

Letters

the Housing Department sees fit to propose a week of bacchanalian activities ranging from jello slurping and jello wrestling to jello kicking and jello tossing. We deplore this abuse of jello and implore all students, faculty and staff to protest, through non-violent means, JAW. We thank you for your support.

Don Arney, pre-journalism
Matt Uhre, biology

Bravo

I have to say "bravo!" to Douglass James for bringing up the problem of pedestrians vs. human-powered vehicles. I know that it can only be a drag trying to walk down the sidewalk through a maze of cyclists and skaters.

However, one point that he didn't make infuriates the hell out of bicyclists who obey the traffic laws — that being pedestrians in the bike paths.

Mr. James, I'm sure that you don't do this, but next time you're walking between University and Alder on 13th Avenue, check out how many of our fellow students act completely oblivious to the 15 mph, 180 pound-plus projectiles that are required to remain on the bike path.

These supposedly illiterate ones (after all, the path is clearly marked) walk in, sometimes stand in, the middle of the path, affording no possible means of passage for bikes.

Not all bikers are guilty, Mr. James, nor are all pedestrians saints. Bikepaths are for bikers, as sidewalks are for walkers. Let's try to remember this.

Chris Ramko
Student

Dialogue

I am grateful for the initiative of the Muslim Students Association in bringing about the recent Muslim-Christian dialogue concerning the understanding of Jesus. I believe it is very important for Christians to recognize the significant role of Jesus in Islam (although for Muslims, Mohammed is still the ultimate prophet).

I also believe it is helpful and constructive for Christians and Muslims to discuss their common interest in Jesus, and many other common points of faith, in a time when there is so much hostility between Americans and citizens of the Middle East (most of whom are Muslim).

I hope that continued Muslim-Christian and even

Muslim-Jewish-Christian dialogue can further reconciliation and better understanding, both so needed in our world.

Norman Metzler
Adjunct associate professor
Germanic studies

Screaming

After reading Michael Cross' letter "Statistics" (ODE, Jan. 26), I stuck my head out the window to vent a little frustration with a nice healthy scream; the window jarred loose and struck me.

Suddenly, every window on the street flew open and faceless forms appeared, screaming, as if the world was coming to an end. Could it be that these people were screaming for the same reason? Or for the opposite?

Perhaps, I thought, I should reread Mike's letter. Just maybe there was some profound point that I hastily overlooked. The knock on the head did me some good. I began to see the light. Angels were singing. Wow! How informative! It was full of vital "Statistics". Names and titles of dignitaries and their works, even the Wall Street Journal! Impressive

The *coup de grace*: his point about the food surplus that plagues American farmers. Let me see if I got this straight — U.S. farmers produce an excess of food, so that means that 5 billion people aren't enough and they all have too much to eat.

Wow, how could I be so stupid! And I suppose because Dow Chemical has a surplus of 2-4-D, there must be a shortage of corn worms. Now I get it.

Suddenly I felt a sharp pain in my neck, and I realized that I was dreaming, and I quickly acknowledged the unfortunate reality that the number one problem in Eden is the overpopulation of the human race.

Patrick Clancy
Eugene

Portrayal

"Imagine a country called 'Amerika,'" the ads say. This, of course, refers to the upcoming miniseries on ABC in February, "Amerika".

The plot of the story is not important; the more subtle underlying meaning is, though. This meaning is that the Soviet Union is an evil empire and has an interest in taking over the United States.

The portrayal of the Soviet Union as the evil force in the world should be upsetting to anyone who wishes for world peace. To make the Soviets

seem as the bad guys while we are in the midst of trying to ensure the existence of both countries in the future, makes absolutely no sense and is highly contradictory. We cannot on the one hand be talking to the Soviet Union about ultimate peace in Geneva, while on the other we allow such anti-Soviet propaganda to be broadcast.

To first bring about peace in any situation, one must first recognize their adversary as a person, with the same basic rights as any other person. The rabid anti-communism that underlies "Amerika" treats the Soviets as nothing more than heatless robotic "commies" out to take over the world and destroy all freedoms. To show anyone you wish to have peace with in such a light only serves to thwart any efforts for peace.

In conclusion, I hope you that watch this program will take a deep look at its true meaning. Then ask yourself, does America truly wish for peace in the Soviet Union?

Eric M. Latham
Sociology

Freedom

Social activism seems to be in vogue today. People are willing to embrace any ideal, no matter how idealistic, demeaning or just plain idiotic.

Some will argue the abortion issue for hours over how soon after conception the fetus is technically "alive." Don't they realize that the real issue is extended government control versus freedom of personal choice?

And what about all of these Eugene peaceniks? They seem to think that growing long hair, wearing beads and faded denim, smoking pot and spouting cute slogans will save the world.

But these people won't provide any real answers, opting instead to pursue their own educational program of bumper stickers and tie-dyed T-shirts.

Campus feminists have progressed so far since the early 70s that they don't even need men anymore. One of these "women" went so far as to suggest that all men should be done away with and replaced with sperm banks.

The latest argument rages over the issue of underpopulation. Certain elements seem to think that the United States and Western Europe are running dangerously low on people. They cite AIDS deaths, surplus food and bonuses for children(?) as certain signs that the Western world will soon be devoid of life due to apathy and sexual deviance. One look at

growing population rates shoots this theory down. Do these people read census reports?

Freedom of expression is the right of everyone, but it's terrible to see these Stupid People in Action abuse this right.

Josh King
Political Science

Purposes

As a concerned member of the ASUO Incidental Fee Committee, there is something that I would like you to strongly think about.

The simple fact is that incidental fees are a tax put on you by the State Board of Higher Education (\$61 per term). Given that the money is a tax, let me ask you this: When was the last time that you heard of tax money being used for political purposes?

This is the problem with the Oregon Student Lobby, which we fund in the amount of \$25,000 per year. This group lobbies the state Legislature in our name as your personal representative. An example of

what I mean is the recent governor's merit-based scholarship proposal for colleges to help stop brain drain on Oregon campuses.

Since incidental fees must be paid by all students, we now fall into a question of free speech.

According to the June 1985 Oregon Attorney General's opinion dealing with the legal use of incidental fees, "When incidental fees are used for political or ideological advocacy, this action now establishes an infringement of the First Amendment interests of students who disagree with those viewpoints...."

In your name, the OSL is right now arguing against the proposal that many of you think is long overdue — the merit-based scholarship.

In light of the recent attorney general's opinion, the use of IFC funds to support the OSL is now seriously in question. As one of your representatives on the IFC, I would like to hear your comments on this matter.

Ron E. Munion
IFC member

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