

Well-meant red tape may lessen service

Most students who have looked for a place to live off campus have at some time consulted the Rental Information Office bulletin board in the EMU — it's a service provided free for landlords, property agents or tenants looking for roommates, and it offers more information than a newspaper ad.

This month, however, students are often finding that the bulletin board is covered with ads for places rented days ago. And besides that, there are likely to be fewer ads put up on the board in the future.

Why? A bureaucratic kink has been added to the system, and it's not going over well with some landlords. The ASUO Housing Task Force has received complaints from property owners who say their days of dealing with the Rental Information Office are numbered.

When ASUO controlled the off-campus housing office, a common practice was to take rental information over the telephone, put the ad up minutes later, and let students and landlords deal with the rest.

Last summer, University Housing took control of the ASUO off-campus housing office and created the Rental Information office.

University Housing is to be appreciated for bringing its expertise, professionalism, and most importantly, financial help to a service that for years helped thousands of students find apartments and houses.

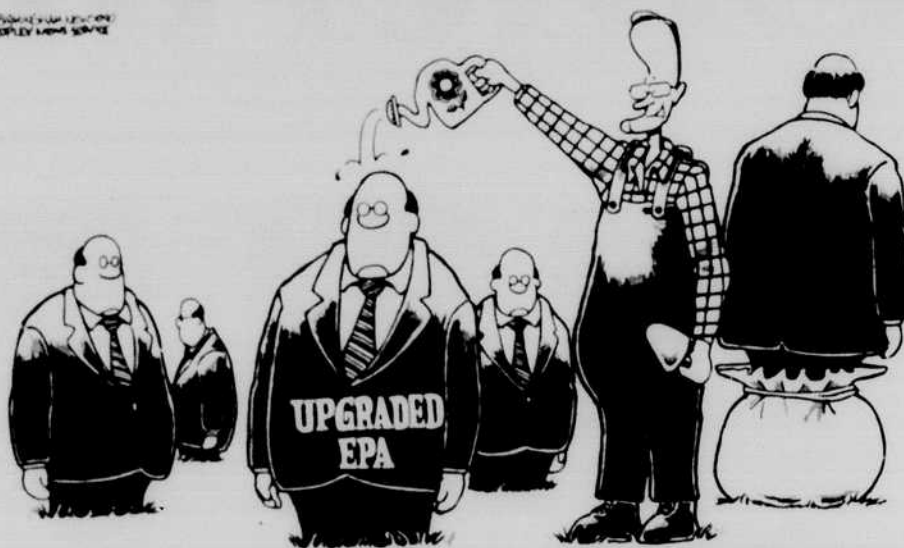
But on Jan. 1, University Housing began requiring a signed statement of compliance from every landlord, for every rental property, for every rental. The statement includes an outline of city affirmative action laws (which landlords are already required to comply with); the signed form clears University Housing from liability.

The signed statement then must be mailed or hand-carried to the Rental Information Office, a time-consuming process for property owners, many of whom are students or hold other jobs. Landlords are often finding that by the time an ad is ready for the bulletin board, word of mouth has been a more effective advertiser and the place is already rented. It's a pain for landlords and a disservice for students seeking housing.

Reminding landlords of their affirmative action obligations is not a bad idea. But for landlords who have rented to students for years without problems with city anti-discrimination laws, it would be easier for everyone if the landlord could sign the form once. Or once for each rental property. Or once a year. And then continue to be able to place ads by phone to provide students the freshest rental information.

SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

PLANT A BUREAUCRAT



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Chemical-laden grapes should be banned

The bottom line is this: The grapes being served at the University are not healthy — not for those who eat them, and especially not for the workers who picked them.

These commercially grown grapes are sprayed with toxic pesticides, which have been proven to create long-term health effects on the workers. These pesticides have caused cancer, birth defects, and in some cases immediate death to those exposed to the chemicals.

Each year, over eight million pounds of pesticides are used on grapes, making this fruit the most dangerous crop exposed to the poisons, according to the United Farm Workers.

MEChA, the Chicano/Latino student union on campus, is urging University food services to halt distribution of these grapes here. The group met with University President Myles Brand this week to convince him of the far-reaching dangers that arise from the cultivation of the grapes.

According to MEChA director Eddie Beanes, Eugene School District 4-J has already banned grape distribution as a result

of the pesticide dangers. They feel the implications are severe enough to eliminate serving any grapes whatsoever.

Brand needs to follow the school district's lead and boycott the commercial grapes served on this campus. The health dangers have been well-documented and the data is alarming.

If Brand feels students will desperately miss munching on grapes and is therefore reluctant to discontinue serving them, there is an alternative. Organically grown grapes are devoid of toxic pesticides and are just as available for distribution.

The problem with organic food, of course, is the extra expense involved in buying "natural" goods. But added cost should not be much of a concern when the grape workers' lives are involved as they obviously are.

Boycotting commercial grapes would be a fairly easy, very necessary action for the University to participate in. Something as tiny and insignificant as a grape shouldn't have to cause so much harm.

Letters

Vehement

Bob Weigel's "reminder" (ODE, Jan. 26) was indeed a strong one; a reminder that paralytic, thinking needs to be vehemently rejected.

Weigel, you tell us there is an increase in abortions per capita since 1972. You then state that back in the good ol' days (read: back alley days) "... there were less unwanted pregnancies."

Why would the number of abortions increase if these past pregnancies were desired, and why would there be more unwanted pregnancies now that abortion is legal?

You've got it all figured out, don't you, by writing "most women feared the consequences, and thus did not put their bodies out for use by anyone, everyone with the right moves."

Right. Now I get it. You're saying: Basically women are sluts who need laws to protect them from themselves. They are amoral, but we can keep them in line with the fear of their own uteri.

Who are the men that want to manipulate women (we easily manipulated morons). I wonder? You've certainly activated a fear in me; a healthy one that generates all to action against your kind of mentality.

Tia Holliday
Chemistry

Situations

In response to the ongoing debate about abortion: I want to question pro-lifers if their position is wholly a question of morality? Or is it justice?

Maybe you want everyone to pay for their mistakes according to the results of those mistakes, or maybe according to the degree of the mistake itself?

To paraphrase what someone once said, "Let those who do not make mistakes be the accusers of those who do."

I don't feel that it is wholly a question of morality, though. Many people who would be hurt by making abortion illegal are minorities living in large cities. These people can hardly

afford abortions now, and if it is made illegal, where are they expected to find the time or money to raise children?

Most minority children are wanted for adoption, and many of these people would not think of the idea to consider it an option. These people would be affected by laws making abortion illegal.

For most anti-abortionists discussing the issue now, morality seems more important than for mothers or babies to have happy or healthy lives.

Try to look at the whole situation before deciding that abortion should be wrong for everyone. It may be wrong for you; you are free to make that choice. Think about it, wouldn't it be strange if you couldn't make that choice?

Heather Lundberg
Student

No comparison

To Michael Simon on his letter (ODE, Jan. 26) about Don Majkowski: Now don't you feel

dumb? By the way, nice logic. You say Majkowski is better than Montana just because the Packers beat the 49ers? How ridiculous. Using this logic, Bill Joe Tolliver better than John Elway since the Chargers beat the Broncos this year.

You say Joe Montana wasn't the best quarterback in the league last year? Why should someone who set the all time quarterback efficiency rating, or a unanimous Pro Bowl selection (voting is done by the players and coaches mind you, not the fans), be thought of as great? I guess most of us, including the NFL, are just naive, Simon.

Majkowski the best quarterback in 1989? Huh! He wasn't even the second best. Rams quarterback Jim Everett had

much better stats than Majkowski. And more importantly, Everett's team went to the playoffs.

Majkowski is better in the clutch? Yea, right. Just look at "The Catch" game in '81, or last year's Super Bowl to see how clutch Montana is. Let's look at Majkowski's playoff record - oh, we can't, he's never been there. Besides, it's hard to come from behind when you're beating the best teams in the league by 28, 27, and 45 points.

Simon, when Majkowski has four Super Bowl rings and three MVP awards to his credit, then maybe you can compare him to Joe Montana.

Jeff Eberhart
Journalism

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