

Is Amazon really that historical?

History is being made at the University. The administration didn't even know it, the history professors themselves probably didn't even know it, but the tenants of Amazon fought for it.

It was 1947 when the University bought the structures that make up the Amazon family housing units. Shipped via boat from Portland, the units were used to house returning veterans who were attending the University after World War II. Nearly a half century later the units are still being used to house students. The units did have a new roof put on, some of them did have a little foundation work and there was a bit of re-wiring done. Regardless - they are nearly half a century old.

The key is history, and that is the direction the residents of Amazon have taken in order to preserve their community. The University had plans of demolishing and rebuilding the family units, many of which are not even occupied at this time because the University was ready to demolish them. The Amazon residents went before the Eugene Historical Review Board and petitioned for the board to declare Amazon a historical district. They won, sort of.

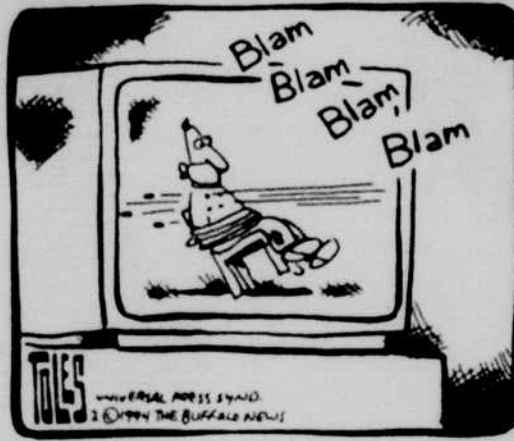
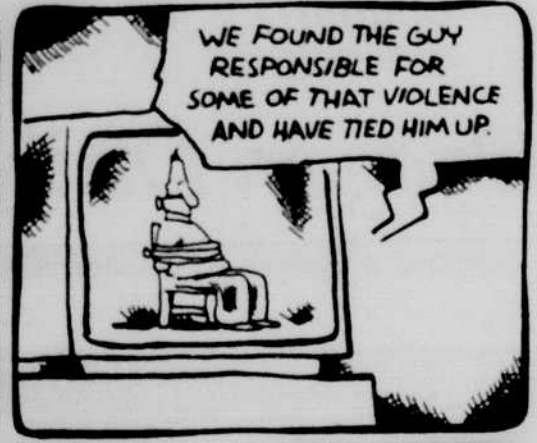
From a political standpoint the Amazon tenants probably didn't care that they were living in a historical district; it just made a nice argument to preserve a place to live. Fearing higher costs, the loss of the community living, as well as no place to live while the units were demolished, Amazon tenants fostered the notion of a historical district.

Now the students have a place to live, for the time being, but the cost of living will most likely increase. Some kind of renovation must be done. When something is done, costs will increase, perhaps even higher than they were perceived to go up by demolishing and rebuilding. In fact an engineering study completed a few weeks ago said that preservation will be more expensive than building new units.

The current tenants of Amazon have come away with a win, but what about the big picture? For the people that will be in need of family housing in the future they may very well be caught in the aftermath of the "save Amazon" movement. The structures, if preserved, will pass on a higher cost to the new tenants. It may be time to do some new goal setting because the goal of low-cost family housing is history and that can't be preserved. Family housing is financially self supportive so the higher costs, if the buildings are preserved, will be directed toward the future tenants.

History has been made, and unless the University files a petition and the vote is overturned then Amazon must be preserved. If Amazon remains a historical site then that says a lot about the history of America.

If Amazon remains a historical site then that says a lot about the history of America.



LETTERS

You

You walk outside and the biting wind hits your face. As you begin to shiver and your body numbs, you want to reach for a wool jacket — but you don't own a jacket at all. You want to go outside to a heated home, but you only have a cold alley to return to. Your stomach feels empty but you have no food or money.

This is what three million Americans face every day. Twenty-five percent of homeless are under age 18. One Eugene advocate stated that 45 percent of Eugene's homeless have high school degrees, and 10 percent have college degrees.

Getting an education is not an escape from unemployment and homelessness. This could happen to you. As a student, you have opportunities to get involved. Come to a hunger and homelessness meeting through OSPIRG or call 346-4377. Get involved now and avoid being a statistic later.

Kate Wynne
Jeff Bolante
Leslie Jones

walks through the Arboretum. The guides introduce the children to the variety of plants and animals that inhabit the area and strive to develop a sense of the interconnectedness of all life. Most important of all, the interest, enthusiasm and appreciation modeled by these guides is contagious, and makes a one-and-a-half hour hike through the woods an experience the children never forget.

Spring is rapidly approaching. Soon the Indian plum will be in bloom, and once again the Arboretum is seeking volunteers who desire to share their knowledge and love of nature with the future stewards of the earth. If you're interested in a volunteer position in the outdoors that provides a vital service to the community, call the Arboretum office at 747-3817. Credit is available through the ESCAPE program.

Fran Rosenthal
Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Alarmed

It seems to me the sole purpose of T.J. Fooladi's Jan. 26 letter was to create an environment of suspicion, hate and intolerance toward member of the Baha'i faith on this campus.

His letter condemned the Baha'i for participating in recent Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations. Fooladi points to the Baha'i support of the state of Israel and proselytization of their faith as factors that disqualify them from participating in King Day events.

If supporting the existence of Israel disqualifies groups from participating in King Day events, then many Christians, Jews and perhaps King himself should be disqualified. And if proselytization is another disqualifying factor, most world religions should also be excluded.

Nature guides

Emerald readers may have noticed the article about Mount Pisgah Arboretum, "Outdoor healing," in the Jan. 24 issue. One can't help but appreciate the serenity and peacefulness of a place like the Arboretum.

In our often frantic, calendar-driven lives, thank goodness for these places of refuge where mind, body and soul are renewed and strengthened. And how important it is to let this "healing power of the outdoors" touch our children! Children learn and thrive outdoors in ways not possible within the confines of a classroom.

For the past 12 years, the Arboretum has provided an opportunity for schoolchildren to leave the classroom and explore the natural world and their place within it.

Each spring a large pool of volunteer nature guides are recruited and trained to take elementary school children on

ed. The Baha'i have not proven to be any more immoral than other religious groups. Nor has Fooladi presented any new evidence that would make me believe special provisions should be created to exclude them from King Day events.

Instead I feel rather alarmed that a small, religious minority is being so blatantly attacked. This is just not acceptable. The consequences of publishing a letter like this could be very dangerous. Not many students know about the Baha'i faith and could carry the bigotry of this letter into their daily life.

Please, to anyone who read Fooladi's letter and has questions about the Baha'i faith, educate yourselves! We do not need any more stereotyping, hate and intolerance on this campus!

Yohanna Kinberg
Co-Director
Jewish Student Union

Two sides

"Group compares OCA with Nazis" — nonsense!

The Oregon Citizens Alliance is taking a stand — as have gays and lesbians.

Should either win? Not really. No special rights, period! Not for me as a Christian or for gays and lesbians, since we're categorizing.

Did you see the article in the *Register-Guard* about three weeks ago? A bar, made into a gay and lesbian bar, discriminated against two straight women.

The coin has two sides to it. When will the conflict end and the energy that is wasted be used for something important?

If I were forced to take a stand, it would be against special rights for gays and lesbians, or anyone, including myself.

Vicki Travis
Staff

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.

Managing Editor: Calley Anderson
Editorial Editor: David Thorn
Graphics Editor: Jeff Paslay
Freelance Editor: Jeff Winters

Editor-in-Chief: Jake Berg
Sports Editor: Steve Mims
Editorial Editor: Jeff Pickhardt
Photo Editor: Michael Shindler
Supplements Editor: Kaly Soto

Night Editor: Steve Mims

Associate Editors: Edward Klopfenstein, Student Government/Activities; Rebecca Merrill, Community; Julie Swensen, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Mandy Baucum, Eric Buckhalter, Wilson Chan, Dave Charbonneau, Jim Davis, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Cara Echevarria, Malia Fields, Martin Fisher, Sarah Henderson, Heather Himes, Yin Leng Leong, Marius Meland, Trista Noel, Elisabeth Reenstjerna, Robbie Reeves, Lia Saliciccia, Scott Simonson, Stephanie Sisson, Susanne Steffens, Julie Swensen, Michele Thompson-Aguilar, Kevin Tripp, Amy Van Tuyt, Daniel West

General Manager: Judy Riedl

Advertising Director: Mark Walter
Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising: Subir Dutta, Nicole Herzmark, Teresa Isabelle, Jeff Marion, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Rachael Trull, Kelsey Wekell, Angie Windheim

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager, Victor Mejia, Sim Tze Teck

Distribution: Andy Harvey, John Long, Graham Simpson

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor, Judy Connolly

Production: Dee McCobb, Production Coordinator, Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

Newsroom: 346-5511
Display Advertising: 346-3712

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

LETTERS

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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