

Club transformed

What was a tranquil liquor lounge was transformed Friday following a most insensitive, irresponsible Emerald article about the lounge at the Veterans Memorial Building.

Many facts were correct: location, dates of building etc. But an equal amount of facts and insights were passed over and the resultant influx of adolescent mentalized liver abusers reached catastrophic proportions.

After the lounge opened to the public it struggled along financially until, through the hard work and intelligent management of a 60-plus year old man I know only as Lonnie, it started to draw a crowd. A crowd that too often has nowhere to go, a crowd too often pushed aside as obsolete, a crowd that wants to have a good time in their own way.

That way is listening to the "Country Squires" rehash polkas, Hank Williams and Dean Martin songs into swing time so these seniors can dance without blowing a pace-maker.

Some of these patrons are old. They often dress in evening clothes, smile almost continually and enjoy in their own way. Watching them groove makes me feel good. There are too many old folks with no kin, no money after the skimpy S.S. check pays the bills thus the drinks are cheap. But if you youngsters want to go to liquor store and buy a bottle, your poison figures out to about fifty cents a drink. I'm not saying stay away from the Vet's Club; just act like a guest, consider it an elders refuge, it's their place. They go there to commune with their peers, not just for cheap drinks.

What I saw Friday night was a total infringement on their space. Young people shouting obscenely across tables, chairs pulled into the aisles that women old enough to be your grandmother had to navigate through to get to the dance floor or the restrooms, spare chairs used for foot stools.

Time will tell. Will Lonnie's hard work go down the drain because people in evening dress don't want to sit in chairs that have been used for foot stools, or because the loud ravings of drunks jam all other attempts at communication and elderly fragile boned seniors can't risk being stumbled over by a young drunk? Or even worse will the elderly be shuffled out of their space once more.

Stumbling into your grandparents fiftieth anniversary with a half dozen friends working on a second bottle of tequila is on about the same plane as the sub-30 cheap drink seekers Friday night at Vet's.

Robert McEldowney
1400 Rainbow Drive
Springfield, Oregon

Duck Soup

Oregon Daily Emerald



It's solved his cross-campus class schedule!

mirable qualities. But, Fourth District voters are fortunate this year to have such a wide spectrum of candidates and I can see no reason why any one of them should withdraw.

We have liberal Jim Weaver, conservative Jerry Lausmann, the aforementioned Ms. Nathan, and moderate independent Jim Howard (who has a strong base of support from Democrats, Republicans, and Independents and is most likely the most qualified candidate). I frankly find this choice of candidates encouraging. As long as all views are represented, American politics will continue to thrive. It's when competition disappears that government becomes stagnant and ineffective.

So, Ms. Nathan, let us table any future talk of withdrawal and plunge into a wide open race. The people of the Fourth District will be the prime beneficiaries of such an event.

Dave Sordam
Campaigning for Jim Howard
for Congress
Sophomore
Undeclared

Reign of terror

Comrades:

There seem to be on this campus a few individuals who think the death of Chairman Mao is something to be mourned. I, however, rejoice at the death of

one of the bloodiest butchers in all of human history. Only Hitler and Stalin can rate with this fiend who slaughtered millions during his reign of terror. Those who think of Mao as some great leader are full of crap as all believers of Communism will continue to be until they are defeated.

Mitch Walton
Junior-History

Murray for mayor

In mid-August, Eugene mayoral candidate Gus Keller gave a speech to local businessmen at the Downtown Lions Club. On the question of who he would appoint to the various Eugene committees Mr. Keller stated that he wouldn't nominate "somebody from the University of Oregon or some raving lib, 21 years old..."

As a candidate for mayor, Gus Keller is disagreeable enough without his inappropriate comment on Eugene's youth. Without going into detail about the right of any Eugene resident, including U of O students and "raving libs," to participate in the decisions of the Eugene City Council, I should at least point out that U of O students are a major source of revenue for local businesses. Since Mr. Keller is so extremely pro-business, and has such a tendency to give in to special business interests, I'm not quite sure if his proponents

would appreciate it if every U of O student and "lib" took their business to Springfield. Mr. Keller obviously wants our votes but not our participation. This is exactly the kind of attitude that the city of Eugene does not need.

So clean up your act, Gus, because the major candidate for mayor, Neil Murray, has proven himself an advocate of students participating in Eugene's governmental decisions. Neil Murray is the one who will set priorities right in local government. I hope you'll remember that in November.

Jim Fitzhenry
Senior
English & Psychology

Letters policy

Because of severe space limitations imposed by the upcoming federal, state, county and city elections, candidates for ASUO offices are asked to submit only one letter in support of themselves prior to the ASUO primary.

In addition, each candidate may submit an endorsement from a supporter.

All letters must be typed in 65 character lines and double-spaced. Letters may not exceed 250 words.

This policy becomes effective Monday, Oct. 11.

Letters

Nathan insecure

In reference to Ms. Nathan's 10-6-76 letter in the Emerald I find that she has displayed a continual sense of insecurity. Previously she called for Jerry Lausmann's withdrawal because of his lumber interests. Now she infers that Messrs. Lausmann, Weaver, and Howard do not favor better government, and even if they did, they should withdraw owing to their inferior qualifications.

Does Ms. Nathan feel that better government results when only the "best" qualified person

runs? Even if she truly is the best qualified candidate, shouldn't she be willing to face competition? After all, it is the inalienable right of the American public to elect who they want to run their government. Should they opt for a candidate who is incompetent, dishonest, or a puppet of special interest groups; so be it. The beauty of our system is that we do have a choice.

And, if Ms. Nathan is truly the best candidate, most likely the constituents of the Fourth District will recognize her ad-

Urban homicide

The story of the man who, having lost all but one of the senior members of his family through a series of mysterious accidents, shot his grandmother because she had a broken ankle shouldn't be unfamiliar in Eugene.

At 62 years of age the Armory is perhaps Eugene's last remaining downtown veteran. In the "family of buildings" which comprise the city center it is viewed now, not as an active participant with many years of worthwhile service ahead, but an eccentric and dangerous neighbour. When that neighbor, unattended for several years, cracks up even slightly, then its time for the wreckers ball.

The decision to demolish the Armory is indeed urban homicide — the wreckers ball a dance of death — for it is neither a sensitive, sensible nor cheap solution.

The building is an intrinsic part of the city townscape and its heritage. It is imbued with tradition and association for the citizenry — the Dempsey appearance, countless dances, chance meetings, pistol practice and visits of Georgeous Gus the wrestler.

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The Armory is a valuable city resource — to destroy an auditorium and chunk of office space in a central city location where there is already a well known demand for those facilities seems like madness.

If, as stated, the reason for demolition is to remove a dangerous neighbor then what need for such drastic action? Fixing up is all right, less expensive and happens to be the way that most of the worlds architectural heritage is still around and in use today.

The demolition of the Armory because of a few cracks — if that is the reason — makes no sense. It is not financial sense for it will cost more, it is not civic sense for it will destroy a valuable resource and it certainly isn't constructional sense.

It is sense to keep the Armory and to use it.

Brian Carter
Dept. of Architecture
and Allied Arts

opinions

The Armory speaks

...Hello there. You're one of the few people who have ever entered my doors in the last five years. I sense that you are taking pictures in respect to my beauty, so I speak to you as a friend.

It may seem odd that I talk to you like this, but I am in a state of desperation. One engineering firm has poked around and concluded that I am unsafe, and with the same breath, says I will be difficult to demolish. County services that I house are moving this weekend, and will indefinitely spend thousands of tax dollars relocating in rented private space.

Many people really don't know me because in recent years I have never been used to my potential. Thousands of cars whiz by my brick walls as if I am not even here. But that isn't the way it used to be. Not long ago downtown used to be alive with people. There were days when I used to feel like a vital part of Central Eugene. I enjoyed it most when large crowds gathered underneath my arched framework, and listened and danced to music. My most memorable event occurred in the thirties when the famous wrestler, "Georgeous George" married a Creswell girl in the arena.

But just in the last decade I have heard

my close friends and neighbors cry for help under the unmerciful wrecking ball. Many of them more beautiful than I have been replaced with asphalt parking lots, concrete snobs, or rubbish filled lots. Now the courthouse next door tells me that I am too old, full of cracks and an outcast to good public image. I admit that I am older than most buildings around here, but with age comes beauty and grace. The cracks that I endure are not because of old age, but were caused by a broken water main which EWEB should be responsible for. The cracks are not worsening, I am holding strong against them.

Please friend, take your pictures and tell the people that I am worth saving. Tell them to repair the damage that was no fault of mine. Give me one chance to prove to the straight snobbish new buildings that I can outlast them. If the people do destroy the last historical building of my size left in Eugene, remind them of one thing: you'll never be able to replace me without spending many times the amount of money it would take to make me live again!

Spoken to Brad Perkins
20068 Gimpl Hill Road
Eugene

Friday, October 8, 1976