

High-flying flag's disappearance baffles caretaker

Gene Perry is offering \$100 for an American flag.

But don't start digging through your storage thinking you've found a way to make a quick buck. Perry's looking for a particular American flag. It's the one that has been flying high above Alton Baker Park at the top of a 195-foot Douglas Fir tree near the Autzen Footbridge.



Write Angles

Pat Malach

Perry put the first flag up on the Fourth of July, 1991, to honor Vietnam veterans. And now he believes it has been stolen.

"I first noticed it (was gone) on Tuesday morning of this last week," the 38-year-old University Physical Plant employee said. "I had it really attached good, so I was positive it didn't blow down, but I went over there anyway to look."

Perry, who runs a weekend tree-trimming business, first climbed within 10 feet of the top of the tree, where the width is "about the size of a 12-ounce Pepsi or Coke can," on the day many

were celebrating the return of Desert Storm veterans.

Perry said he got the idea to fly the flag because the Desert Storm parades reminded him of the lack of tribute given to returning Vietnam veterans.

"Everybody was celebrating and doing the big whoop-di-do about it and all this," Perry said, "and I got a brother-in-law and some friends that went through Vietnam, and they didn't get anything done for them."

Perry said his brother-in-law, Bob Wyckoff of Eugene, was "really feeling low."

"I just hung this flag up there," he said, "and it just brought his esteem back up. It just made him feel good again. I said, 'This is for you.'"

Perry used climbing chains and spikes that fasten to his boots to scale the tree. When he got near the top, he attached the three-by-five-foot flag to a telescoping fiberglass pole that extended to about 30 feet. Perry completed his one-man war memorial by fastening the pole to the tree with nylon rope.

But the flag he believes was taken down is not the original. Perry said because of the strong winds that rip the flag up over time, he has had to replace Old Glory four times.

Perry said the flags themselves don't cost much to replace, but it is the idea that someone took it that bothers him.

"The flag's not really important," he said. "It would be nice to get it all back so I could put it back up. The tree just looks naked without it."

Perry said he suspects the flag may have been taken by the same person who put a peace flag up on the same pole earlier this fall. Perry said if that is the case, he'll trade his American flag for the peace flag he took down and keeps at home.

"(The peace flag) stayed there maybe two days before I really got pissed-off and took it down," he said. "I had talked to a couple of guys already who said they were ready to shoot it down, and it was only up there for a couple of days."

Perry said the American flag started as a gesture to his brother-in-law, but he has continued to maintain it because so many people have taken a liking to it.

"It wasn't put up out of spite," he said. "It was meant to make people feel good, not to be ripped down and stolen."

Pat Malach is editor of the Emerald.



Courtesy photo
Gene Perry places a new flag earlier this summer at the top of a 195-foot Douglas Fir tree near the Autzen Footbridge. Perry said he believes the flag, which serves as a memorial for Vietnam veterans, was stolen last week.

LETTERS

Find solutions

Did the students who slept in the EMU Courtyard Tuesday night really serve a purpose by sleeping under a circus tent?

Why not do something really worthwhile with your time? Sign students up to work for Habitat for Humanity, help transport volunteers to local soup kitchens and shelters during non-holiday times when they're really needed, or sell your trademark Birkenstocks and buy a homeless kid a month's worth of food.

Most people are painfully aware of the plight of the homeless. Please don't turn the issue

into a circus act; why not work on solutions?

Paul W. Budlong
Business

Sugarcoated

In responding to Deanna Dawson and Keri Levine about their disgust over the Lollipops advertisement in the *Emerald*, all I can say is:

Sugar, if someone thinks advertising for watching women dance nude is blatant disrespect for women, she should reconsider.

I mean, baby, whistling and

hooting at a woman on the street is disrespectful.

And sweetie, speaking condescendingly to a woman is disrespectful to women.

But censoring advertising in the University newspaper on the basis of political correctness is disrespectful to everyone's intelligence.

Gilbert Hanson
English

Keep power

The editorial against the right of Oregonians to amend the Oregon Constitution through ballot measures is the worst case

of arrogance and elitism I've seen in the *Emerald*.

In the editorial, you say, "It simply gives too much power to people who can't handle it." Don't you trust the people? Why can't we handle it? Are you one of the chosen few who can handle the power?

You also say, "The electorate does not deserve that much power." It is precisely the power to change the constitution that the writers of the Oregon Constitution wanted to preserve.

In most states, the electorate doesn't have the control over the political process that Oregonians have. We should not be

working against this type of power but working to empower voters in other states.

Brain McNamara
Undeclared

POLICY

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

THIS WEEK



NOV. 23-29

Toastmasters Club UO Law School

A Toastmasters Club is starting up at the UO Law School. There are currently 20 members in the Law School who are interested and would encourage new memberships. This club builds confidence in public speaking and would benefit greatly in those areas. Contact Kyle Dukelow (686-4290) or Dr. Wayne Westling, Law Center (346-3833).

main desk
EMU
346-4362

Dole Whip
55¢

- Other Services at the Main Desk Store
- Hult Center Tickets
 - Greyhound Bus Tickets
 - Concert Tickets
 - Movie Theatre Discount Tickets
 - Film Developing
 - ISID Cards

UO OP UO OUTDOOR PROGRAM

3 4 6 - 4 3 6 5
Noon Video, 12:30pm
Wednesday Nov. 25
Room 37, EMU

"Natural States"

Inspirational music and cinematography plus a great tour of the Cascades.

Snow... Snow...
Check out our Cooperative Ski trips to local ski areas. An inexpensive way to get out and have some winter fun.

Youssou N'Dour

EMU Ballroom
Monday, Nov. 23rd • 8:30pm
\$14/UO Students
\$16/General Public
Tickets at Main Desk
Cultural Forum 346-4373

ATTENTION

Work-Study Recipients

Please remember job opportunities within the EMU for Winter Term employment. Contact EMU Payroll Officer, Gayle Johnson, 346-6065 or visit M101, EMU (Administration).

emu firrrrrrrroom ten a.m. - 5:30 pm

winter craft fair
gifts

december 2 + 3 sponsored by the emu craft center & the cultural forum
3 4 6 - 4 3 6 1