHARON DEHART
Honors College Student

An Interview with Joe Hendricks, Director of the University Honors College

By ELISSA EASLEY
Senior Staff Writer

This past year the University Honors College conducted a survey of its students to determine whether students were satisfied with UHC student services. The GTA’s then compiled the survey results and reviewed them with the UHC. Together the GTA’s and staff

A: "It’s the kinetic spark from students and the ‘free zone’ atmosphere here that makes my job worth doing."

J. On looking at assisting students to volunteer with: vote smart, fresh start, the Sunflower House, and the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce. These service opportunities help students develop a sense of identity and civility—two of the many attributes of effective leaders.

A: There is a misconception in people’s minds that competence should lead to egotism. It is the personal responsibility of UHC students to "break down" this attitude.

I am also working with President Rissler to establish a workshop where UHC students will be teaching leadership skills to the President’s cabinet.

A: What do you see as being the factor promoting the "elitist" image of UHC students around campus, since it’s been the UHC’s goal all along to avoid that label?

A: Through support from the Kellogg Foundation the UHC is currently providing leadership opportunities and is able to incorporate GTA’s into the UHC program.

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Turn to Joe Hendricks, page 5

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"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The difference of race is one of the reasons why I fear war may always exist; because race implies difference, difference implies superiority, and superiority leads to predomiance."

--Benjamin Disraeli

"Prejudice, which sees what it pleases, cannot see what is plain."

--Aubrey T. de Vere

"I shall never permit myself to stoop so low as to hate any man."

--Booker T. Washington

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."

--Indira Gandhi

"The mind of the bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you pour upon it, the more it will contract."

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

"Lying is done with words and also with silence."

--Adrienne Rich

"Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less."

--Susan B. Anthony

"Whether women are better than men I cannot say -- but I can say they are certainly no worse."

--Golda Meir

WEB WATCH

The following is a list of web sites which students may find useful or entertaining.

- http://www.orst.edu/dept/honors
  The University Honors College Homepage

- http://www.orst.edu/dept/Housing
  University Housing and Dining Services page. Find out what really goes into the food you eat.

- http://www.m-w.com/netdict.htm
  A dictionary resource online.

- http://home.thesaurus.com/thesaurus
  A quick thesaurus for times when you need a polysyllabic word to make your papers sound more thoughtful.

- http://www.thedj.com
  An online radio service that lets you listen to a whole range of music while you work, from classical to rock.

- http://www.imdb.com
  One of the authoritative sources for movie information and reviews. Good for deciding what to watch on a Friday night.

PUBLIC ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE, INC.

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  Schedule available at http://www.peak.org/education
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  (just $7.50/month for a Unix account)

850 SW 15th St.
Corvallis, OR 97331

Phone: 754-7325

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Corvallis, Oregon 97330
(541) 768-7302

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- Soups, Salads, Sandwiches
- Private Parties & Catering
- Jazz & Blues
The initial University Honors College Student Mission Statement:

The University Honors College strives to facilitate an innovative, cooperative learning community. Motivated students and faculty aspire to create unique opportunities in the traditional university setting. We encourage leadership, creativity, communication and service. UHC graduates leave the university with the insight and ability to explore and realize their visions for a positive future.

Created May 29, 1997
The Honors College Steering Committee

Joe Hendricks

community within the college?
A: To have a better idea of the willingness of potential new students to participate in activities, we have changed essay questions on application. These essays will better reflect their opinion about "the social responsibility of an educated person." It is made apparent in the application that participation is expected.

We have already set the date for the third annual fall barbeque, and have invited the new students that were accepted for next fall.

One of the challenges for UHC students remains finding a balance between classes and extra-curricular involvement.

Q: I know that creating a diverse community is another goal of the UHC, and I believe that number-wise the UHC is represented by higher percentages of minority students than the University average, yet people still comment on the lack of diversity and question UHC recruiting strategies in the survey. What is your reaction to this?
A: Twenty-two percent of UHC students are underrepresented minorities. That is twice as high as the University average. Of the new students accepted for the 96-97 school year, 14% are underrepresented minorities, and that figure is expected to increase by next fall with the accepted yield.

It is important to us to point out that we have not altered the acceptance threshold for minority students. The same expectations are placed on all UHC students. In addition, the essays allow all students to "prove their way in" even without stellar exam scores.

The UHC sends brochures to every Oregon high school, and travel with OSSE, as well as all honors colleges in the state system, to visit schools throughout Oregon. In addition, the UHC staff goes to the Portland schools for open houses, and to meet with advisors at the UHC, and I believe a diverse community is another goal of the UHC, and I believe that number-wise the UHC is represented by higher percentages of minority students than the University average, yet people still comment on the lack of diversity and question UHC recruiting strategies in the survey. What is your reaction to this?

Getting a statement written, and encouraging as many UHC students as possible to help with yield.
Then, during several of the spring term meetings, the steering committee and a few of the other UHC students, succeeded in creating the College's mission statement. Frustrated with the little amount of participation in the first mission writing session, the committee sent a attention-getting rough draft statement out to all of the UHC students on e-mail.
Reading the potential mission statement was enough to provoke a few more people to attend the next meeting and provided input for outlining the College's objectives and goals in a concise statement.

Fullbright scholar shares advice about an international education

By GARY VAUGHN
Honors College Student

Over the last few years I have been involved in two programs that are very important to me at Oregon State University.

The first of these activities involves undergraduate research for the Department of Microbiology. For several years I have been working with a professor in that department on a project involving Escherichia coli. The other activity that I have been involved in is the conversant program run by the English Language Institute here at OSU. Through this program I have met wonderful people from many different countries. As a result I have learned a lot about other cultures, as well as a lot about myself.

Just recently I have been given the chance to combine these two important activities. I have been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Thailand next year. The research involves a bacterium known as Vibrio parahaemoliticus, which causes several diseases in rice. While conducting the research, I will have the chance to experience a culture that I have fallen in love with in the past several years.

I strongly recommend getting involved with the various international programs here at OSU. Helping international students at OSU or traveling abroad can be a rewarding experience. The English Language Institute and the Office of International Education offer many different programs. If you are interested, please visit them in Snell Hall, here on campus.

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Reading the potential mission statement was enough to provoke a few more people to attend the next meeting and provided input for outlining the College's objectives and goals in a concise statement.

Joe Hendricks

Q: I know that creating a diverse community is another goal of the UHC, and I believe that number-wise the UHC is represented by higher percentages of minority students than the University average, yet people still comment on the lack of diversity and question UHC recruiting strategies in the survey. What is your reaction to this?
A: Twenty-two percent of UHC students are underrepresented minorities. That is twice as high as the University average. Of the new students accepted for the 97-98 school year, 14% are underrepresented minorities, and that figure is expected to increase by next fall with the accepted yield.

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Memories
By David Marshall and Ravi Pur
Honors College Students

Memories running through our mind
Like to share them through this rhyme
Many years have pass by
Like clouds in the sky
Speaking of clouds think of the shapes
The elephants and the monsters we used to make
The elephants we rode in our mind
When we were circus performers all the time
Remember the time when we were anything
Like captain, pirate, or in the army
Our imagination ruled our lives
Now we shall let it one more time
We thought about it everyday
If we could be like birds and fly away
Now those carefree days are gone
Just as much as Bambi’s mom
Wishing those days would come back
Those fond memories of the past
For long ago we had fun
When our lives had just begun
We were skidders falling down
Just as an arena with some clowns
Remember when the fair was so big
The rides were huge and we loved the pigs
We liked Bugs Bunny and that’s all folks
Even the Flintstones and that’s no hoax
T.V. changed our perspectives on many things

Watching Ernie and Bert and Big Bird’s wings
Mister roger’s neighborhood and Cpt. Kangaroo
We go all hyper when we drank Mt. Dew
We have seen many funny things
Like strange presidents and wacked kings
Our minds were just brand new
We always thought of something to do
Remember the time when we were anything
Like captain, pirate, or in the army
Our imagination ruled our lives
Now we shall let it one more time
We thought about it everyday
If we could be like birds and fly away
Now that those carefree days are gone
Just as much as Bambi’s mom
Wishing those days would come back
Those fond memories of the past
For long ago we had fun
When our lives had just begun
GI Joes and Star Wars
E.T. and Wal-Mart stores
Transformers at Fred Meyer
All those ads and they were liars
Remote control cars, airplanes
Until you got them home you went insane
All that power and all the glory
In legos and all the theories
Goldilocks and the three bears
Dinosaurs and Dragon’s lairs
Comic books and video games
Movie stars with all the fame
Football, baseball, basketball
Even sports cards for ya’ll
We had big dreams and a million desires
If only we still had the same fire
Building tree houses to get away
 Pretending that we ran away
 Everyday and Every night
Dreamers dreams and joyous delight
All these memories now
Just like this song, holy cow
Always remember to remember
To not forget memories forever

The Boon
There ain’t no magic there.
I know, I’ve been there.
There ain’t no more life working there for me.

The sandstone cliff above the town—
the color of blood in dreams—
barely moves. Those frail pines
cling to its edge with white knuckles.
You’d think they’d be the first to fall
from that brittle, gritty, red earth
and take somebody out along the way,
getting back for cutting that hill open,
vitally in the shadow hanging out.

But no, things work like clockwork down below:
the bakery,
the beer,
the August sunrise,
the farmers
sending fields,
hidden smiles of rolling hills.

Sharon DeHart
be transformed without resorting to socialized medicine.
He is living his dream of giving away health care equally to all people.
He believes one cannot separate the health of an individual form the health of the family, the community and the world.

So, what did Dr. Budd mean when he said that “inauthenticity kills life?”
In general, we, as people, have become out of touch with what gives our lives meaning.
We have buried our authenticity—our ability to be genuine.
We do not see each other as real people—we see only ourselves.

The fast pace of today’s society, built around technology, regulations and procedures, has obscured the human essence of our fundamental relationships.
We have forgotten the simplicities of life that make life worth living.
We have complicated our lives to the point that our own selves are all that is real to us— others do not have reality. They couldn’t possibly feel as we feel, or experience life’s injustices as we do. We have become wrapped up in our own self righteousness.

We talk to each other, but do we hear what the other is saying? If we do hear—have we actually listened? Did we just hear the words? Or did we listen attentively enough to hear in their very soul—crying out in pain or exultant in joy?

What do we see as we walk across campus—across the street? Do we look at each other as we pass by? Do we make eye contact and smile? Or do we see a lot of our own feet—or the sky? If someone makes eye contact, do we quickly look away, resulting in be caught looking at them? Or, do we smile in return? If not, why not?
As a little girl, my grandmother told me it took a lot less work to smile than it did to frown. And, in those days, less work held high priority for me! Today, I can say that phrase in a different light. Smiling is not only less work for my facial muscles, it means less tendency for wrinkles, and less stress for my academically-taxaded brain.

A smile brings a connection with people. It makes the world I live in a little more friendly—a little warmer—a little more equal.

If we were to apply to Philip Hallie’s concept of hospitality to each connection with another person, might equality be possible? Hallie’s hospitality is more than love. It is a love that is effective in restoring hope to mankind—hope of equality—hope filled with smiles. Might it be possible for a smile to bring equality to the human race?

A smile is a powerful tool; one genuine smile from the heart can grow exponentially.
We need to reach out and touch others and they too are real.

RAVI PURI
Honors College Student

Exerpts from the senior thesis of...
ERIC DICKY
Honors College Student

Intruder Upon the Winter Day
Under furled dank, angels fall.
With that certain squeak beneath my feet, I break the silence locked in snow.
I can hear it when I stop. It is my breath and shifting balance I hear.

One Thing at a Time
A crow sways with the wind, rocking, grey sky.
It knows how to land on a branch that bends.

Lovers sit next to each other.
One yawns and stretches, the other tips her head forward to avoid an arm.

This is how the branch bends, giving itself.
The limb shakes after the crow dives into eternal air.

Friday, June 6, 1997
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Parting Shot

An Indian woman from the state of Gujarat carries a bundle of grain in the warm summer sun. The woman, along with her sister and young daughter, transported by hand, head, and feet, are entire fields of hand-stretched grain on half-mile to the local storehouse. Though camera-shy, the woman agreed to share a cup of tea with the photographer. "I love my family," she said, "and so I love my work."

Chakrabarti

The Chronicle wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the following sponsors, whose generous donations made this issue possible:

The OSU Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity
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Petersen: Obstacles to institutional change

status? After all only about 2,500 OSU students live in fraternities and sororities, and many non-Greeks clearly display their discontent both in private conversation and with graffiti scratchings on bathroom walls.

Well, for students the answer is fairly complex. The demographics of the majority of students who come to OSU, and the Morrill Act corporate job training that OSU provides, have not cultivated a palpable activist culture at the university. Nor does the 50-inch radius of influence Corvallis receives, mainly during the school year. More often than not, student protest at OSU takes the form of a few letters to the Barometer, as was the case in 1962, when the university prohibited prominent community Gus Hall from speaking on campus. Indeed, the Barometer has become the forum for a sort of punch, counter-punch system of debate, which the Greeks have utilized masterfully. Called a flack machine by Noah Chomsky, the torrent of carefully-worded Greek responses—emphasizing community service and brotherhood serves to push the debate into the Greek’s arena. It is this mechanism through which the notions of “she was too drunk,” or “he isn’t a member of the house” gain unwarranted credence.

In terms of the administration’s lack of response, one plausible explanation highlights alumni as the root pressure group reinforcing the status quo. The majority of OSU’s alumni graduated from a very conservative school. The case of ROTC, which was compulsory for all male students up until 1962, provides a clear example. When the Faculty Senate attempted to come into compliance with state regulations and abolished the ROTC Faculty Senate representative because of the armed forces’ discriminatory stance on queers in the military, alumni responded critically, threatening to withhold $3 million worth of contributions to their alma mater. Accordingly, the Senate quickly reversed its position. The magnitude of this backlash is underscored by the fact that the Faculty Senate has virtually no real power to do much of anything.

Given this climate, it is unsurprising that the alumni response were the Greeks being adored and banned all together. Many chapters have roots stretching back to the 1940’s and the OSU’s system has always been one of the most prominent on the West coast. Even Linus Pauling was a Greek.

Alumni annually contribute in the neighborhood of $15 million a year; important dollars amidst the trend of voter attack on the public sector. This money is being solidified by Paul Risser’s recently announced “alumni college,” which will provide a curriculum of classes for graduated Beavers and assure them an email account until the day that they die. The administration and the alumni are in tight embrace, and alumni pressures have the potential to make real change at our backward, lily-white university. Unfortunately such changes probably will not occur until a new generation of graduates urges the university to do what is right. There’s so much to do and so little time. Problem sets. Papers. Projects. Majors. Minors. Options. Why actually graduates in four years? Why don’t you do something different while you’re here? Explore the physics of time. Recite Shakespeare in Ashland. Engage yourself. You’ve got nothing to lose. And everything to gain.

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The University Honors College
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