

Monday, September 28, 1981

Dick Clark, Editor
Daily Barometer

Dear Editor:

We want to protest against what we consider non-objective journalism on the part of the Daily Barometer, or more specifically the reporter Donna Chandler.

In the article "Thomas Tours South Africa" that appeared in Thursday's issue (Sept. 24), Donna Chandler attempted to present a summary of a debate that took place on campus this summer over Dale Thomas' controversial trip to South Africa. In her report she has, willingly or not, omitted the quick reaction and central role of the African Students' Association without which the trip would not have been brought to the attention of the public, and therefore would not have been an issue. As reported by the Statesman-Journal on Tuesday, July 21, "the planned trip came to light when Oregon State African Students' Association wrote a letter to MacVicar protesting the planned trip because of South Africa's apartheid policies."

In fact, it is the African Students' Association that first wrote the President of the University requesting that the honor of this institution and the future of the OSU wrestlers be preserved by disassociating OSU from Dale Thomas' shameful venture with apartheid South Africa which is in violation of international law. It is the African Students' Association that sent letters and other useful documents to the OSU wrestlers originally scheduled for the

trip, informing them about the scope and possible consequences of their action in case they choose to embark on the tour with Thomas. In response to the African Students' Association's letters, Jack Rainey of the OSU Athletic Department confirmed that, indeed, the trip would be in violation of NCAA regulations. If OSU wrestlers had gone with Dale Thomas they would have lost their eligibility and scholarships.

It is also through the action of the African Students' Association that various individuals, church and community groups in Corvallis and elsewhere came to be aware of the proposed trip and came to express their opposition to it. We believe that this public stand against any kind of complicity on the part of Oregon State University in this matter played a major role in Dr. MacVicar's decision not to honor Thomas' request to take OSU wrestlers to South Africa.

Given these facts, we find it deplorable that Donna Chandler chose, for whatever reasons, to ignore the expressed concerns of the community without which the wrestlers' NCAA eligibility and the honor of the university would not have been upheld. We wonder if Donna Chandler talked to Donna Strobels and Trish Neiwirth who covered this event for the Summer Barometer on July 21st? We would like to know why Donna Chandler relies solely on Greg Strobels, OSU assistant wrestling coach, for her information and quotes? Could it be that Donna Chandler is Donna Strobels and is very biased

on this issue? Yes, indeed, we are informed that Donna Chandler is Donna Strobels whose husband and source of information is Dale Thomas' assistant. We think that OSU students and staff deserve a far better story than she is able to give them.

Sincerely,

The ASA Executive Committee:

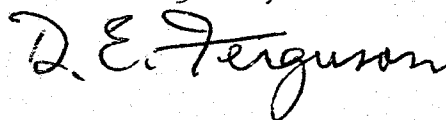
Winnie Tay, Pres.

Tony Toby, Sec.

Joe Mator, Fin. Sec.

Deffo Tamboue, Soc. Sec.

Dr. D.E. Ferguson, Advisor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D.E. Ferguson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Dr. D.E. Ferguson, Advisor".