

## UFO abductee

You students cannot know the incredible sense of power and control I felt upon seeing my name in print. But alas, it seems my work is not yet done; I have not yet begun to gripe.

Trees with souls? Three hundred shuttle flights to the death of the planet? The president faking heart trouble just to scare us? Yeah ... and I'm a UFO abductee with secret information about the alternative fuel possibilities of corn flakes.

The knee-jerk reactionaries in this town need to lay off the green bud and L.S.D. Give the Dead Kennedy records a rest long enough to figure out that the secret police don't really exist. At least keep your paranoid delusions out of the campus paper.

I can't get out of this podunk, backwoods, political cesspool of a town fast enough. The slavery that awaits me in an Alaskan salmon cannery will be a welcome relief from this hell.

Chris Pharis  
Fine Arts

## Pornography

Rape and violence against women is a very complex social problem that has been in existence long before the first publication of *Playboy*. To say that rape is caused by "pornography" is a very limited analysis of a social problem.

Yes, there are men who have

raped and read *Playboy*. But there are far more many men who have read *Playboy* and not raped. What accounts for this? Saying that reading *Playboy* causes rape smacks of scapegoating a very large and complex social phenomena.

Also there needs to be a larger perspective on the scope and definition of pornography. Since the onset of AIDS, the video and magazine pornography markets have boomed a thousand fold.

People are staying home and doing their business alone behind closed doors. It is contributing to keeping people alive and safe — away from the threat of AIDS. Could it be that the issue of "pornography" is larger than the women's issue?

Could it be that pornography is playing a constructive role in this age of AIDS?

Jeffrey Wooliver  
Student

## Choice

Regarding Sarah J. Satre's letter (*ODE*, May 20):

I believe she misunderstood Ted Ferguson's letter (*ODE*, May 13) by interpreting it to say that "queers have an acceptable sexual drive." He in fact says, "Having a sexual drive for members of the same gender is very foreign to me...I guess it is acceptable — for you."

He does not say he accepts it or that it is acceptable. He



merely respects ("does not hate") you as individuals of a different lifestyle.

There is a difference between the political movements of people of color and people of different sexual preference. People of color are oppressed because of skin color. People of different sexual preference are treated differently because of a choice they made. People of color have no choice.

The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance is a lifestyle, not a race. That is why they aren't a legitimate minority group. I know that you would have us believe that you as gays, lesbians and bisexuals have no choice to be the way you are. I suppose then we should also set up a political minority group for psychotic killers who have no choice to be who they are, either.

If you are lesbian, gay or bisexual, fine. Be who you choose to be and be proud for the choices you make in your life.

Oh yeah — good luck with your "political movement," but don't expect anyone to take it as legitimate.

Allen James  
Eugene

# FORUM

## University family housing faces major changes

By Brian Hoop

Major changes are coming for family housing at the University with construction of new apartments and implementation of rewritten governance policies. Few students are yet aware of the significance these changes may have on the affordability and quality of family housing as well as the extent of diminished student participation in family housing governance.

Over the past several years, the University has been moving toward the expansion of family housing under pressure from both students and community demands to ease the housing crisis in Eugene. At the same time new governance rules have been implemented by University Housing which consolidate administration control over rent increases, gaining the power to automatically increase rents by up to 5 percent a year, and the scheduling of maintenance and the improvements to the apartments or houses, effectively neutralizing the need for students on the family Housing Board.

### Commentary

#### New housing construction

In 1990 the Oregon Legislature allocated \$11 million in bond issues to fund construction of up to 180 new apartments. Later that year, a user group of students, staff and faculty met to define a list of criteria, including affordability and design quality, which would guide the development process to best serve students.

With approval from the University administration, construction could begin

soon. But several obstacles exist which present formidable challenges to the feasibility of building at this time and will likely result in a scaled down expansion.

A major concern to students is the affordability of rent for the new apartments. Family housing rental rates are far below the current market rates of \$450 to \$600 for two-bedroom apartments. Currently two bedrooms at Amazon go for \$138, \$157 at Westmoreland, and \$180 to \$310 for East Campus houses.

These low rents are a result of deferred maintenance and renovation over the years as well as the fact that Amazon was built during World War II as temporary housing and was never intended to last this long.

Rents will skyrocket in any new apartments to around 10 percent below market rate. Rough estimates suggest rent for two bedrooms will be around \$420. Rents may come down if the burden of cost increases is spread across the board by raising rents 10 percent to 20 percent at Westmoreland, East campus and Amazon, thereby lowering rents in new apartments to between \$250 to \$340.

No subsidies other than the free property tax status of the University property have been built into the legislative bonds. In effect, family housing will no longer be significantly low cost, thus defeating its original purpose.

Other issues clouding housing decisions include the effects of a recession and Measure 5 tuition cuts and program cuts which have made concrete demographic/economic estimates unpredictable for the coming years. Will housing still be needed if the local economy turns sour and vacancies around campus soar? Will there be enough student-parents to fill family housing with im-

pending program cuts in Education and Human Development and Performance programs — both of which have high percentages of older, non-traditional students?

Yes, there is a need for new family housing. Regardless of a recession or budget cuts the fact remains student populations are sure to change, grow older and become more diversified. How we define family is rapidly changing so as to include non-married couples and gay and lesbian couples who may be as financially at risk and deserving of low-income housing as traditional families.

Low-income families with children still deserve special consideration such as expanding availability of three- and four-bedroom apartments and guaranteeing priority eligibility and low rents for those financially at risk. Two-income families and students with higher incomes can afford higher rents. Higher rents would necessitate a financial means test a financial means test to determine eligibility and priority family housing. I hope the administration will pay attention to the work of a Financial Means Test Committee which is seeking ways to facilitate this process.

Housing construction will be far cheaper now than in 30 years. The rents proposed now are too high. Every effort should be made to step-ladder the rent increases over the average 30-year mortgage lifetime. With recession it may appear vacancies are on the increase but that may be a false sign that more people are victims of an economic downturn and are either homeless or doubling up with other families and are not meeting adequate housing standards,

Make no mistake, there will always be a need for low-income housing.

#### Students lose power in policy board

Regarding the rewritten governance documents for family housing, students have lost considerable control over rental increases and funding of replacement furniture and appliances. Now University Housing will be able to implement automatic 5 percent rent increases per year and authorize the purchase of new appliances or furniture over a cost of \$6,000 without student input and approval. University Housing would also be able to schedule maintenance and repair jobs with as little as 24 hours notice to families regardless of the inconvenience such jobs may inflict on the student's family.

The University's argument is that maintenance and renovation costs have been deferred far too long due to student protests over rent increases to the point that the quality of the housing is decaying beyond a point of no return. Mary Tegal, of East Campus, and I have both testified against these changes, arguing they may benefit the University administration but over the long run will only deteriorate student respect for University Housing and will raise rents to such a high level altogether pricing low-income students out of the educational market — the very students who were intended to benefit.

Students living in family housing should be very concerned and voice their outrage to the University administration starting with University President Myles Brand, Vice President for Administration Dan Williams and Director of Housing Marge Ramey.

Brian Hoop is the ASUO University affairs coordinator.