LETTERS

Grow up

A few days ago I was studying at the EMU Skylight, happy to finally have some time to myself. I quickly became aware of the loud voices of five women sitting at a table directly behind me.

I glanced over and observed the table they surrounded, cluttered with their lunch items. Granted, I was a little annoyed at the noise they were causing, but it wasn't until after they had left that I was really annoyed with them.

Each student had left her plate, disposable cup and napkin on the table. The table was left wet from a spilled drink and french fries were dropped on the floor.

I think any student who has ever searched for a place to study in the Skylight (or anywhere else for that matter) and comes across a mess like this will understand my complaint. Granted, before long a food service employee will come clean it up — but the point is he or she shouldn't have to.

To the five women and everybody else who demonstrates such a lack of respect and responsibility toward their University: Who do you think you are, and how do you justify your behavior? Whatever happened to the notion of cleaning up after yourself? And how can you, as college students, expect to be treated and respected as adults when you act like thoughtless imbeciles?

Sarah Hatfield Psychology

Preserve Oregon

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the 600,000 people who voted for Ballot Measure 1 on Nov. 3. Those 600,000 citizens recognized the contribution Oregon's state park system makes to our economy and way of life.

They understood that the parks and natural areas we enjoy today must be cared for and improved so the system we pass along to our children and grandchildren is at least as great as the system we inherited. They also understood that it makes good economic sense to care for and improve a park system that puts more than \$300 million into the Oregon economy every year.

We want the hundreds of people who worked on the campaign and the 600,000 Oregonians who voted for Measure 1 to know their efforts were not in vain. The broad-based coalition that came together to bring this measure to the voters will be back.

The coalition, made up of business organizations, conservation groups, economic development officials and citizens across the state will not rest until our state parks system has secured stable, long-term funding.

ing.

Now that the election is behind us, let's not forget about our state parks, beaches, wild-life habitat and natural areas. We must preserve the best of Oregon for our children and grandchildren. It's good for all of us. Time is running out.

Tom Kennedy Kathleen MacNaughton Co-chairmen, Yes on 1

White knights

Ryan Blacketter's article, "Multiculturalism's mixed message" (ODE, Nov. 10), lacks any wisdom on what we as minorities have gone through and what lies ahead for us.

He presented numerous examples of minority "racist" acts, but if he knew the true meaning of racism, he would know that this is impossible. Racism is power ("systematic discriminatory practices through the major institutions of our society") plus prejudice

(U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1970). We — the minorities — therefore cannot be racist. Racism is the whites' problem, but minorities are shouldered with its alleviation.

Multiculturalism is an extensive awareness that represents the history, the contributions of, and the relations between major ethnic groups in the human population. It doesn't argue against Western Euro-American ideas, but places it in a position subordinate to the whole of others in relation to worldly significance.

At stake is not which culture is "better," but how much can be believed of a perspective when its oppression, double standards and stolen ideas are so obvious. It is understandable that minorities feel the need to retreat and strengthen their cultural identity through such statements as, "It's a black thing, you wouldn't understand." We need to avoid seeing things from a self-centered perspective.

Multiculturalism works to alleviate ignorance and is the solution to a violent problem. We do not know what your ethnicity is, but it really doesn't matter because you have been brainwashed by the "white man's ideology." Intuition, however, tells us that you are a white male.

> Thanh Duong Vietnamese Student Association Sven Orozco MEChA Historian

Just a beginning

I read with interest in Monday's Emerald (Nov. 9) that the University proposed an International College. It is amazing the University thinks it can meet the needs of cultural diversity by just serving 90 students with a core curriculum.

Every student should share the benefit of having an international education. A balanced and culturally diverse faculty should be represented across the entire curriculum, not just by adding a few international faculty in the new International College.

We as students need to learn how to get along and understand each other and appreciate the cultural differences that make us special. This is true whether you are in international relations or hard sciences.

The world we live in is getting smaller and more interconnected. Common welfare for all the world's citizens depends on being able to accept and appreciate cultural diversity.

I am not opposed to the International College, but I believe that the University needs to expand the international focus for all students. The International College is just a beginning. I am waiting and watching to see if the University is really committed to an international education or just looking at creating a small program and resting on its laurels.

Martin Lewis

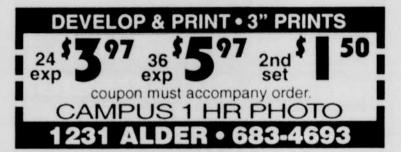
Don't forget

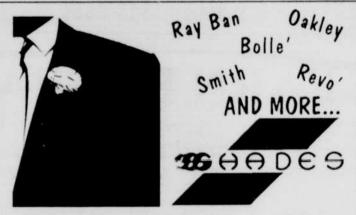
The University should have observed Veterans Day on Nov. 11. It not only recognizes those who served during wartime, but also reminds us of the death and destruction they encountered there.

"Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it."

Don't teach us to forget.

Laura Eberly Student





"REFLECTION IS OUR BUSINESS"

One of the Largest Selections in the Northwest 524 Valley River Center 345-9437

