

LETTERS

Disgraceful

I was sent an invitation through campus mail to attend a talk by an engineer, Dr. Otto Helweg, on "Ethics and Modern Man." In his talk, Helweg made the incredible assertion that the ethical values of atheists and agnostics completely lack any validity. He went on to say that all non-Christians possess ethical values that are seriously flawed. Astonished, I pressed him on these issues after his talk, and he reiterated his claims. Further, he advanced the notion that the constitutional rights of atheists and agnostics should be more restricted than those enjoyed by Christians.

Blind bigotry and intolerance of other religious views are not new, but I find it disgusting. I was truly amazed to hear a talk of this caliber at an institution of higher learning. This kind of intolerance in the past has enabled people to dehumanize fellow human beings and justify crimes of violence against "worthless" people. And though it has enjoyed a remarkable renaissance and political legitimization in the Reagan and Bush years, I continue to be astounded each time I encounter such bigotry.

I feel that the University Campus Evangelical Ministries, the Baptist Student Union, the Campus Crusade for Christ, the Collegiate Christian Fellowship, and the Faith Center, as the organizers, owe the University community an apology for this disgraceful event.

Peter O'Day
Neuroscience

Illusions

In his column, "Eugene mob sends wrong message," (ODE, May 7) prior to hurling a slew of insults at the window-breaking protesters, Gerrit Keopping commented that (window breaking) has nothing to do with Rodney King. Keopping continued to say that the "kiddies" are in big trouble in a tone not unlike that of a highly condescending class bully. Amid his pontificating, Keopping ignored several major

issues.

People broke some windows at the Federal Building; subsequently a grand jury will convene next week and reportedly, federal prosecutors are pushing for maximum prison sentences of five - 10 years. Keopping failed to notice this has lots to do with King. In most states, if you get stopped for speeding, they give you a ticket. In L.A., the police physically assault you.

In most places, if you break a window you get a misdemeanor charge and do community service. At the Eugene Federal Building, they send out a federal investigation costing more than the broken glass, seeking only to ruin students' lives and regain their ruined facade of omnipotence.

Keopping seems proud to live in a country where breaking windows brings about a harsher penalty than rape or child molestation. Window breaking may bring about criticism from the TV-watching, law-abiding public. However, the federal investigation exposes the hierarchical injustices in our society just as blatantly as the King beatings. This revelation in itself is enough to justify the shattering of a few panes of glass.

Tom Johnson
Eugene

Get along

After being abused by four cops in Los Angeles, a jury from a community composed of 90 percent whites brought back the verdict of not guilty. This scientifically selected jury, with a videotape of the whole incident before them, is saying what we saw was not excessive force, even after one of the cops admitted to it.

If this was not a case of excessive force, what would it take for it to be — King's death? No, because this then would be murder, or at least I still think it is murder if a white kills a black, or is it just if a black kills a white? Do not know anymore.

Even after all this trash, King, a beaten man, has the presence of mind and heart to want us all to get along. It cannot be put any simpler, and it is a goal that we desperately need to reach for.

But somehow I always seem to revert back to this statement I constantly hear: "What goes around comes around," and the reply, "I want to be here when it comes around."

Speaking realistically, if it has taken us hundreds of years for our society to come together to this point in time today, 1992, and say do not believe your eyes, these cops are not beating a black man, it is not going to "come around" anytime soon. And this is a fact, as sad as it may be, which minorities are going to have to deal with because right now we have no power in our own society.

Howard Park
Business

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes commentaries from the public concerning topics of interest to the University community. Commentaries should be between 750 and 1,000 words, legible and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified upon submission. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and length if necessary.

CORRECTION

An article in Monday's issue of the *Emerald* should have reported that Congressman Les AuCoin supports nationalized health care and Harry Lonsdale advocates an employer-based health care system. The *Emerald* regrets any confusion this may have caused.



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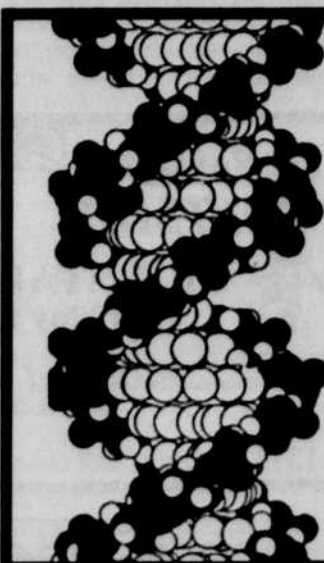
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