

Dorm life shouldn't include vagrant life

After high school graduation, it's off to college for some. For most freshmen there's dorm life, the institutional living system where people live in small concrete cubicles with couches that can be made into beds - or is that beds that can be made into couches?

Suddenly, privacy is history. Everyday, students sleep in the same rooms, shower in the same showers, walk in the same halls, eat in the same cafeterias and pay money to do it.

For incoming freshmen, one of the most traumatic experiences is meeting their roommate, others in the same hall and their roommates. As if the whole roommate experience isn't bad enough, imagine meeting a vagrant who is a neighbor's roommate. The whole dorm life idea is crazy enough to begin with, so why make space for vagrants as well?

The last place one would expect to see a vagrant taking refuge is a college dorm, but they are. They are at the University, and some dorm residents are inviting vagrants to stay with them.

A residence hall director said the general rule is: Guests are welcome for a few days, and it is a good idea to let the hall director know if a guest will be staying. For those who have guests of the opposite sex, the guests are encouraged to use the appropriate bathrooms. Dorm residents are welcome to have brothers, sisters and friends stop in for a visit but certainly not vagrants.

The somewhat vague policy now being enforced (most of the time) obviously leads one to believe there is a problem. A large part of the problem might very well be the source of the policy. After making a call to try to discover what the dorm "guest policy" was, a residence assistant recommended that a call be made to someone at an area desk, who recommended that a call be made to housing, who recommended that a call be made to a residence director, who finally unveiled the hard-to-get, easy-to-bend policy.

One thing for certain in a group living situation is that not everyone will agree on everything. The one thing that has always been understood is that everyone pays rent. Everyone except the vagrants. The rules dealing with guests are an attempt to appease the majority, but let's not forget the idea of group living. The group living idea is that some people will have to sacrifice some things for the benefit of the entire group.

The blame for vagrants shacking up can be put on the residence assistant or the blame can be put on those with the open door policy that allows the vagrants to bunk up.

For those dorm residents with an open door policy, shut it. College dorms are not a place for vagrants, nor is the idea conducive to group living. Some people - believe it or not - don't want to live with vagrants. And for those dorm residents who stumble over a vagrant taking uninvited refuge, call the residence assistants and have them do their job. And for those who enforce the "guest policy," revise it.



LETTERS

True motives

On Jan. 28, a proposal was submitted by the *Oregon Commentator* demanding the office currently occupied by the Iranian Student Association, the Japanese Student Organization, the Muslim Student Association and the Singapore Student Association.

The *Commentator's* proposal is to move all of the above organizations from our now modest accommodations into a virtual pigeonhole in EMU Room 205, also known as the piano room. The EMU Board House Committee took this proposal seriously enough to schedule a hearing Wednesday night.

How can a University that seemingly prides itself as a champion of equality and multicultural learning take this proposal seriously? By sheer numbers, the four collective student associations represent more than 300 people, while the *Commentator*, with its alleged staff of 33 and a circulation of not much more, serves only as an agitator and a nuisance.

We all know the reputation of the *Commentator*, but on Tuesday, Feb. 1, I overheard some comments that only further stain that reputation. Comments such as "That's so unfair that the Black Student Union and Saferide get so much more money." What's worse is that these people are funded by the University. You and I are paying for them. Is this the kind of representation we want?

I believe the true motives for the move, besides "conquering" our larger office, are to get the collective four student unions as far as possible from the "white student union." Do these people deserve a large office to further propagate their views? Do we really need a "white student union" at a University striving for diversity and equality?

Michael Shaheed Glaros
Officer of Cultural Affairs
Muslim Student Association

Hypocritical?

Non-Zionist Jews? As a non-Muslim, non-Jewish American citizen, I attended the roundtable discussion Feb. 7 and was interested in the Jewish population's

justification of "occupation, exclusion and killing" of the Palestinian people.

The co-director of the Jewish Student Union replied, "Where should we go?" My response: I wouldn't go and slaughter those with whom your people had been living peacefully for the past 1,000 years - possibly you would claim the land that was rightfully yours in Europe!

Most of the other Jewish students simply claimed, "I'm a non-Zionist Jew." Really? I've never heard of your kind. I don't see your objections in the letters section of the local newspaper; I've never seen you on the evening news or heard you on the radio.

If you object, as one of the Jews said, to "going to Israel and seeing a Palestinian boy being stoned by the Jewish boys while riding his bicycle," why not distinguish yourselves? Why, for example, co-sponsor a fund-raising event for the people of Bosnia as a non-Zionist Jew and be killing Palestinians, as Serbs do Bosnians, allowing yourselves to be publicly represented as a Zionist Jew? Isn't this hypocritical?

Amy L. Davis-Bruner
Psychology

Struggle

I feel that there is a great amount of misunderstanding and insensitivity surrounding the use of the word "Jap" as an abbreviation for "Japanese" in the University's slide collection. Two previous letters in response to Edward Klopfenstein's Jan. 27 *Emerald* article on Asian-American racism defended its use, equating "Jap" to "Chi" for Chinese and "Rus" for Russian. This analogy fails miserably, for "Chi" and "Rus" carry no negative connotations or meaning other than as abbreviations. The authors of those letters, Lisa Claypool (*ODE*, Feb. 3) and Charles Lachman (*ODE*, Feb. 7), possibly do not know what the word "Jap" means to a Japanese-American.

For myself, "Jap" means more than just an abbreviation for "Japanese." It was a derogatory term used during World War II to fuel hatred and distrust toward anyone with an Asian face. It was the last word heard by my uncle before he was run

down and killed in the street on his first day of school. It conjures up images of my family, forced out of their California homes to be shipped off to internment camps. It reminds me of their struggle of more than 50 years to regain what was lost, every obstacle they faced and every form of discrimination they felt.

But "Jap" is not just a word from the past. We hear it on this campus whispered behind our backs, yelled at us on the street or in threatening phone calls recorded on answering machines. When you use the word "Jap," you are not just disrespecting me but every Japanese-American in this country.

"JPN," which is non-offending, can easily be substituted for "Jap" as it is used in the course catalog.

Brandon Sugiyama
Asian/Pacific-American
Student Union

Dave's no Duck

Open letter to Dave Charbonneau:

We are writing this letter in reference to your Feb. 8 article in the *Emerald* about our signs at the basketball game against Cal.

First of all, I don't think that you understand our true dedication to the Oregon basketball team. The signs weren't made to get on television; they were made to distract Jason Kidd and take him out of the game mentally. This is what some true sports fans do at sporting events. Do you understand Jerry Green's sixth-man concept? Every week you rip on our basketball team, yet you get annoyed when some guys want to do something about our team to make it better.

We made five signs altogether. Two were in support of Brion Smith, wanting him to be reinstated. The fifth sign made no reference to Kidd's features. I personally think that the basketball team appreciates the effort to support it. Why can't you see it as something positive? So from now on, leave sports to the fans who really appreciate it!

Adam Aro
Ryan Makinson
Quinn Vance
Students

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