

## Letters

### Overflowing

The United States is overflowing with garbage. This is an inevitable problem that affects everyone. Half of the cities in America will run out of landfill space in the next three years.

The "not in my backyard" syndrome is deathly. Give us plastic, give us styrofoam, but don't dispose of them "in my backyard." We will drown in our waste unless we work together to reduce the amount of garbage we produce.

There are three steps you can take to cut down on your waste: reduce, reuse, recycle. Packaging accounts for one-third of all garbage produced. Decrease our waste by buying food in bulk, and products in reusable and recyclable containers.

The second step is to reuse much of the garbage you normally would throw away. Donate old books and clothes, and other such items to charity or friends. Reuse any plastic items, such as plastic silverware, bags and containers.

Recycling is the last measure to be taken. You can participate in curbside recycling, or take your cans, bottles, plastics and newspaper to the Bring shelter in the back of the Natural History Museum parking lot. Recycling bins will be placed in the dorms for paper this winter.

For more information on waste reduction, there will be a Recycling Awareness Day, sponsored by the Survival Center and the Recycling Committee, in the beginning of February.

Kristen Downey  
Recycling Committee

### Earthless

Surprise, surprise, surprise: the homeless have invaded the University. I have seen several letters in the *Emerald* about the homeless on 13th Avenue. This is good — recognizing a problem is the first step toward solving one.

However, wishing them away, making them feel unwelcome, and telling them to get a job are empty, ignorant solutions. So is throwing money at them. Witness what that mentality has wreaked in El Salvador — \$1.5 million a day for years for a fascist "democracy."

Generalizations must be made, but exceptions do not prove the rule. What is the true cause of homelessness? Isn't the earth supposedly everyone's and everything's home? Amazingly obvious concept, isn't it? That life exists not because it has a right or responsibility to — but because it exists.

Is this line of reasoning relevant to the homeless issue? Definitely. Because, until we as individuals and as members of the community recognize our own fellow members of the human race as true equals, we can never help them to change.

We must find the courage within ourselves to act on issues of importance to us with openness and empathy for all those involved. The myth of the "self-made man" — that all of us can rise above our poverty, is just that — a myth.

All the money, power, rhetoric in the U.S. cannot shelter the homeless, feed our starving children, or stop folks from taking drugs, etc. The solutions? Surprise! There are none, until we, all together, make one.

L.A. Birch  
Student

### Lacking

Provost Wessels' defense of faculty research for the Department of Defense (ODE, Dec. 1) was classical and eloquent. However, it lacked sensitivity to several issues.

He argues that precluding certain sources of funding opens the door to "political control of the University faculty's research activity." This argument fails to recognize that continued acceptance of DOD money — by far the largest source of funding for research in the world — continues the political control this source already has.

The same is true of the policies and politics supporting animal research. Continuing the status quo does not represent academic freedom from political control, it is for continuing the same system that currently limits and defines such freedom via financial incentives.

Andrew Thompson  
University Counseling Center

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

### THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Mammoth pointers.



Photo: Johnson Space Center Mapping Science Lab. NS-52X

"What, you think we've got routes to the moon? Come on! You're a college student. You figure it out."

THERE ARE A BAZILLION  
PLACES TO GO AND  
THINGS TO DO AROUND  
HERE YOU CAN GET TO  
THEM ALL ON THE BUS  
FREE



VALID U OF O  
STUDENT I.D. IS A BUS  
PASS FARE FOR THE  
TERM INCLUDED IN  
STUDENT INCIDENTAL  
FEES PROVIDED IN  
COOPERATION WITH  
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

