

## Fear and loathing on Fillmore Street

The Acorn House is an adult foster home located in the Friendly neighborhood. Sometime in November, it will house AIDS patients. It will be a place where people in various stages of the disease will receive quality health care for reasonable prices.

Few would dare oppose the existence or necessity of the Acorn House.

But some Fillmore Street neighbors are concerned about having the house on their block. They fear the Acorn House will cause a traffic tie-up, lower property values, and cause an influx of homosexuals into the area.

The neighbors have a right to question the direction of their community. If racist skinheads were moving in next door, most people would probably be worried.

But the Acorn House neighbors are not basing their complaints on rational concerns. They are instead making minor issues into major ones to mask their fear and ignorance of AIDS.

The neighbors say traffic is a concern. But only five patients at a time will reside at the house in addition to the attendants. Realistically, they shouldn't cause any more traffic than a large family. And most residents won't be well enough to drive.

Property values? The only reason property values would go down is if new neighbors were as unreasonably paranoid as the current ones.

The main reason people are afraid is because AIDS will suddenly be within their community. No longer can they ignore AIDS as a frightening disease seen only on TV. Suddenly it's in their backyard, looking them in the face.

As people should know by now, AIDS is not transmitted through casual contact. Little AIDS germs do not fly through the air threatening to contaminate everyone.

The fear about an influx of homosexuals is unfounded as well. Not everyone who contracts AIDS is gay, contrary to popular belief. And even if they were, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is as immoral as racial discrimination. Are they worried that gays and lesbians will kidnap their children? No, because they realize it's unreasonable. Just like other fears.

It's clear that the house is a valuable resource for the Eugene community. It provides specialized care for AIDS patients that is in many ways superior to a hospital. The attendants will have an opportunity to become closely acquainted with the patients, the surroundings will be more comfortable and family-like than a hospital, and the cost of treatment will be substantially less than hospital care.

Acorn House neighbors should be concerned not about the fact that AIDS patients are living next to them, but that these people are as comfortable as possible in their last few months or years. It's far easier to ignore a problem than to confront it. But the neighbors seem happy to do just that.



## LETTERS

### Clarification

This is to make some clarifications about my points regarding Peter Briggs' comments.

When interviewed by the *Oregon Daily Emerald* reporter, I intended to say, "He (Briggs) indicated himself through his word (instead of work) that he has been biased for a long time." (*ODE*, Sept. 28). The reason I put it this way was that in the original comments, Briggs clearly stated that his opinions were based partly on his "experience with Chinese."

It might be too much to say that I don't like Briggs' comments. But I have already said that. So let me face the consequences.

It might be too much for me to ask the University to openly say something about Briggs' comments, especially as a foreigner. So I am not going to ask.

The trouble is that I am an ordinary person, and an ordinary person has ordinary fears. That is why I think I'd better stop here.

**Xiaoyan Yan**  
Chinese Students and Scholars Association

### Skull Potatoes

I did not ask for a Queer Nation bumper sticker on my car, but some vandal decided to think for me. It didn't last long.

I am willing to curtail abortions by allowing my tax dollars to support the handing out of free condoms to otherwise careless promiscuous people. But hypodermic needles for drug users? And food coupons? When did we surrender in the war on drugs that we must support the users?

No doubt this is reducing the risk of AIDS transmission. This must be what is meant by "educating" the public: encouraging high-risk or illegal activity by supporting and protecting the

participants. And telling people what to do and how to think.

Instead, people should think for themselves whenever possible. This is very difficult because "educating" tends to offer less in evidence and more in propagandized "information." No doubt someone figures that most of us can't think for ourselves, so they support and protect our weakness by doing the "thinking" for us.

My point is this: think for yourself, deeply and carefully. Minds get stronger if you give them a proper workout. Or they can eat junk food and be "skull potatoes." Think about it.

**Andy Sauerwein**  
Music

### Won't pay

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, I received a \$10 ticket in the EMU courtyard for pushing-off on my bicycle with one foot on a pedal. I was at a slower than walking pace and never even rotated my crank once. So, I am writing in regard to the conduct of campus security and their "enforcement" of bicycle regulations.

I see the safety of not riding at high speeds on sidewalks and through courtyards. However, if one is riding (basically coasting) on their bicycle at a walking pace, they not only take up one-half as much space as they would walking their bicycle but are also likely to be more balanced and maneuverable on their bicycle than if they were walking beside it.

A \$10 ticket is a fascist, authoritarian, job-security related fallacy that I refuse to pay in this victimless, no-possibility-of-a-victim situation. I am a poor student, and \$10 is food out of my stomach and a high fine for even the fastest rider. Where does this money go. Into the pocket of so-called authority?

Finally, I was treated very

rudely by the "officer," who demanded identification without answering why and threatened to impound my bike. I would suggest that campus security closely examine the psychological effect that "authority" has had on some of their (my) employees. Especially when officers wear leather gloves and assert themselves in unnecessary situations.

I believe it is time to send them to Los Angeles or somewhere where their attitude is acceptable.

**Christopher Alken**  
Theater Arts

### Pay attention

I am disturbed by the amount of inconsideration I witness each day at this University. I came here to learn and, unlike most of you, I am interested in what the professors have to say because I recognize that many of them are experts in their field. Therefore, I resent people who prevent me from listening to the lectures.

In one of my classes, a man not only wore his Walkman during the entire lecture (he was kind enough to keep the volume up so we could all enjoy his music), but he had the nerve to sing along. (I resent) those who talk to their friends about their summer vacation, etc., during class. I came to hear the professor — not you.

(I also do not appreciate) those who pack-up during the last five minutes of class. Obviously you're just dying to leave, so why bother coming in the first place?

The University shouldn't be a holding tank for high school graduates with nothing better to do. If you're not here to take higher education seriously, please stay home.

**Christina Komesian**  
Student

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