

University looking to end rental crush

Can it be true? Is the University seriously going to rescue us from dastardly rental rates in the area? If all goes as planned, it looks as if such a dream may come to light.

Last week the University announced plans to build more than 150 two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments in the campus area. The units will most likely be built in the east campus and Amazon areas and will give first priority to older students and families.

Best of all, the units will be rented at about 10 percent below normal market rates. The University plans to borrow money from the state to pay for construction costs, and will then repay the loan with rent money taken in.

Of course, the apartments won't be completed for another two or three years, so this plan doesn't really help our present housing crunch. As the situation stands now, apartment owners have to be relishing the undeniable fact that they can charge penthouse prices for cracker-boxes and still get an overwhelming response from students.

One issue that must be addressed concerns the University's already-implemented plan to cut enrollment in the coming years and how this decrease in students will affect the demand for area housing.

Are we essentially going to reverse the present housing dilemma by having too much living space for too few students? Are the now-overcrowded dorms going to be hastily abandoned once the new housing is completed?

According to Dan Williams, the University vice-president of administration, such a scenario is unlikely. Williams said the new housing plan was brought about because of a general glut in the rental market in the city, and "the decision (to build the complexes) has little relationship with student enrollment."

It may well be true that the housing plan is a reaction to rising market rates throughout the city, but the University does need to consider how a depletion of students will affect the demand for housing.

It goes without saying that we desperately need more housing in the campus area. However, the University should consider the amount of new housing units it plans to build. The numbers should be relative to enrollment predictions for years to come, not enrollment figures as they stand today.

Because the housing problem today is exasperating and immensely frustrating to all involved, those involved in finding a solution may go overboard in order to satisfy the complainants.

The housing plan is commendable and long-awaited. But the planners should be careful not to affix a long-term solution to our present problem.



Deadline crunch for spring graduation

At this time in any term — fall, winter or spring — students have to remember a seemingly sudden glut of deadlines.

For those of us lucky enough to be graduating before the year 2015, the most important of these falls on Friday, Jan. 19: the application deadline for spring term graduation.

Why so early? It's a complicated process, but it goes something like this: applying by the deadline will give the registrar's office enough time to let graduating students know if they have met the University's requirements.

Applying for graduation after the Jan. 19 deadline is possible until the second week of spring term itself. However, filling out the necessary forms by Friday will give graduating students an entire term to fix any shortcomings on their transcripts.

A clerk at the registrar's office said many graduating seniors forget the deadline, and they are forced to apply without any promise of warnings from the University about such things as grade, credit and course requirements.

Graduation application forms are avail-

able at the registrar's office in Oregon Hall, and should be turned in by 5 p.m. Friday when the office closes.

The following deadlines also are upon all of us, or soon will be:

- Friday, Jan. 19: the last day for winter term registration, and the last day to pay tuition.
- Friday is also the last day to add classes. And if, for whatever reason, students auditing classes decide to take the course for credit, this is the last day to do so.
- Friday, Jan. 26: the last day for students to drop classes without recorded Ws on their transcripts.
- Also on Jan. 26: the last day to change a course from audit to credit without a W appearing on your transcript.
- Friday, Feb. 23: the last day to withdraw from courses, period. The dreaded (but for all practical purposes meaningless, as it doesn't count toward any kind of grade point average) W will appear on a student's transcript.

Students are encouraged to note these deadlines, because if you're not careful, they may just pass you by.

Letters

Well-articulated

Andy Clark's essay (ODE, Jan. 10) would have been more helpful had you made the effort to counter the specific points of the intelligent, well-articulated arguments against mandatory health insurance for University students that have appeared in the *Emerald*. Major points you left unaddressed include the following:

- Doubt that a single plan can adequately address the disparate needs of the student body (Ringer, ODE, Jan. 9).
- Ideas for students who would have to add expensive health insurance payments to already stretched budgets (Overman, ODE, Jan. 11).
- The dubious authority of the Student Health Insurance Committee to dictate health insurance decisions for thousands of students (Spencer, ODE, Jan. 8; Mark, ODE, Jan. 9).
- The failure of SHIC to comparison shop for insurance plans other than Prudential and submit the highlights of different plans for student examination (Jensen, ODE, Jan. 8)

• The obvious reluctance of students to embrace any plan offered by the same SHIC that presided over the 1989-90 insurance debacle.

As a health insurance carrier, I am aware of the importance of health insurance. I am also aware of the problem of the skyrocketing cost of health insurance, and I would welcome constructive discussion of ideas for ways the University community might address this problem.

However, it is not clear that SHIC has considered the health insurance needs of all students, the additional expense for people who cannot afford it, the ethics of forcing students to shoulder the burden of a more general health care problem and its own demonstrated inability to provide University students with a good health insurance plan.

Kathleen Freeman
Graduate Student

Stereotyping

There are many acts carried

out by adults that can be considered immature. Not the least of these would be stereotyping people into nice, neat, easy to hate groups.

Jeff Goddard's letter "Grow up" (ODE, Jan. 9) was a prime example. The self-proclaimed example of "Big game hunting, Oregon style" depicted beer drinking hunters using "radio-collared dogs" to tree a cougar.

Goddard, if you would have looked, you probably would have had a better chance of finding a hunter that didn't drink than you would have had trying to find a hunter who had even heard of radio-controlled dogs.

Cougar or bear hunting makes up only a small percentage of the hunting done in Oregon. The majority of big game hunting is for deer and elk. Both can yield large amounts of meat.

In fact, if you had looked, you might even have found hunters who had learned from their fathers how to put meat on the table (and in the freezer). This is going to be hard to believe, but once I met a hunter

that didn't chew tobacco, drink beer, own a 4 x 4, or refer to every object as big 'ol

Your morality level is impressive; however, if you feel a need to stereotype people, perhaps you might consider an extended visit back to high school. If I remember correctly, stereotyping was the building block of the social structure.

Pat Malach
Student

Slang

In response to the sincere letter by Tim Hughes (ODE, Jan. 15) acknowledging the rudeness and insensitivity of the use of the word "sucks," I must offer my applause. It is high time we did away with such demeaning slang.

Yet, let's not stop there! Have a heart! The common expression, "let's bail," is just as ruthless! Its origin (no-doubt stemming from helpless sailors facing the destruction of their ship with no other chance but to try to get ride of oncoming water) cannot be forgotten.

It is disrespectful to utter "let's bail," when those were the last words of many a lost seaman. And we musn't overlook the all-too-familiar "what's up?" greeting. This casual salutation is obviously a result of mass ignorance and inhumanity: it's a subtle reference to homophobic liberal arts majors having a problem passing Astronomy 108.

Thank you, Hughes.

Phil Zuckerman
Sociology

Letters Policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.