

**LETTERS**

**No rib**

Lia Saliccia's spirited opinion "I am nobody's rib" of the July 15 *Emerald* finds support in the current issue of *Atlantic Monthly*, where biblical scholarship and the effects of patriarchy are examined. There is a real movement now that is healthy for both genders — irritated with dominance themes in patriarchy and weary of a one-sided attempt at social governance.

Patriarchy is nicely trashed in John Bradshaw's *Creating Love*, in Alice Walker's *The Secret of Possessing Joy*, and in most of the writings of Alice Miller's *Banished Knowledge*, who has come to attention through John Bradshaw and who receives thanks in his publications in Alice Walker's and in Robert Bly's (*Iron John*) for observations on the dark side of patriarchy. The issue is that authoritarian repression is not good for women or children, and therefore, not good for men.

So, before the good Christian women of Eugene and Springfield get real mad at Saliccia for not wanting to be anybody's rib, they might have a look at the *Atlantic* article, an interview with Elaine Pagels, whose work on Saliccia's theme is based on study of ancient Coptic texts. Bible scholars are finding out that lots was left out.

The creation stories we all know appear to have been sanitized in Roman times to vanish the Goddess and diminish Her role.

Does anybody think history is the better for it?

Sylvia Hawley  
Career Information System

**Trespasser**

So, Lia Saliccia, I guess since the word "trespass" has no meaning for you I can sneak into your home any time I want if I think that *Emerald* readers are "dying to find out" (*ODE*, July 13) what your home is like. After all, you snuck into my home (the Oregon

Country Fair), so apparently private property is a concept you know or care nothing about.

I don't suppose maturity, courtesy or common sense are notions you've run across either. Forget responsible journalism altogether. Shame on you for intruding, and shame on the *Emerald* for giving you the space to brag about it.

This "elite crowd" you write about that stays at the fair after the public leaves does so because it was responsible enough to find a job for itself picking up the garbage, cleaning the toilets, selling its wares, directing traffic or providing security against trespassers such as yourself.

Unfortunately, our jobs are made harder and longer by parasites who contribute nothing to the fair and believe it is their right to go wherever they want, invited or not, earned or not, private property be damned.

I believe it costs about \$40 per person to provide services for those staying at the fair. So you owe the Oregon Country Fair \$40 and a very big apology. Don't worry, you'll make lots of money working for the supermarket tabloids, which, it appears, is the career you have mapped out for yourself.

Norma Sax  
Classified Staff

**Pronouns?**

For Thomas Huckaba to focus on the lack of "non-gender specific pronouns" (*ODE*, July 20) in the English language as the sole reason Christianity appears sexist is similar to accusing Hitler of atrocities because he had a bad mustache.

The intent of Christ, and the lack of diverse pronouns used in the bible has very little to do with the practical application of the Bible's teachings. Christianity, on the whole, is notorious for placing women in a role subservient to men.

To be Christian does not automatically make one a patriarch,

but it does show a faith in a patriarchal religion.

Personally, it is not my intent to crusade against Christianity, but it is silly to pretend that a religion that has woman created from the rib of a man is an equal-opportunity denomination.

Faith in a pretense is hardly faith at all.

Scott Camp  
Political Science

**I am not blind**

I have been pondering over the opinion set forth by Lia Saliccia (*ODE*, July 15. I am a Christian woman, so of course her title, "Christianity fails to honor women," caught my eye.

I would like to address Lia's final paragraph. She concludes by saying that she can't convince all Christian women that they're being sexually harassed by their religion. Instead, she states that she will not "blindly worship a God whose followers refer to humanity as Man" and "shall not follow the men who follow this God" because they "consider me inferior."

By stating this, Lia is doing the exact thing she seems to hate the most — attacking women. Her statements imply that any woman who worships God must be "blind" and thus inferior. Isn't that what she is so opposed to in Christianity, being considered inferior? She has excluded any possibility of intelligent women making a choice, and thus has done what she feels that men are so guilty of doing — she has discounted Christian women.

I am not blind. I have done quite a bit of study in my faith. I know what I believe because I have read it, tested it and, above all, I have questioned it. I do not accept what others in the church say simply because it was said in church. I have a brain, and I use it. I have also been enriched beyond belief because of my faith in Jesus Christ.

Katy Corbett  
Eugene

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MEETINGS

Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force will meet in 364 Oregon Hall today from 12:30 to 2 p.m. For more information, call 346-3210.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group will meet Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Emerald People's Utility District Building, 33733 Seavey Loop Road. For more information, call 686-0310.

MISCELLANEOUS

Survival Center is sponsoring a Warner Creek fire ecology tour Friday through Sunday at Warner Creek in the Willamette National Forest. For more information, call 346-4356.

EMU Cultural Forum presents an exhibition by Derek Yoshikane called "Twice Exposed," beginning Monday in the Aperture Gallery in the EMU main lobby. For more information, call 346-4373.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

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