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featuring
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Goose
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letters

High cost

Students backing out of their dorm contracts to live in sororities or fraternities seem to feel that the Housing Department should make it easier for them to do so without incurring financial losses to themselves. ("Dorm Contracts not Selling," ODE Oct. 30)

Public support for the universities is justified on the grounds of universal accessibility. University education has always been there for the wealthy. What public support has done is make the university more accessible to the middle class — daughters and 'other

sons' go now, where formerly it was only the eldest sons. Even with all possible financial assistance going to the university, it is still a very expensive proposition with no guaranteed payoffs, and it is getting more so all the time. Middle class kids are not compelled to carefully ponder these risks; the family has resources that are usually used, and are there as a form of security even when they are not used. Working class kids cannot afford to ignore the risks. And forget about the poor — you almost need to already have a successful entrepreneurial approach to the world (at 17 or 18) to make it here.

I cannot object to sorority and fraternity members' use of the university for their rights of passage from the playground to the country club — but I will object to their expectation that we roll out the red carpet by taking the risks and tidying up the messes so that they can figure how best to do that.

Ken Summers
Eugene

Struggle on

When a long, difficult battle results in defeat, it is easy to become discouraged and apathetic toward the cause which one had once believed in. Often, it is easier to quietly allow the victor to bask in the glory, rather than to struggle and fight for what seems a lost cause.

In the wake of the recent Reagan landslide, I have a message for those who supported the Mondale/Ferraro ticket and the ideals for which it stood: don't give in.

Those of us who voted for Mondale/Ferraro did so because we were concerned about the welfare of others less fortunate than ourselves, because we put the desire for a safer, more just world ahead of personal gain, and because we wanted future generations to benefit from our decisions, not suffer for them.

Now is not the time to let up. True, social justice and civil liberties at home and human rights abroad will no doubt be dealt a devastating blow as a result of four more years of the Reagan administration. But we

must not allow ourselves to become complacent, and in essence adopt the selfish principles we fought so hard against during the course of this campaign. We must instead work harder than ever before over the next four years, and give of ourselves as never before, to minimize the impact of Reagan's re-election on those it will hurt most. We must remain true to our convictions, and ensure that, in 1988, we will once again be able to say, "I am an American."

Mark Cummins
Psychology

Yes, organize

Re: Nov. 9 cartoon "Organize for a Safe Campus."

Divide and conquer lives on. Are we really to believe that only white women fear rape and only black men do it? These myths started during slavery to protect the property rights of white men. During Reconstruction, claims of rape of white women by black men were used to justify lynchings and to destroy the alliance between poor whites and blacks.

This racist use of the rape charge has continued to this day. Of 455 executions for rape in the last 50 years, 405 were of black men — no white man has EVER been executed for the rape of a woman of color. In 1955 the men who tortured and murdered 14-year-old Emmett Till for whistling at a white woman were acquitted. And in 1979, 12 black women were murdered in Boston, yet neither the police nor media responded — violence against black women is still not taken seriously.

What to do? Yes, organize. Let men educate each other and let women develop our strength and independence instead of falling into that powerlessness that rape is meant to perpetuate. Rape will not end as long as it is used to keep women dependent on men as protectors from other men. We must all work to make the world free of the threat and reality of rape for all women.

Nadia Telsey
Helena See
Evelyn Anderton
Rape Crisis Network

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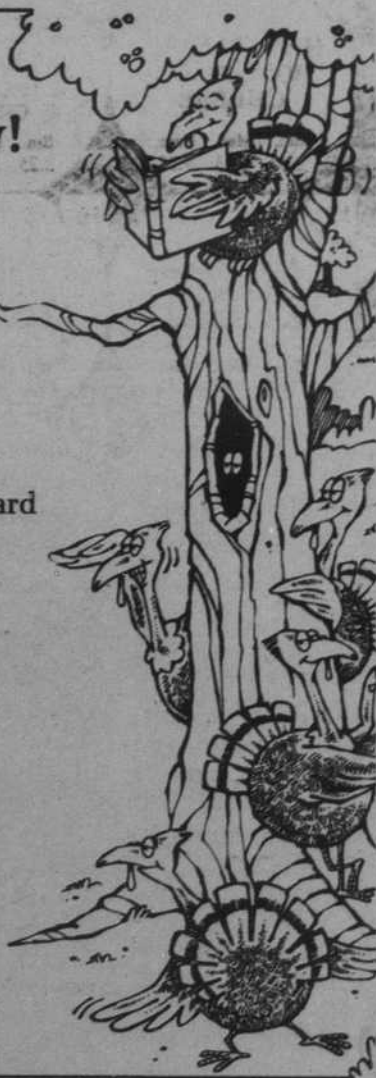
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oregon daily emerald

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