

Letters

Conversion

It is important that students along with older citizens consider the impact of condo conversion in Eugene. Those students who already live in "high-rises" at 11th and Patterson or 16th and Olive know that they would lose their apartments if their buildings were converted under the proposed conversion regulations. However, all of us who rent should speak out against conversion and against the proposed regulation changes because they will force most of those persons currently in the "high-rises" to seek housing elsewhere — in a market which is already tight and increasingly expensive. If our enrollment increases at the same time these conversions occur, you can imagine how hard it will become to find any housing, much less secure an affordable unit.

Those apartment buildings are among the safest places in town and they are also an environment where young and old, professional and student can live and interact daily — as opposed to the "monocultural" and often unsafe housing near campus. Condo conversion always shoves out the "less-profitable," students and the elderly, and yes, it is particularly hard on the older person for whom change is more difficult. But we all stand to lose if buildings are converted, and students will pay dearly for an increasingly difficult to find and expensive place to live. Please write to the Eugene City Council, or come to the hearing Feb. 9th, 6 p.m., City Hall.

C. M. Toomey
Eugene

Represented

Professor Norman Metzler's letter "Dialogue," (ODE, Jan. 28) relative to the recent panel discussion, "Jesus in Islam and Christianity," suggests that the addition of a representative of the Jewish religion to the Muslim-Christian dialogue would be desirable. Better would be the addition of both a representative of the Jewish religion and a representative of atheist conviction.

As Metzler's letter suggests, there is a powerful movement

among theist religious leaders to "circle their wagons" in the face of what they see as an increasing onslaught of atheism. It's their common "fat" that's in the fire. That also explains Roman Catholic Pope Karol Wojtyla's recent conclave of sundry religious leaders in Assisi, Italy.

The discussion between Metzler and Professor Jamal Badawi, representing the Muslim view, was very fascinating. Since Muslims do not claim divinity for Mohamet, while Christian's claim divinity for Jesus Christ, it was interesting to note the advantage that Badawi wielded in his many telling Biblical references, that Metzler, burdened with extra theist baggage, valiantly but unconvincingly defended.

Unfortunatly, it was not mentioned that many eminent scholars question the very existence of a real "Jesus Christ," which Muslims, being politic, accepted in their efforts at empire as "prophet Jesus" and the question of "God's existence."

Since the University is a state-funded secular institution with an educational mission — not proselytization — it is vital that secular views that challenge the claims of theist religions also be represented in such discussions, and let the merit of Reason prevail!

Bert P. Tryba
Eugene

Bob's Bargain Basement

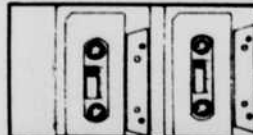
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