

Hungry won't benefit from students' strike

Hunger is a real problem. Fasting is an artificial solution. The more than 100 University students who are reportedly fasting in support of the hungry should keep that in mind.

The fasting students are protesting Congress' abolishment of the House Select Committee on Hunger. Leading the charge to restore the committee is Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, who began his hunger strike Monday and will reportedly continue it for at least four weeks.

Members of OSPIRG and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness announced they will follow suit and go without food for at least 24 hours.

Worthwhile as their cause may be, they are confusing action with productive action. Much as sleeping in the EMU Courtyard for one night does nothing to further the cause of the homeless, going without food for 24 hours does nothing for hunger.

These students would do infinitely more good by spending their 24 hours collecting and distributing food for the homeless. Organizing food drives, as OSPIRG has done in the past, is the most effective tool in combating local hunger in the short term. And because the hunger strike is also a short-term event, that time should be spent as productively as possible.

The participants no doubt hope their actions will spark public awareness about hunger in America. Although the hunger strike will receive some media coverage, its impact will not last long enough to become back-page news.

This style of one-time, short-burst publicity is not going to raise public awareness about anything. What is needed is a long-term, heavily exposed local campaign.

Unfortunately, such a campaign is unlikely to originate from the University. Groups such as OSPIRG attempt to cover too many issues to be truly effective on any one issue. With their limited resources, these groups might do better to select those battles in which they can be most effective.

Another flaw with the hunger strike is the students' attempt to turn hunger into a separate issue, apart from homelessness, unemployment, drug abuse, domestic violence, etc. All these issues make up a social dragon whose fires are burning the lower class of America.

Attacking only one of these problems is like only attacking the dragon's tail, attempting to kill it piece by piece.

Finally, the hunger strike participants need to keep one very painful, yet very real, fact in mind: Their hunger strike is temporary. They can quit at any time.

This style of one-time, short-burst publicity is not going to raise public awareness about anything. What is needed is a long-term, heavily exposed local campaign.



LETTERS

'Playboy' art

Though most people tend to disagree with the presence of any pornography on this campus, I tend to feel there are indeed several levels of pornography, some of which are acceptable. I know there is a fine line between art and pornography, but I believe the pictures in *Playboy* are actually art.

Being the mildest of the so-called "men's magazines," *Playboy* does its best to represent women fairly. The pictures are displayed as art. Not once in any *Playboy* issue I have read have I seen women in any form of degrading poses that would cause me to view them as just objects of sex.

To the contrary, I tend to put women on a pedestal, and I recognize the fact that the human body is a beautiful thing and the "revealing" of it is not harmful unless it is shown as purely a sex object (i.e. unnecessary poses).

I respect the women who volunteer for this honor, and I see them as what they are: young women seeking success in life, just like the rest of us. I hope they are strong enough to believe what they are doing is right, even against the adversity they will face. I admit this should not be the path for all women, and I also respect that choice.

But until *Playboy* starts doing things to show men a false image of women and their beauty, I will always be there to support the magazine and the women who pose for it.

Stephen Frost
Biology

on food stamps.

This problem is growing dramatically and cannot be ignored, especially by our representatives in Congress.

Monday, Congressman Tony Hall began a four-week fast to bring attention to the crisis and to call on Congress to make hunger a national priority. OSPIRG and the ASUO, in conjunction with the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, joined Hall with a one-day fast Monday.

We thank those who joined us in this symbolic gesture and encourage you all to participate. Sign the petition urging Congress to make hunger a national priority, and feel free to fast with us any time between now and April 14, when we hope to hand Congress 250,000 petition signatures. For more information, call 346-4377.

Let's make hunger a national priority.

Jim Treloar
OSPIRG

Backward belief

Stephanie Sisson's commentary (*ODE*, April 5) did more to expose her own prejudices than it did to further her 100-percent-Jesus-approved anti-homosexual stance.

Aside from the offensive tone of the column as a whole, I found one passage to be the most unsettling. When listing the "issues surrounding homosexuality," Sisson cited several recent debates involving the gay community, including the military ban and the vote on Ballot Measure 9. However, at the end of the list (in an attempt at subtlety?) she added, "the continuing spread of AIDS" to the list of "homosexual issues."

Not only does this statement seem to indicate the backward belief that the gay community is solely responsible for the spread of AIDS (a falsity many of us have been prone to believing at one time or another), but it echoes a real danger and ignorance that permeates American society.

People like Sisson will continue fornicating with the opposite sex, safe in the knowledge that God is on their side, while their ignorance continues to endanger themselves and others. Though Sisson will most likely deny this was the intent of the passage, it seems the rest of her column does much to substantiate her homophobia

and lack of awareness in issues concerning sexual diversity.

So wake up Sisson, because those beautiful boys down at the Tom Metzger School for Wayward Youth may seem straighter than the bumper on a '78 El Camino, but continued ignorance of the demographics of AIDS in the United States could be America's undoing.

Squire Bozarth
Law

Sign petitions

Two petitions are being circulated among students to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming University elections.

The first is to create a multicultural center. The center will promote a sense of community by giving voices to the diverse cultures present on our campus. Signing the multicultural center petition would give students the chance to establish an enhanced level of cultural awareness outside of the classroom.

The second petition is to establish a Sexual Assault Fund. This fund would provide money for survivors who are unable to afford a sexual assault exam at the Student Health Center. The confidentiality and anonymity of the survivor is assured in the program.

Most of us have seen the devastating effects of sexual assault on the survivor. Imagine the pain of being raped and not being able to afford an examination. Show compassion for our fellow community members by signing the Sexual Assault Fund petition.

Both petitions were initiated and organized by ASUO Executive candidates Eric Bowen and Diana Collins Puente. It is very uncharacteristic of candidates to act on promises before an election. Bowen and Collins Puente do this with their pledge to promote safety and cultural diversity.

The two programs they are trying to pass show that the Bowens/Collins Puente campaign is based on action. If either of the two petitions speak to you, then sign them. Also, vote for the two leaders who are already showing us that campaigns can be based upon fulfilling promises.

Chris Grady
Political Science

Hunger priority

On March 31, the voice of the hungry in this nation was silenced. On this day, the House Select Committee on Hunger was abolished by Congress without a vote. Congress expressed concern over the tragedy taking place in Somalia, but it was the hunger committee that took action, leading to the creation of a U.N. post equipped to respond to humanitarian crises.

Congress has turned its back on providing people with the most basic right — the right to food. Worldwide, one person dies from the causes of hunger every 40 seconds, and in this country, 27 million people rely

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159 EUGENE OREGON 97403

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.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| News Editor | Jake Berg | Freelance Editor | Hope Nealson |
| Editorial Editor | Martin Fisher | Editorial Editor | Rivers Janssen |
| Graphics Editor | Jeff Paslay | Sports Editor | Dave Charbonneau |
| Entertainment Editor | Freya Horn | Supplements Editor | Cailey Anderson |
| | Night Editor: Jake Berg | | |

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, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Jen Ellison, Amanda Fernie, Anthony Forney, Teresa Huntsinger, Lisa Mauri, Rebecca Merritt, Steve Mims, Trifini Mueller, Trista Noel, Ellen Shaw, 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'Bryan II, Gillian Oh, Rachael Trull, Angie Wintheim, Brian Wintheim

Classified: Bucky Merchant, **Manager:** Barry Logan, Sharon Sauve

Distribution: Brandon Anderson, Nick Manning, Graham Simpson

Business: Kathy Carbone, **Supervisor:** Judy Connolly

Production: Ingrid White, **Production Coordinator:** Kristine Granger, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith

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

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