

Budget cuts

As a custodian who takes pride in his work, I wish to inform the building users of our new "contract type" management plan for custodial services at the Physical Plant.

The backbone of this plan is based on each custodian being able to cover 60,000 square feet daily. This supposedly is the average area a private industry contract cleaner covers.

We are to get the garbage, spot vacuum and spot mop, clean bathrooms, stock supplies, etc., every day. Each week we are also required to do detail work like dusting, wall cleaning, etc.

As you are all aware, budget cuts have hit everyone. The custodial crew at the Physical Plant was one of the first to be affected. There used to be approximately 80 custodians; now there are only about 50 working custodians.

In addition, six custodians

have been promoted to custodial coordinator or management positions in which they are required to monitor the work of custodians and distribute supplies 60 percent of the time. This means that six full time members of the custodial staff actually do cleaning only 40 percent of the time.

All I ask is that the building users understand that we are doing our best. This is a problem that is becoming more common everywhere; it is not happening because we are just a bunch of lazy custodians!

We are simply not being funded adequately, and believe me, if the University custodial department is contracted out to a private company where workers have no loyalty to the University community, services will go downhill from where they are now.

Danny Suire
Custodian

Real agenda

Brigitte Leach substantially misrepresents my suggestions (ODE, April 3). My logic starts from two premises: 1) Before one can judge the value of any research, one must understand the cost of stopping it. 2) If one believes in liberating animals, caged primates should be candidates.

To accomplish both of these ends, I have suggested that Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals members should adopt a dying child who would otherwise spend a short, bitter life in an institutional crib (cage).

Thereby, they could become intimate with that child's disease and watch helplessly as someone they love loses a battle for life. It need not be an AIDS baby, although they are most frequently abandoned and most difficult to place. A baby with cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, Tay Sachs disease,

muscular dystrophy or cancer would be equally able to teach the lesson.

You see, I believe the spokeswoman for SETA's parent organization when she says (Eugene Register-Guard, Feb. 26) that the lab animal issue is being used to further their real agenda; namely, halting the use of all animals for any human benefit, including use as food.

The fact is that biomedical research across the country has been slowed and made vastly more expensive by these militant vegetarians. Unquestionably, they will try to stop all animal research, indifferent to the benefits that both humans and animals might derive.

These people cannot all be cruel; they must be ignorant. I suggest an opportunity to learn whereof they speak before they declare by their actions that some disease should not be cured.

Pamela H. Daener
Eugene

There isn't ...

In response to Barry Starr's letter (ODE, April 4). There is no God, there is no Barry Starr. Deal with that.

Jeff Harris
Freshman, CIS

Streetwise

Do you think the damaged Exxon oil tanker should be moved to the Port of Portland for repairs?

"It shouldn't be moved to Portland. It seems that we've had enough polluting of waters from Exxon and we don't need it any closer to home than it already is in Alaska."

— Mary Cay, senior, English



"I'm against it because even if they have pumped out all of the oil there is still a sheen that would be left there, and that leaves a sour taste in my mouth. There has been enough damage done to the Columbia without this."

— Will Kimball, graduate student,
German language and literature

"It should go to Portland. Portland needs the work and if they work with it and contain it, it shouldn't be a problem."

— Liz Alyele, freshman, business



"The tanker will be a threat wherever it goes, but it would probably be good to keep it in Portland to do the work on it there. Sure that generates more concern because it's local."

— Jihee Kim, sophomore, psychology

"No way, we don't need the added pollution and we shouldn't spread the oil slick any further this way."

— Annette Liebe, graduate student, law



"I would let it come in unless they know it is going to cause a lot of damage to the surrounding river. It needs to go somewhere, and Portland could use the jobs."

— Tim O'Neill, graduate, journalism

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