

## Seat savers should stay home Saturday

It may have already happened to you. You wake up early Saturday morning, check your tickets, fill your thermos and head to Autzen Stadium to cheer on the Ducks. By getting an early start you intended to get some of the finest general admission seating available — wrong!

Very often large blocks of the best student seats are saved by one or two people who are involved with greeks, dorms, or other social groups. The people who should be rewarded for their efforts to make it to the stadium on time end up taking the back-row spots. Meanwhile, those who slept until noon, but were able to con some poor wretch into "reserving" general admission seats, get to sit up front.

What factors allow this kind of unfair situation to occur? Inconsiderate people, a security force that up until now has turned its back on the situation, and apathy among the people who let it happen to them.

Those people who think they can depend on others to secure their places for them, should grow up and try to become responsible members of society. It is exactly this kind of "me first" and screw the others attitude that lies at the foundation of our societies big problems. Learning to respect others may cause some sacrifices, but it's worth while in the long run.

The blue shirt security forces have allowed these unofficial reserve seats to become reality by not addressing the problem at all. They do not see it as an issue, and, at times, when confronted with a situation have turned a blind eye.

Stadium policy maintains that those seats are distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis. It is part of the security force's job to make sure that is the way it happens. Students should demand action from the stadium employees. If there is enough people to make sure one tears down a goal post, why can't they enforce the seating policy?

It is also the duty of the students who lose out to the "reserved seat holders" to not let it slide. Don't get pushed around. Behavior like this can only continue if you let it. Start standing up for yourself now. You are going to need to learn that quality some time in your life. Why not start a pattern?

Saving one or two seats for your best friend or roommate is one thing. But whole rows or sections is another. If you want to sit with your friends, show up at the same time. Otherwise stay at home and let the adults watch the game.



## Bush's popularity declines to lowest level

In a New York Times/CBS News poll conducted last week, Bush's approval rating sank to its lowest level since he was elected.

The president's popularity actually increased when he was on vacation doing nothing.

The Berlin Wall came tumbling down and the stock market was climbing. Though Bush had nothing to do with these happenings, we read his lips and knew what a great job he was doing.

But as soon as the president began taking an active part in the nation's affairs, his positive performance rating plummeted.

The popularity of a president is usually judged on two main criteria — foreign policy and the economy.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait, Bush has been in a quandary. He remembered the swift butt-kicking we gave to Grenada and Panama. Neither of those countries have the military capability, nor the oil, that Iraq has. Bush could not apply his foreign policy knowledge to Iraq.

Bush claims that oil has nothing to do with American troops in Saudi Arabia. He says it's about naked aggression. Wrong — it has everything to do with oil. And the United States' addiction to it.

On the home front, Bush vetoed the emergency stopgap measure and the government actually closed down for a weekend. He wanted to cut medicare and lower the capital gains tax — hurting the needy and helping the wealthy.

Even though Congress agreed to emergency measures, it wasn't good enough for Bush. He was determined to show his might.

He should have cut his vacation short. No one misses government until it isn't there. Bush's inability to appear that he even cared about the country hurt his popularity.

We don't understand Bush's lips or his hips. Appearance counts for nothing when you're close to war and bankruptcy.

## LETTERS

### Too hung up

I am writing in response to Enna M. Dole's letter (ODE, Oct. 16).

I agree that each one of us should respect another person's privacy and that men should not look at her like an object, but Dole takes the issue to an extreme.

There are many men on campus, like me, who would like to get to know women (and everyone for that matter) for friendship only. Nothing more. Not every man is out there "wanting your body."

Second, most people, both men and women, make themselves look good for not only themselves, but for others as well. Frankly, most people, including myself, are flattered to hear compliments such as, "You look nice today."

Third, Dole is pretty hung up about men too close to her or asking her out on a date.

Well, most men on campus probably don't even know who she is. That leaves me to ask one question: How is she to prevent the few men who are supposedly "lusting" after her from doing it again?

If and when Dole wants to talk with someone and gives the opportunity a chance, she will find that she can be comfortable with men who want only friendship. And friends are those who respect a person and their privacy.

Since I was so confused and disturbed by Dole's letter, I discussed the issue with a couple of female friends of mine. They believe that a lot of men like them as friends, not as items in a "meat market."

To any dilemmas that Dole might have suffered in the past with a few unkind men, I sympathize. But no one should have to put up with Dole's notion that all men are out to "get a little."

Todd Helton  
Student

### Corrections

I would like to make two small corrections to the otherwise well-researched and well-written article about family housing by Jiffin Arboleda (ODE, Oct. 17).

She quotes me as saying in an interview "I think it's much better at Amazon ... it's almost

like East Germany." This would imply that I believe that East Germany was superior to West Germany, a tenet few people in the world would hold today (I doubt even our new Nobel Peace Prize laureate would espouse this view).

What I was attempting is to establish an analogy between Amazon Housing and its myriad of social services, low rents and community life and the now defunct socialist state: and between East Campus and its individual houses at higher rental rates, and West Germany.

I did not intend or imply any value judgment about either the social systems or the housing areas. In fact I am extremely grateful to University Housing for having had the opportunity in Amazon Housing last year and presently at East Campus.

In the following paragraph, she quotes me as saying that there is "almost a sense of community" in East Campus. What I meant is that there is little sense-of community in East Campus compared with Amazon or Westmoreland, although I get along very well with all my neighbors, and there have

been recent endeavors to improve community activities in East Campus.

Luis Fierro  
Student

### Symbol abuse

The car in the street symbolizes far more than alcohol abuse. It symbolizes the chronic ambiguity drowning American society.

The only indication that this vehicle "might" have been involved with drugs or alcohol was a police ribbon. A ribbon that "might" have meant the car was stolen or involved in any one of a thousand illegal activities.

If we are really concerned about the problem of substance

it seems we should put a little more time and effort into our symbolism.

If we are going to use an object to make us aware, let's give it a history with real names and blown-up glossy photos of real faces. Why pay someone to haul in a generic piece of junk? Could it be that names and faces would create controversy? Heaven forbid.

Ambiguity is safe and comfortable. It might never get anything done, but it's an integral part of American society.

We can see it from the Supreme Court of the United States to the streets of the University. Take no stand and you're my man (person)!

Stan Schweitzer  
Speech

### Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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.