

## Letters

### Thoughtful

C.M. Toomey's article (ODE, May 2) suggests that the University administration and its Housing Department are doing nothing in the face of the current housing crunch in Eugene. This simply is not true. We recognize the community has a housing problem, but it is a relatively new one.

We are active participants in a City-County-University housing coalition action group to assist in bringing to bear the resources of these agencies to meet these new needs. Our expectation is that through these efforts, new housing options will be available for students.

What many fail to understand is that the 1988 University student enrollment bulge is not the only factor involved. Market place economics, private sector housing interests, the burgeoning numbers of the newly homeless, and the limited purses of single parent and low-income families are all involved in this complex problem. Through joint efforts we are sorting through the problem elements to arrive at a reasonable and effective solution.

The planning, approval and construction of additional student housing will take at least two years and the debt assumed to build these buildings must be paid by the rentals from students who occupy them. We can't casually go into debt for 20 years to solve a problem which may be of relatively short duration. We have to be

both thoughtful and deliberate in the decisions we make.

Daniel A. Williams  
Vice-President for  
Administration

### Right to party

In the United States we live with unquestionable freedom. Women are free to be raped and harassed. Two percent of the population is free to own 54 percent of the nation's wealth. The remaining 98 percent of us who unequally share the remaining 45 percent have the freedom and obligation to protect this freedom and wealth. Women who don't get to go to war pay their dues to society as targets for rape, harassment and murder every day.

A person with courage who thought about it might get angry and question the authority of the men who guide our lives. So what does it take to get students angry. Not rape, racism, sexual harassment or government-sponsored murder and torture.

Apparently the needed catalyst is a party. Several kegs of beer, and we are so politicized that we will throw bottles and risk arrest in order to defend our right to party. One activist made comparisons to Chicago in 1968. Quite a connection! He may have been kidding, but he is an accurate barometer of activism and political morality today. So you have my praise. Fight for your right to party. It's a noble cause, and the

raped, the poor and the dead will wait.

James Margraf  
Eugene

### Arbitrary point

The argument for endowing a fetus with human rights at conception is based on the religious belief that a spirit enters the cell at this point, making it a person. Without this religious belief, which cannot be the basis for law, it is absurd to say that a single cell a moment after conception is a person with rights. The cell has the potential to develop into a person but so does the sperm and egg —

why draw the line at conception? There is no chemical change at conception so momentous as to suddenly entitle the egg to a status equal to the mother.

On the other hand, it is also absurd to say that a child a moment before birth doesn't have the constitutional rights it will have after birth. The qualities that give a child human rights must develop, along with the child, between conception and birth.

Because laws governing a pregnant woman's behavior are so invasive of her privacy, a very strong argument must be made that the fetus has devel-

oped enough to justify government intervention. Roe vs. Wade established a somewhat arbitrary but satisfactory point at which a fetus has legally reached this point of development. To push this cutoff closer to the point of absurdity would show a clear disregard for the individual liberties of women.

And, as Lauren Upshaw suggested (ODE, April 21), to legislate that a child exists moments after ejaculation shows reasoning clouded by an exaggerated sense of masculine self-importance.

Robert Schofield  
Graduate student

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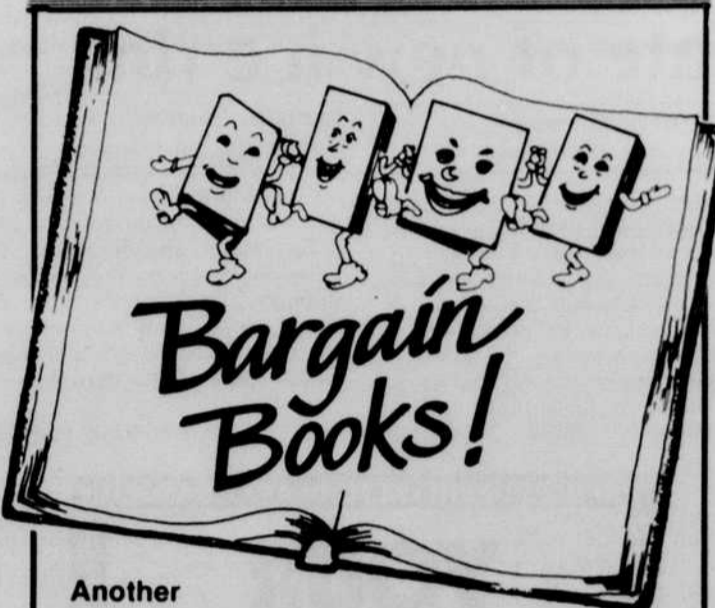
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