

Application of code should be restricted

Most students are aware of the laws that govern society and, for the most part, are aware of the consequences for violating them. What many students aren't aware of (but should be) is the University's Student Conduct Code and exactly how it applies to them.

The code is supposed to "provide general guidance for enforcing those regulations and policies essential to the educational and research missions of the University."

Although the University has a substantial interest in ensuring students and faculty have a hospitable campus environment in which to perform their duties, it should be questioned how far that interest extends.

The issue arises from the recent incident in which a non-student was allegedly beaten by a student off campus. Some University groups have called for the student's expulsion, and the University is investigating what action it can take, if any.

The fact the University is even considering taking action provides an example of the code attempting to reach too far. There are already statutory penalties for beating someone, and if found guilty by a court of law, there is adequate enforcement of those penalties (in most cases).

There is no justification for the University to presume itself separate from the law, yet there is nothing to prevent it from acting contrary to the law. For example, even if a student is found not guilty by a judge or jury, there is absolutely nothing to prevent the University from finding the student in violation of the code and expelling him or her.

The only way the University could take action is if it had a lesser burden of guilt to prove. A frightening thought given the potential impact an adverse ruling could have on a student — especially after being declared not guilty in a real court.

The University's authority should extend no further than the interests of the University. The code should apply only to University owned property or University-sponsored or -sanctioned events. This includes Autzen Stadium, Amazon and Westmoreland student housing, and the University Inn.

Although greek houses are not owned by the University, they are sanctioned housing, recognized by the University, and should be covered as well.

However, the University claims it has authority over incidents involving students off campus if the conflicting parties are both students. The code specifically states, "In general, off-campus activities of students are viewed as their personal business."

Yet in the next sentence, the University reserves the right to act, independently, against any student who violates the code off campus. Where the University's interest lies in such matters is unclear.

In no way do the independent, off-campus actions of students (no matter how stupid) interfere with the University's mission, which is the maximum extent to which the code should apply



COMMENTARY

Projects will solve real problems

by Chris Ramey and Rand Stamm

We write to rectify misconceptions about the planned expenditures from the parking fund that were mentioned in the *Emerald's* Feb. 19 editorial.

Each of the projects — covered bicycle parking, the reorganization of the traffic patterns on 13th Avenue (which includes a visitors' information booth) and the re-striping of University Street — is intended to improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers on campus.

At the same time, these projects are responsive to fiscal restraints and supportive of long-standing planning policies with regard to transportation. Many of these policies were adopted in response to student, faculty and staff pressure for enhanced safety and a more hospitable campus environment, especially for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The problems these projects will solve are real; they are not

going to go away, and they are in need of attention, regardless of the current or future financial situation of the University and the state of Oregon.

Two of the projects — the re-striping of University Street and the bicycle shelters — are portions of much larger projects that address the improvement of our bicycling system and the greater utilization of our existing supply of parking spaces. These are priorities that have been identified by the Campus Planning Committee and other groups as worthy of undertaking.

The consequences of not pursuing them are the continued degradation of our overall environment. They are both aimed at reducing the amount of new parking that will have to be built on campus in the future and have been planned to be as cost effective as possible.

At the direction of Dan Williams, the University's vice president for administration, the planned gateway columns on University Street have been

removed from the project in order to avoid the possibility that they may be viewed as an unnecessary expense in these uncertain budgetary times.

The third project — the 13th Avenue reorganization — will solve a multitude of current problems. First and foremost, the visitor's booth will increase the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians alike by limiting the amount of automobile traffic that is allowed on this especially busy part of campus.

Secondly, and equally as important to the safety of all, the street will be re-striped in a way that is reflective of how bicycles and cars share the roadway throughout the city.

Finally, it will relocate, in a more logical position, the place where visitors to campus can come when they seek parking or other information.

Chris Ramey is director and architect for the University Planning Office. Rand Stamm is the parking program coordinator.

LETTERS

See Page 1

In response to the *Emerald's* Feb. 18 editorial: Requiring people to own guns would be like requiring them to wear seat belts. It's a good idea to wear a seat belt, and it's a good idea to know how to defend yourself with or without a gun.

It's also completely unconstitutional to require ownership or use of guns or seat belts, but that didn't stop Oregonians from passing the seat belt law. If you want to expose yourself to danger, nobody has any right to stop you. But an argument was made that seat belt avoiders cause higher insurance premiums for all.

Likewise, non-violent victims increase the criminal-friendly atmosphere of a neighborhood, raising crime and police costs for all. It would be nice if everyone owned a gun or were otherwise lethal. The only fault with Liz VanLeeuwen's proposal is

that it tries to legislate good sense.

**Adrian Fields
French**

No new taxes

President Clinton got one thing right: He said jobs are created in the private sector. For this reason, the more taxes collected in the private sector, the less job growth there will be.

There has never been a tax hike that improved the economy. For this reason, the public should demand that Congress cut spending to balance the deficit instead of raising taxes.

The President has not proposed a plan that will end deficit spending. Each year from now on, under the President's plan, there will still be a deficit of \$200 billion or more. Even if the President gets all the spending cuts he asks for, Congress will still be spending more than

it takes in. For this reason, the national debt will increase and interest on the debt will grow. You are being asked to sacrifice for almost nothing.

When are Americans going to realize that big government is hurting the nation by taking away our ability to produce and create wealth? When are Americans going to turn their backs on the two-party system that brought us to the crisis we are facing?

Isn't it time to find out why the Libertarian candidate for President, who was on the ballot in every state, was refused participation in the debates? Maybe the Republican and Democrat politicians don't want the public to hear Libertarian ideas for change that seriously address our national problems instead of making them worse.

**Tonie Nathan
Media Coordinator
Libertarian Party of Oregon**

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor: Pat Malach	Freelance Editor: Hope Neelson
News Editor: Jake Berg	Editorial Editor: Rivers Janssen
Editorial Editor: Martin Fisher	Sports Editor: Dave Charbonneau
Graphics Editor: Jeff Paslay	Supplements Editor: Calley Anderson
Entertainment Editor: Freya Horn	Night Editor: Martin Fisher

Associate Editors: Tammy Batey, *Student Government/Activities*; Daralyn Trappe, *Community*; Colleen Pohlig, *Higher Education/Administration*

News Staff: Scott Andre, Chester Allen, Matt Bender, Justin Brown, Sarah Clark, Dylan Coulter, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Amanda Fernie, Teresa Huntsinger, Lisa Kneefeel, Lisa Mauri, Demian McLean, Rebecca Merritt, Steve Mims, Tiffini Mueller, Trista Noel, Matthew Schuster, Ellen Shaw, Michael Shindler, Erick Studenicka, Marion Sultor, Michele Thompson-Aguilar, Amy Van Tuyl, Todd Williams

General Manager: Judy Riedl **Production Manager:** Michele Ross

Advertising: Tom Leech, Sharon Vaz, **Sales Managers:** Shawn Berven, Office Manager Jane Irola, Teresa Isabelle, Philip Johnson II, Chris Kanoff, Jeremy Mason, Van V. O'Byran II, Gillian Oh, Rachael Trull, Angie Windheim, Brian Windheim

Classified: Peggy McGinn, Manager. Barry Logan, Sharon Sauve

Distribution: Rebecca Brooks, Kristi Van Gorder, Anthony Wynn

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor. Judy Connolly

Production: Ingrid White, Production Coordinator. Kristine Granger, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith, Anne Stephenson

Newsroom: 346-5511 **Display Advertising:** 346-3712

Business Office: 346-5512 **Classified Advertising:** 346-4343