

## Smokers deserve place in EMU, too

The EMU board of directors is currently in the process of deciding whether to make the entire Erb Memorial Union a smokeless building or to allow smokers to take refuge in the basement Recreation Center.

People who want to smoke in the EMU are now limited to the Skylight Refectory, the Ballroom lobby or the Recreation Center.

Allowing the Recreation Center to retain its smokers-welcome policy is the best of the options being considered by the board. It is a large well-ventilated area. There are plenty of pool tables and bowling lanes, and also lots of elbow room to accommodate those who want to avoid second-hand smoke.

The atmosphere and mood that generally accompanies pool halls or bowling alleys lends itself to smoking as well. It is a place where people go by choice, to relax and unwind.

The Recreation Center is fitting in both atmosphere and logistics. But if the EMU board decides it does not want smoking to continue there, it should consider finding another place in the building for students who want to smoke.

Smoking and non-smoking students alike have paid fees that fund the operation of the student union. All of those students should have access to at least one area where they can study, recreate, socialize and even smoke.

The Fountain Court is another logical place for a smoking area. The pseudo outdoor area is obviously well-ventilated. It is also the location of Friday night beer gardens. Once again the social atmosphere, combined with the logistics of the area lends itself to a smoking area.

Once a week the EMU is opened for beer and a weekend blowing-off-steam session. If that can be condoned, why not let people smoke in the area during the week.

## Everyone is encouraged to attend second teach-in

The No Gulf War Coalition and Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice are sponsoring another teach-in this weekend on the growing Gulf War crisis.

The University campus will host 22 workshops starting today at 2 p.m. with six workshops on media coverage. Eight workshops on issues of racism, harassment and cultural diversity begin Saturday at 9:30 a.m., and eight others on "How to Respond in the Long Term" begin Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Now, more than ever, the community needs to talk and discuss the events in the Middle East. The workshops are being held over the weekend for people who couldn't attend the last teach-in due to school or work conflicts.

A debate, titled "Now That We Are at War, How Do We End It?" begins Saturday at 7 p.m. in Room 100 Willamette. Both anti-war and pro-Desert Storm positions will be represented by University faculty and students, with time allotted for questions afterwards.

Information on workshop titles and locations is available by calling the No Gulf War Coalition at 346-4248 or Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice at 346-2545.

Everyone should attend as many workshops as they possibly can because, as the big television ad campaign says, "The More You Know..."

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## LETTERS

### Dissent

From Robert F. Kennedy's "Promises to Keep" (a collection of speeches): "It is not enough to allow dissent. We must demand it. For there is much to dissent from...."

Yet we must, as thinking people, distinguish between the right of dissent and the way we choose to exercise that right. That dissent which consists simply of sporadic and dramatic acts sustained by neither continuing labor or research — that dissent which seeks to demolish while lacking both the desire and direction for rebuilding; that dissent which, contemptuously or out of laziness, casts aside the practical weapons and instruments of change and progress — that kind of dissent is merely self-indulgence. It is satisfying, perhaps, to those who make it.

But it will not solve the problems of our society. It will not assist those seriously engaged in the difficult and frustrating work of the nation.

And, when it is all over, it will not have brightened or enriched the life of a single portion of humanity in a single part of the globe."

Elizabeth Cage  
Political Science  
Anthropology

### Speaking out

We would like to commend Dustin Rhoades (ODE, Jan. 30) for courageously speaking out about his experience in the Esslinger locker room. As women, we know all too well the feeling of violation of body and spirit and the fear of speaking out that comes from the humiliation of being violated in such a way.

To reiterate Dustin's point, "this is sexually abusive behavior which (we) have done nothing to deserve," whether we are in a locker room, walking down the street or in our own homes; whether we are wearing no clothes or covered from head to foot.

Finally, we would like to add to his letter that we not only encourage men to speak out,

but women also, and remind everyone that if women did so, letters of this nature alone would fill this newspaper for many years.

Carol Cheney  
ASUO Women's Center

### Stop racism

We are members of the Racism and Harassment Committee of the Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice. One consequence of this war has been to foster ethnic animosities against people of color as well as against Arab-American men, Jewish and international students, staff and faculty. We want to help to make sure that this does not continue to happen on our campus.

We are actively seeking information about any discrimination that may have occurred at the University as a result of the Persian Gulf War. In order to serve as a clearing house for this information, we are asking you to write us or send us copies of relevant materials. We would like to talk with anyone who has experienced discrimination. We also encourage graduate students and faculty who have encountered harassment in connection with their concerns over the war to share their experiences with us. We will respect all wishes to remain anonymous.

Please feel free to contact any of us by mail or phone.

Aletta Biersack  
Anthropology, 346-5102  
Dianna Kale  
Office of Multicultural Affairs  
346-2993  
Linda Kintz  
English, 346-3962  
and nine co-signers

### Help out

My friend Clarence Lo wrote in his book *Small Property Versus Big Government* that California's "Prop. 13 gave about two-thirds of the benefits to business owners, and only one-third to home owners."

Ballot Measure 5 will provide a large windfall to businesses. I hope that our local businesses will use their savings to invest in our community's social ser-

vices and higher education.

The governor's proposed budget for mental health services is instructive of our situation and what businesses and individuals can do to improve circumstances. Lane County Mental Health is facing a cut of about one-quarter of its services for adults with mental illnesses at the same time that the state plans to close several state hospital wards. Governor Roberts has proposed a new housing trust fund with lottery money, as she wondered "How does someone working for \$5 an hour pay first and last month's rent plus a cleaning deposit in advance?" Roberts could have addressed her question to mental health providers in residential facilities, because the state pays these direct-care workers an average of \$5 an hour.

The Kestrel cafe is hosting a benefit dinner on the evening of Sunday, Feb. 17. The beneficiary is Halfway House Services, which operates two residential facilities for adults with chronic mental illness in our community. We should all make it a point to support such businesses that put money back into the community. Then on Monday, Feb. 18, The Heart of Oregon Coalition will be lobbying for mental health services at the state Capitol in Salem from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Larry S. Williams  
GTF, Sociology

### Editor's Note

The *Emerald* learned Thursday that several readers have phoned the home of a Eugene couple, erroneously believing they are responding to a letter written by student Jim Bridge (ODE, Feb. 14).

People who wish to respond to letters are asked to do so by writing to the paper's editorial desk. Making threatening or abusive phone calls is illegal and inappropriate, regardless of the reason.

The *Emerald* regrets any inconvenience this letter or the resulting incidents may have caused.