

LETTERS

Packwood affair

To those of us who follow the Sen. Bob Packwood affair, the latest twist is decidedly interesting, and at the same time, not a particularly veiled threat. Not only has Oregon's esteemed senator harassed many women, he has tried to pawn it off on alcohol, as the fault of the women involved, and now, the piece de resistance is a threat to his fellow legislators: if they bring him down, he's not going alone.

Not only will we be treated to his real or imagined fantasies, but in addition, we will be able to hear and no doubt read Packwood's chronicle of the escapades of his buddies over the last 20-plus years. We as citizens of Oregon could ask interesting questions like, "Why is our senator spending his time and our money snooping into the affairs of other legislators? Is it for personal gain? An effort, though pitiful, to increase political muscle? Or, is it something more personally satisfying to have the intimate details of the sexual lives of those he worked with?" After all, this is an issue because of his rather inept attempts to have a personal life of his own.

In any event, Bob Packwood is an embarrassment to Oregon; it's time for him to leave. Unlike House members, we cannot recall Packwood as he holds the citizens of Oregon hostage. I hope his latest tactic will prove to his persevering supporters that he is self-serving and couldn't care a whit about Oregon.

Greg Hartlieb
Eugene

Refund?

I came to the University wanting to major in biology and minor in English, but because of the increase in the number of students who also want an English minor, this is no longer possible. In response to an increased interest in an English minor, the English department decided to cut the program because they do not have adequate funds.

As college students, we are paying for our education, and if we are paying for classes that are contributing to a major or minor, then we should be allowed to receive that degree. However, the money we are paying is not supporting the programs we want to take. We as students are being ripped off. We are paying the money, but we are not receiving the education we deserve.

Everyone is aware that money is limited, but the primary objective of the University should still be to educate the students. If there is a strong interest in a particular area of study, then the University should reallocate money in or-

der to encourage the pursuit of an education rather than making cuts and hindering it. As paying customers of the University, we are entitled to an education; if the University will not provide us with that education, maybe we should start asking for a refund.

Angee Henderson
Biology

God's eye view

In two recent letters (ODE, Oct. 19, Oct. 22), Damon Cole

introduces the *Emerald* readers to "objectivism," the philosophy of Ayn Rand. In many respects, Rand's beliefs are interesting because she placed a high value on logic and reason. Unfortunately, her faith in human reasoning powers was so strong that it led her to place all problems, including politics, economics, culture and art on exactly the same plane as simple Newtonian physics.

In these areas, the philosophy of "objectivism" actually makes real objectivity impossible. The objectivist, convinced that rea-

son has led to a sort of, "God's eye view" of the truth, cannot appreciate the possibility that other people's viewpoints on political and cultural issues may be just as valid as his or her own.

Damon's letters are a caricature of the worst aspects of Rand's thinking processes. He argues that anyone who discusses potential problems with genetic engineering is advocating ugliness and death, and that Nazism and fascism were motivated by altruism. These arguments are so silly that I won't

waste space to refute them.

Indeed, readers of Damon's letters might be tempted to conclude that Rand and her followers are simply nuts and fruitcakes. This would be unfortunate, because Rand was a great novelist, and her words of praise for the creative potential of individual human beings have inspired millions. However, Rand was also a tragic figure and her philosophy, evaluated objectively, has some very serious limitations.

Jerry Russell
Eugene

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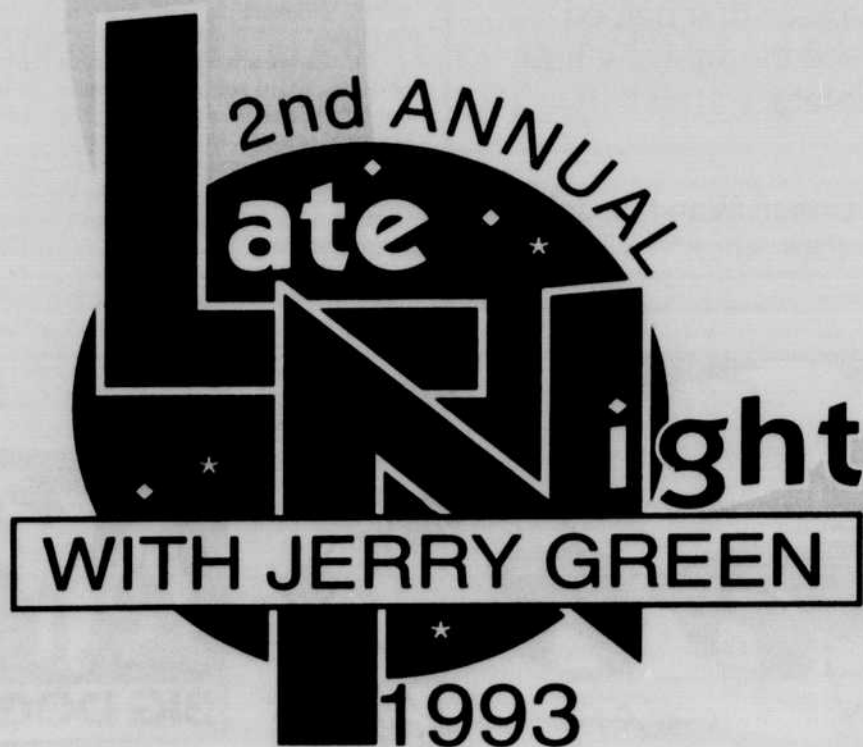
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Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.