

Letters

Two cents

In their letters to the Emerald during the past few weeks, Steve Fricchette and other students have so generously used this forum to offer readers their political suggestions and beliefs.

With similar tactfulness, I would like to make one equally appropriate suggestion in my letter to the Emerald.

Get a haircut, Steve.

Phil Levinson
Student

Buggery

In response to Sharon L. Cuddie's letter to the editor (ODE, April 23).

Despising the proliferation of false and misleading information, we feel compelled to respond to Ms. Cuddie's statement that "When the American (sic) Constitution was adopted, homosexuality was illegal in all 13 states."

For a generally workable definition, we sought Webster's International Dictionary, which defines homosexuality to wit, "erotic activity with a member of one's own sex." Under this definition, Ms. Cuddie's broad statement is patently incorrect.

What was illegal during the time of the U.S. Constitution's adoption was "buggery," i.e. anal sex. The illegality of this sexual act emerged from English common law, which the 13 original colonies adopted as their law.

Neither oral sex nor intrasexual masturbation was illegal. Buggery itself was not made a crime in England until 1533; a result of strong religious pressure.

Ms. Cuddie also implies that anti-sodomy laws (which may include both anal and oral sex depending upon the state law's statutory language) have only been stricken from criminal statutes during the past 20 years.

In fact, between the Revolutionary War and the beginning of the 20th century, at least three states dropped sodomy as a

criminal offense. Today, 26 states, including Oregon, refuse to prohibit these sexual acts, whether performed by homosexual or heterosexual couples.

For more information, Ms. Cuddie can refer to the following sources: Rivera, "The Legal Position of Homosexual Persons in the United States," 30 Hastings Law Journal 799 (1979); Rizzo, "The Constitutionality of Sodomy Statutes," 45 Fordham Law Review 553 (1976); and May, The Law of Crimes (1893 and 1938).

Edward Gerdes
Leslie Garrison
Law

Negotiate

The front page coverage given to the Oregon Public Employee's negotiations process was greatly appreciated but needs clarification on some key points (ODE, May 4).

While the issue of the bomb threat situation was indeed one of the issues discussed at the bargaining table between state negotiators and OPEU's Higher Ed Coalition, the real point OPEU representatives wanted to make was that after thorough discussion on all of the issues, the response from the state's team has been virtually non-existent.

More importantly, because of this lack of serious response from the state's team, OPEU has declared negotiation at 'impasse' and has requested mediation (a review of the proposals/counter proposals by an impartial party) so that the process can move ahead.

OPEU's position is that we have made good contractual proposals and deserve a better response from state negotiators.

It is also important to note that in addition to 'clericals and laborers' there are a myriad of employee classifications represented in these negotiations, and they affect over 4,000 employees in Higher Ed Institutions, 1,100 at the University. OPEU represents 16,500 state employees at central table

negotiations.

The last scheduled session in these Higher Ed negotiations will be held on Wednesday, May 6, at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center. That session will begin at 6 p.m. and employees and interested others are encouraged to attend.

Help support your bargaining team either by actually being there or by giving them input as these negotiations proceed.

Mary Lou Mansfield
Psychology Department

Dark hole

Yes, Larry Ferris, "prejudice is an intolerable part of society," and especially insidious when it masquerades as "scientific" objectivity. But you should drop the limp-wristed pretense of impartiality and show your true political color (khaki brown).

In response to your claim that homosexuality poses a grievous threat to the racial biological "survival" of Western culture, just a few points:

1) Your ideological drift was neatly carried to its conclusion by a certain German political movement in the 1930's; only the name of the scape-goat differed. Please check out the Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935.

2) World population rates are soaring, probably due to unbridled heterosexual activity. Declining birth-rates among white middle-class couples in the West have nothing to do with the "homosexual" of right-wing fantasy.

3) Gay men and lesbians fulfill more "productive" social

functions than you could ever imagine. Ask your favorite professor for details. Or go visit a volunteer AIDS counselor. Get your head out of that dark hole.

4) You greatly overestimate the role of the penis in the history of civilization. This is obviously due to a certain authoritarian identification with the patriarchal father, not to mention a drearily technological view of sexuality as

reproduction-and-nothing-but.

For this reason you cannot tolerate men and women who live outside of the straight-jacket of compulsory heterosexuality. We are no threat to "society" — but perhaps to sexual Aryan nation you have in mind. And that's something to be proud of.

Walter Allmand
Comparative literature

Letters Policy

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, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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RIVERFRONT RESEARCH PARK

You are invited to attend an
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about the

Riverfront Research Park

Wednesday, May 6, 1987

The Ballroom, Erb Memorial Union,

University of Oregon

13th Avenue at University Street

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

University of Oregon President Paul Olum is hosting an opportunity for the public to discuss social, philosophical, and political issues related to the Riverfront Research Park project. Issues identified for discussion are classified and proprietary research, site location, pollution and toxic waste, and adequacy of the public process. Other issues may be introduced at the exchange.

We encourage you to attend and participate. In order to help us plan for this event, we would appreciate your advance response. Thank you.

Riverfront Research Park Issues Exchange

Yes, I'll be there on May 6. No, I can't attend.*

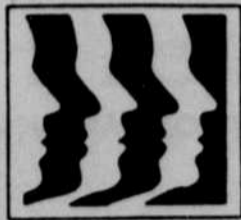
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*Comments in writing may also be submitted to the address below.

Mail to: City of Eugene Development Department
72 West Broadway, Suite 213
Eugene, Oregon 97401



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES PRESENTS

PROFESSOR TU WEI-MING
of Harvard University

**CONFUCIANISM,
SELFOOD, AND
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TRANSFORMATION**

Monday, 4 May: ON CONFUCIAN RELIGIOUSNESS
Room 167 EMU, 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday, 5 May: CONFUCIAN ETHICS TODAY
Room 167 EMU, 7:30 P.M.

Conversation with Professor Tu
at Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid
For: University Students, Faculty and Friends
Time: 3:30-5:00 P.M., Tuesday, 5 May
Auspices: Campus Interfaith Ministry and Religious Directors Association

Lectures sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and the Center for the Humanities.