

# Editorial

## Decriminalize pot? Just say 'Yes'

The Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1988 seeks to legalize the possession and cultivation of marijuana for personal use. In contrast to the problems of the 1986 act, this measure reconciles concerns raised in 1986 and should be supported by the community.

The 1986 act allowed those over the age of 18 to possess marijuana, raising objections that it was an invitation for teenagers to consume the illicit drug. The Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1988, however, raises the legal age for consumption to 21, partially dispelling concerns that decriminalizing marijuana would be an invitation to teenagers to grow and smoke the drug.

In 1986, some people complained the act would allow marijuana consumers to grow an unlimited amount of marijuana — an amount much greater than needed for personal use. But the new act properly limits the amount of marijuana an individual can grow to three plants.

Furthermore, the revised initiative specifically addresses concerns about where marijuana may be grown and where it may be possessed. According to the Control Act, the drug only may be grown in the privacy of one's residence and completely out of sight from any public place. One may possess marijuana only in the privacy of a residence, thereby ensuring the individual's right to privacy while minimizing social costs associated with public exposure to the drug. Possession of marijuana while driving will remain illegal, as it should.

The 1986 act failed to limit the quantity of pot an individual could possess at any one time. The Prevention and Control Act of 1988, however, limits the quantity an individual may possess to "four avoirdupois ounces when dry," which the Control Act refers to as a "personal use amount."

In contrast to the 1986 act, the Control Act of 1988 appropriately places marijuana consumption under the regulation of the state of Oregon.

The act requires users to purchase a \$50 non-transferable "cannabis personal use certificate" from county health departments. Fifty percent of the net revenue will be used for "drug and alcohol abuse prevention and treatment programs" and 50 percent will be used to enhance the health of the community in general.

Thus the initiative, if passed, increases funds available to county health care and prevention programs with no extra cost to the community. In the long run, such educational programs will prove more effective against fighting drug abuse than criminal punishment.

The Control Act of 1988 effectively serves to reallocate crime prevention forces and funds to more threatening drug-abuse problems, such as cocaine and heroin addiction.

Furthermore, the act frees law enforcement officials from pursuing small-scale, personal-use growers to eradicate large-scale, profit growers in Southern Oregon and elsewhere in the Northwest.

To prevent drug abuse more efficiently and to allocate the community's crime prevention resources more effectively, the public should support and affirm the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1988.



## Letters

### Rope 'n' ride

I am a member of a band, the Guardians of American Morality, which has been the subject of some controversy lately. There have been allegations that one of our posters, which included a nude photograph of the pop star Madonna, was offensive and promoted violence toward women.

I do not personally find our poster offensive because I designed it. I do not claim to be an arbiter of others' tastes. But I can personally testify, and the Oct. 30 Emerald article concerning the Guardians also would seem to indicate, that the only violence that has resulted from our poster has been committed by women and directed at men.

If anyone's poster was an incitement to violence, it would seem to me to have been the inflammatory one urging a boycott of our performance. When I attempted to sell Guardians T-shirts to the demonstrators outside Taylor's Tavern, I was greeted with a chorus of "take the rocks off rock 'n' roll," led by a brief (yes, brief) woman wearing a bicycle helmet. Mindful of the fate of Orpheus, I retreated without making any sales.

Were I one of the left fascists who infest the campus lately, I suppose I might demand the resignations of the heads of

GALA, Men Against Rape, and, say, the sociology department, just for good measure. But I really don't take myself that seriously. I believe that people have a right to express their opinions. I intend to express mine. Rope 'n' ride!

Jerome Berryhill  
Graduate student, physics

### Cinema stop

Closing Cinema 7 was a very difficult decision to make. I believe in the arts and the art in cinema. Cinema 7 was dedicated to the arts and equally dedicated to the politics of human rights.

What glorious cinema has shown at Cinema 7 over the last 13 years. Our priority has been to provide Eugeneans with the current state-of-world cinema and a showcase for films that rarely show outside major American cities. This certainly will be missed.

I also will miss the opportunity to provide the Cinema as a meeting place for Eugene's many human rights organizations. Half the struggle for human rights is simply to inform the citizens in our community of our responsibilities to humankind.

To those individuals and organizations who participated and supported Cinema 7, thank you.

Over the years Cinema 7 has become somewhat of an institution and with that rose an assumption that Cinema 7 would "always be around." Those assumptions, however well intended, cannot support the financial realities that an independent arts business must face every day.

I have intensely worked since 1984 to grow with Cinema 7 in Eugene. I have invested thousands of hours in negotiations with over eight locations in downtown, and it still seems to me in 1987 that Eugene's business climate is not responsive to the business of art.

Cinema 7 joins the ranks of Starflower, Northwest Working Press, The Truck Shop, The Zoo and a myriad of other small

businesses that were once a vital part of Eugene and are no more.

Again I thank all of you who have made cinema and the years of Cinema 7 so fun, exciting and rewarding.

Stephen Bove  
Owner, Cinema 7

### Get it right

Hurray for Stan Vernoooy! His letter of Oct. 30 eloquently presented some important facts about this newspaper. The Emerald takes news, letters, and even ads, decomposes them, and then spits them back at us in forms so confused that often all we can do is laugh. We certainly can't make sense of them much of the time.

I would offer my own examples, but I'm afraid I haven't kept them: I usually just laugh and toss the paper into the nearest recycling bin. Vernoooy has given us a few goodies from the Oct. 22 issue; equally humorous ones can be discovered every day.

Ah, here's a cute one in this very issue (Oct. 30): "the library housed its' volumes." That poor writer (or typesetter) knew there was something special about the third person singular neuter possessive, but she just couldn't remember what it was!

Now, sure, there are more important criteria for good writing than spelling "its" correctly — vastly more important. The quality of writing in the Emerald, however, is often so poor that the meaning is lost completely. That's pretty serious. Putting the right word in the right place — and the right sentence, right paragraph likewise — sure would help.

Addendum, Nov. 2 — Why is there not a single word or picture in today's issue about the NASU fall Pow-Wow which took place last Saturday night in the EMU ballroom? I guess frat kids in diapers are more important to the Emerald than the bi-annual gathering of University Native American students.

Jeff Harrison  
GTF, English

Tuesday, November 10, 1987

## Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

### General Staff

Advertising Director: Susan Thelen  
Production Manager: Michele Ross  
Classified Manager: Kelli Mason  
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Teri Boring, Gary DeLossa, Tom Leech, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Laura McKinney, Heather Mull, Joann Nelson, Julie Paul, Barbara Rogers, Scott Thorkildson, Joan Wildermuth

News and Editorial: 686-5511  
Display Advertising and Business: 686-3712  
Classified Advertising: 686-4343  
Letter Perfect Graphics: 686-5511  
Production: 686-4381  
Circulation: 686-5511

Editor: Stanley Nelson  
Managing Editor: Scott Maben  
News Editor: Eden Godbey  
Editorial Page Editors: Angela Muniz/Steven Hoenisch  
Sports Editor: Aaron Knox  
Photo Editor: Shu-Shing Chen  
Graphic Design Editor: Lorraine Rath  
Special Issues Editor: Kelly Kortekaas  
Entertainment/Sports Segment Editor: H.C. Hutto  
Night Editor: Andrew LaMar

### Associate Editors

Community: Stephen Maher  
Higher Education/Administration: Michael Drummond  
Student Government/Activities: Carolyn Lamberson  
General Assignment/Entertainment: Will Holbert

Reporters: Craig Harris, Gary Henley, Andrew LaMar, Jeff Morgan, Ingrid Petersen, Cami Swanson, Kelvin Wee

Photographers: Sherilyn Bjorkgren, Christophe Chabaudie, Andy Cripe, Cliff Etzel, John Giustina, Bobbie Lo, Gregor Okorn, Andre Ranieri, Ted Shepler, Michael Templeton, Dan Wheeler

Production: Sandra Daller / Ad Coordinator  
Kelly Alexandre, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Laura Carhart, Eva Cohen, Stephanie Drynan, Dolores Ferrero, Shannon Gaither, Lisa Haggerty, Stephanie Holland, Deirdre Kelly, Eliot Knight, Chris Knox, Jung Lee, Bobbie Lo, James Mason, Angie Muniz, Ted Shepler, Linda Sperling, Lisa Svanevik, Ingrid White, Kelly Williams, Serena Williams, X. Kang Xie