

# LETTERS

## Power shift

I attended the workshop and lecture given by Starhawk on Nov. 8 and was amazed by her intelligence, courage, clarity and insight. I was thus disturbed to read Carla Moser's letter (*ODE*, Nov. 29) and see the confusion this same lecture caused her.

Starhawk educated her audience about the differences between early Earth-goddess based cultures where a hierarchic structure of domination

was absent and the warring patriarchal domination-based cultures that eventually replaced these relatively peaceful, egalitarian societies.

She pointed out that both men and women lost control over their lives when this shift occurred from societies based on power from within (egalitarian) to those based on power over (domination-based).

Starhawk did not "creatively interpret" or "alter" history as Moser states. She quoted and

relied upon substantial evidence and current anthropological theories.

Starhawk does not romanticize the ancient and she clearly can differentiate history from myth. She does, however, recognize the need to regain some of the balance and regard for the Earth that we attribute to our ancestors.

She suggests the use of ritual, magic, consciously connecting with myth, Earth-centered political action as pathways to greater wholeness, self-knowledge and the reclaiming of a healthy sense of power.

In postscript, perhaps before attempting to discredit a scholar of anthropology and religion, Moser should focus her concern over the altering of history on her own field of study — history, a discipline long known for its politically motivated selectivity, myths, and omissions.

Jane Stricker  
Graduate, Anthropology

## THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Idiot! ... You're standing on my foot!"

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The *Oregon Daily 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.

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

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