

## Medicine show

For those of you who missed it, the Martha Honey adjunct of the Christic Institute Revival Meeting and Traveling Medicine Show blew into town Wednesday, May 18 to plead their much discredited lawsuit against various Reagan administration officials for the crime of having a foreign policy that the Christic Institute disagreed with.

The case was thrown out of federal court because of the Christics' failure to provide either credible witnesses or adequate evidence. You'd think that after such a resounding defeat (the lawsuit was so shabby that Judge Lawrence King took the rare step of assessing legal costs against them), the performers would regroup to clean up their act, but this was not the case. However, such setbacks are no deterrent to Honey, who knows that her political agenda need not be hampered by such inconveniences as rational thinking. She came to Eugene with the same old dog and pony show, only there ain't no dog and there ain't no pony.

However, I cannot ignore the psychological benefits of Honey's snake oil. The "secret team" conspiracy theory provides comfort to those who for the past eight years have had to sit back and watch the country being run by people whose ideals they hate, whose success they loathe, and whose popularity they cannot endure. Thus "secret team" fantasies can help soothe the wounds of rejection, as well as provide a platform from which the faithful can strike moral poses and wallow in their moral rectitude and self-righteousness.

Kevin Gowen  
Senior, CIS

## Monomania

Professor Hee-Jin Kim's letter "Multiverse" (ODE, May 17) suggests he misread my heavily edited Forum article about community influence of religious studies, submitted several weeks before announcement of possible department funding

cuts.

Kim acknowledges the appropriateness of presenting atheist argument in matters relating to theist religious claims. Who in 50 years has had the courage and fortitude to persist in asserting that rational view? To stop community fear, surrender and exploitation by religious militants requires determination Kim labels "monomania." The urgency for enlightenment is as real and immediate as recent theist-related occult murders.

Atheism is the proper "point of departure" for University religious studies. That would guarantee the history, dogma and doctrines of all religions and opposing views would be thoroughly and impartially presented. It would assure First Amendment adherence.

In 1929, Walter Lippman, columnist and Harvard philosophy professor, published "A Preface to Morals," affirming the United States was on the threshold of rationalism, unaware Christian militants across America were undermining the advance of reason by censoring and suppressing atheist/free-thought publications. Knowledge is considered dangerous by entrenched theist despots.

Science is successfully resolving the mysteries of nature with its proven method. New scientific hypotheses are fraudulently appropriated by theist opportunists as "evidence" for theist claims. Reason consistent with scientific understanding should be the basis of establishing reality. The reality of ignorant acceptance of fiction ("God") as "reality" does not convert that fiction into reality; it merely acknowledges the existence of ignorance. Secular education must challenge and expose irrational theist claims.

Bert P. Tryba  
Eugene

## Banana toss

I agree with the Oregon Commentator editor, who suggested that we toss out the word "diversity." The University could fund damned near anything and say it contributes to campus diversity. If they hired a

man in a yellow jump suit to stand outside of Straub Hall tossing bananas at people, it could be called a contribution to diversity; but it sure wouldn't be useful.

John Shenon  
Student

## Whining artists

I'm really pissed off. Now, not only do I have to put up with the graffiti on campus, I have to put up with the graffiti artists' whining about how it's their right to graffiti-up this school if they want.

Sorry guys, I must have missed that one in the Constitution, and/or Bill of Rights. What you guys need to learn is a little respect for your community. This campus is all of ours — it does not belong to a few to spray-up on whim. If you were in a museum, or some other state-supported facility, and you didn't like something, would you start writing stuff such as "Picasso sucks," or "The dinosaurs were fascists?" I should hope not. Tell you what, I'll come over to your house, and start spray-painting on that. Would you like that? If you guys want to write graffiti somewhere, write it on your own possessions, like your car or something.

I also would at this time like to thank Steve Hanson for making a real nice stereotypical comment. Yes, I am a white male, not gay, not poor. So? I'm sure that many of the other groups of people on campus are really not too fond of the graffiti around campus either. And "graffiti rarely causes real damage" — you cannot truthfully tell me that if something got spray-painted onto your house or car or bike or whatever your first thought would be, "Oh well, no real damage. I'll just have to get it repainted. No big deal."

Finally, graffiti is not a "political statement," it is public defacement. If you have something to say, and don't have the guts to stand up for that, then I guess it's not something really worth fighting for.

Thomas L. Morgan III  
Student

## Homeless Continued from Page 2

Why is any of this important to us, as a community? Our attitudes about people in poverty need to be well-defined if we are to make intelligent decisions about a group of people whose numbers are growing daily. If I didn't believe that helping people who have lost their homes were appropriate, I would not be doing the work I

do. If you, as members of this community, receive only distorted and misleading information about people who are without homes you will not be in a position to effectively alleviate the suffering of those whom you might otherwise choose to help.

The suffering of members of

our community is too awful to gloss over with innuendo and insinuations. We must see clearly the many different faces of the "homeless people" before we decide to give or withhold our caring.

Donald F. Kostur is the executive director of Eugene Emergency Housing, Inc.



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