

LETTERS

For the record

In the July 8 *Emerald*, Shanta Kamath and Eileen Taylor object to the fact that rents for the University Amazon Family Housing will increase from \$20 to \$40 per month, depending on unit size. In their commentary, they also express their displeasure that these increases are being used for purposes other than housing.

First, let me say that the University empowers the plight of many students whose often limited resources are being outpaced by escalating costs for tuition, housing and other educational expenses. This situation is an unfortunate fact of life for many people as state institutions realign the costs they must charge for services with the real costs of providing them.

Second, I want to assure your readers that providing low-cost facilities for our students remains of prime importance to the University. At the same time, however, we must provide adequately for improvements, maintenance and programming for current residents and those who will be residents for years to come.

Then, let me set the record straight. Three-quarters of the increase is needed for the increased costs of operation of student family housing. The remainder is to reimburse the University for the administrative services that have benefited family housing student residents during the years.

In the past, general University funds were used to subsidize student housing on campus by absorbing these costs. In the post-Measure 5 environment, that is no longer possible. Good business management requires that the University utilize its total resources for its primary purpose of instruction and directly related activities.

As the state removes funding from higher education, the cost to students, including those taking advantage of University family housing, will, by necessity, increase. No group at the University is exempt from the pain of diminished state resources.

This is a difficult time for the University community, both staff and students, as we attempt to manage the effects of Measure 5. We do understand the significant impact higher costs have on limited student budgets.

Dan Williams
Vice President for Administration

Now recycling

In response to the article "Discarded books find way from dumpster to library," we have been in contact with Karyn Kaplan, recycling coordinator for

the University. Kaplan has been of great help in the past in assisting us to further our already extensive recycling program — a program that has received recognition for excellence in the college bookstore industry.

Kaplan has made us aware that the Weyerhaeuser Co. will accept books for recycling. Prior to this source, the only local means for disposal, aside from the few books requested by area libraries, was to throw the books away.

It is somewhat ironic that the bookstore was caught discarding books when it works extra hard to be a model environmental enterprise.

For years, we have been aggressive in promoting recycling, energy efficiency, and the use of the "earth-friendly" products that we sell. We believe strongly that the college bookstore should be a leader on campus in promoting environmental awareness. As hard as we try to do our best, we stumble.

We appreciate the fact that a concerned individual brought the issue of these discarded course books to the attention of the campus community and the bookstore. Because of her concern, an answer has been found that will result in out-of-print books being recycled rather than taking space in a landfill.

Jim Williams
General Manager
University Bookstore, Inc.

Kuwaiti plot?

To the cheers of second-rate academics, myopic newspaper editors, and cronies, the Clinton regime came out of the closet to bomb and terrorize innocent civilians in Iraq. Among those who were missiled to death were a highly accomplished Iraqi artist, Leyla al-Attar, and her husband. They were hit while asleep.

President Saddam Hussein is a horrific man who should be removed from the presidency by the Iraqi people. He will be removed if and when Washington stops being meddlesome. Washington's current Middle Eastern policy is bereft of creative diplomatic energy and is reduced to when in doubt, bomb Iraq.

Prior to the Persian Gulf War, a young Kuwaiti woman testified before the U.S. Congress that invading Iraqi soldiers had thrown babies from incubators in a Kuwaiti hospital.

Middle East Watch, a human rights organization based in New York, after on-site investigation, found the story fictitious. We also found out later that this same young woman was the daughter of one of the most prominent members of the Kuwaiti al-Sabah ruling family. Her father continues as Kuwait's

ambassador to Washington. While his daughter testified, the ambassador was present in the hearing room; at no time during this hearing was her identity revealed.

Could it be that once again the al-Sabah family manufactured another tale — this time a plot against former President George Bush — to prod the American administration to bomb Iraq?

M. Reza Behnam
Eugene

Such progress

It used to be homosexuality was in the closet, practiced by some but not declared openly. Then gays came out of the closet.

Some thought it a good thing, as it added to our diversity. Others considered it bad, as it was another perversion.

The former declared their approval loudly. The latter felt shame to even mention it.

Legislators responded to the loudest voices by starting to pass civil rights laws for homosexuals. The Oregon Citizens Alliance marshalled the silent majority to pass its own laws in some communities, and nearly to do so statewide.

As the debate heated up, the OCA came up with a bill, 3500, to, temporarily at least, rest the issue from open legislation in our Oregon communities. In other words, it is back in the closet. Such progress!

This reads like a scene in *Alice in Wonderland*, where one must run as hard as he can just to stay in the same place. The same thing happened with Clinton's plans for gays in the military.

Earl Gosnell
Eugene

Grim irony

While watching "Independence" Day fireworks, the grim irony hit home: that six Oregon rural areas recently passed anti-independence, discriminatory measures against Oregon homosexual citizens.

Look up the word "fascism": a "political movement that stands for social regimentation and forcible suppression of any opposition."

Sound familiar? The June 30 *Albany Democrat-Herald* quotes Oregon Legislator Congressional leader Cit Mabon: "Judges who overturn OCA measures will be turned out of office as well as any legislator who supports Senate Bill 34 (a bill to prohibit discrimination in employment or housing for sexual orientation 'reasons')."

Mabon further intoned that "any city or county official who opposed the OCA will be turned out of office." Mabon's threats spewed forth just four days after "Second OCA Thug" Scott Live-

ly was brought up short by Republican Rep. Del Parks, House Judiciary Committee Chairman.

Mabon was present when Parks told Lively that his threats against legislators who buck the OCA were out of line. But did that stop Mabon's same churlishness just four days later? Clearly fascist-style intimidation is what the OCA is all about and has been all along.

Wake up, Oregon. The brown-shirts are back. The same bunch who regard it their "special right" to "forcibly suppress any who oppose them" in their self-righteous, zealous pursuit of "social regimentation." (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, page 413.)

Carol Berg
Eugene

Federal tyranny

The Constitution was designed to limit the federal government from intruding into the lives of its citizens, but the recent Waco siege emphasizes the extent to which we have ignored the principles of the law of our land.

As one female survivor put it, "Who would have thought the United States government would attack American citizens on their own land?" But the truth is that the "standing armies" so feared and rejected by the wise Founding Fathers are firmly entrenched in the myriad unconstitutional government bureaus from the IRS to the EPA to the BATF, and everything in between.

The Waco fiasco was the largest of a long record of smaller, unpublicized abuses against individual families across the country since the 1970s. The only reason the American public was "privileged" to see this atrocity is because of the scope of the attack — and probably to test public opinion. Let us "normal" people think we will come out unscathed, think again. With federal agencies increasingly usurping the authority of Congress by making their own abusive laws, eventually we all will have our showdowns with Big Brother.

Thomas Jefferson put it succinctly: "Single acts of tyranny may be ... the accidental opinion of the day, but a series of oppressions ... too plainly prove a deliberate, systematical plan of reducing us to slavery."

Have Americans lost it? Will we be slaves or free? If free, then a return to the Constitution is our only hope.

Any freedom-lovers out there?

Sharon H. Golden
Oxford, Miss.
Former staff member
U.S. Sen. Jeremiah Denton
(R-Ala. 1981-1986)

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