

# letters

## Accuracy

I really regret that Diane Winocur, or her editors, sensationalized what I thought would be an informative and interesting discussion of my recent Kellogg Foundation Fellowship award. The interposition of my comments on tokenism was not directed at the Foundation or its motivations. Instead, I made them to Ms. Winocur for her own education in response to her statement that minorities had been preferred by the Foundation for fellowships.

I never said that my selection was a result of tokenism. What I said was that the Foundation had an extensive pool of applicants, some of which were minorities. Of 50 fellowships, 11 were awarded to minority group members and 21 were awarded to women. All of the fellows have achieved some level of distinction in their work. In making these awards, the Foundation moved beyond the nominal inclusion of minorities and women — tokenism — to a more meaningful support of true equality. In doing so, the Foundation set an example for other institutions, and society.

I imagine that it is asking too much for the writers of a student newspaper to understand what I said. In the future, it is obvious that only a written statement will guarantee accuracy, and perhaps honesty.

Linda Greene  
professor, law

## Rakes thanks

Hey! Fellow students, look around. What do you see? Leaves, and lots of them.

Look again. Now what do you see? People dressed in rain gear riding on overgrown vacuum cleaners? Souped-up golf carts zipping all over campus? People with rakes and wheelbarrows in the pouring down rain?

This is a special thank-you that is long overdue to the group of people who make this university a nicer place to go to. They make the job of working with a tight budget an inspiring task.

Take time today to smile or even vocally express thanks to these individuals. They keep this campus looking great!

Tom Simpson  
telecommunications



## your turn

# Vietnam: marking our low point

This past Veteran's Day those who died in Vietnam have been given their rightful place alongside America's other war dead — they got a monument.

But it is more than that, really. A Vietnam veteran interviewed on television said that this recognition represents another important step in our grief

process over the war. Many illusions died with those 57,000 young men. Maybe we are still too close to face what the war meant.

I fought with any means available to me against the war. Not only did I oppose American involvement, I thought our "enemies" deserved to win.

The Vietnam War was a hideous chapter in American history: our government lied to us again and again; our young men fought and died for a dictatorial government that fought against its own people; our government engineered coups and plotted assassinations when our puppets did not respond correctly to our tugs on their strings; we burned the country with napalm, poisoned it (and our soldiers) with Agent Orange and leveled it with thousands of bombs. We ravaged and destroyed an entire nation.

But I never blamed it on the soldiers. They were essentially kids (like me, then), largely working class, many involuntary, some even believed in their government. They are victims: the dead, the crippled, the wounded, the poisoned, the addicts, the criminals and the guys who have managed to hold it together but still carry the memory of that war with them.

They are victims of bad policy and deceitful government — not of the anti-war movement. My clenched fist was for them as well as against the government.

Neither the war protestors nor the surviving ultra-patriots (those who still believe the lies our government told us) made the vets into social scapegoats. Rather, it is the great mushy mass in the middle who have made scapegoats of the Vietnam vets. The Americans who

stood behind the war as long as it had a reasonable chance of succeeding and turned away as prospects dimmed.

America has a serious responsibility, not only to remember the war dead, but also to help the living. The vets experienced the horror of that war in our name, a horror supported by a majority of Americans until any hope of victory had vanished.

We owe them not only acceptance in our communities, but help for the severe physical and psychological problems resulting from their experience. We must welcome them home, not in victory — Vietnam could never have ended in parades — but in human solidarity.

If we are to learn anything from the Vietnam War, we must place the blame where it properly belongs, not with our soldiers, but with our leaders and their view of our role in the world.

Most of the current population of students were very young during the Vietnam War. To some it is only another collection of names and dates to learn in a history class. But particularly as the current administration makes increasingly dangerous moves in Central America, it is important for all of us to understand and remember what happened in Vietnam.

Nothing can or should take away our guilt about that war. We must remember Vietnam as Germany must remember the Holocaust. It marked our low point as a culture. We must never let anything like that happen again.

Guy Maynard

Maynard, 32, is a journalism junior. In the late 60s Maynard was a student at Boston University.

# JPTCY



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Warrior

**BANKRUPTCY**  
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ANY NUMBER OF OREGON RESIDENTS MAY PLAY. OBJECT OF THE GAME IS TO STAY SOLVENT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.  
OR GO TO TEXAS BANKRUPTCY

## oregon daily emerald

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The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turns" must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial column will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turns" should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.