

LETTERS

Real democracy

Politics and football don't mix. The recent pronouncements by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue amount to blackmail of the people of Arizona, and our democratic process. Politicians in Arizona are now desperately trying to determine if they can pass a bill combining Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays and leaving room for a King day.

It's obvious that Arizona voters voted their conscience. Certainly, it's disheartening that the spirit of equality and togetherness does not pervade in the state. However, the voters have spoken and the democratic process is confirmed.

By attempting to punish the voters of Arizona, by taking away the Superbowl, the democratic process is threatened. If people cannot freely vote their conscience without fear of reprisal, America is no better than the host of authoritarian figures around the globe. Indeed, it is no better than the once glorified KKK in the South which punished black voters and white sympathizers for participating.

Michael Colson
Political science

Law breakers

It's great that organizations which discriminate on the basis of race or sexual preference are not allowed to use University facilities, but I don't care if the CIA hires only blacks, hispanics and homosexuals — they should not be allowed to use the University or the Emerald as their recruiting territory.

Equal opportunity terrorism is no better than any other kind of terrorism. If the CIA had the fairest hiring practices on the planet, it would still be racist. If it obeyed every affirmative action law on the books, it would still be a law-breaking organization.

The CIA has waged, and will

continue to wage war on people of color. It has broken, and will continue to break international law, and it has never had and will never have a legitimate role in a University environment.

Get them off campus and get their ads out of the Emerald.

Molly Eness
Eugene

Stamped out

Shocked and embarrassed were the words I would use to describe my feelings when I was denied the food I had placed on the counter of the campus 7/11 store because they no longer accept food stamps.

I am a struggling student who does not always have time to prepare a sack lunch for myself while trying to get my child off to day care in the morning, get myself together for a long day of school and a day at the office (I work for the University).

So, where within walking distance, can a University student go between classes for a bite to eat if they are cursed enough to have to use those inconvenient things called food

stamps? It seems to me like another misunderstood, discriminatory step taken against the impoverished.

Natasha Brady
Eugene

King for a day

As the editorial in the Emerald noted (ODE, Nov. 12), there has been a great deal of controversy over whether a day should be set aside to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

This letter is to suggest that King is not an appropriate role model. As is well known, King had several extramarital affairs even while ordained as a minister. In addition, it has recently been established that King plagiarized much of his doctoral dissertation while at Boston University.

The ideal expressed by King should not be tainted by the failings of the man. Perhaps another day significant to the civil rights movement needs to be selected instead of King's birthday.

Richard W. Baldwin
Eugene

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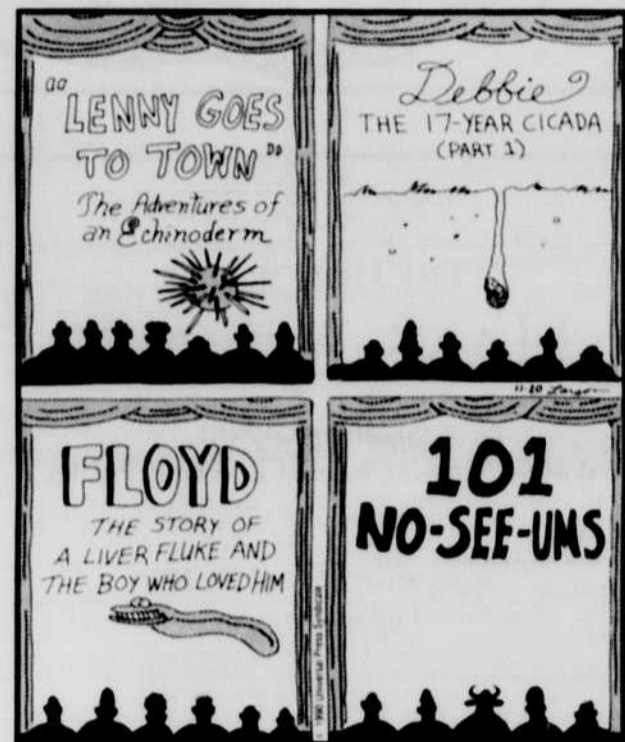
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Oregon DAILY EMERALD

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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