

LETTERS

Duckby

This is in response to Brett Bolstad's March 30 letter in the *Emerald*, titled "Mean Sport."

The University rugby team regrettably canceled its match against Oregon State because it was scheduled two days before finals. As a club sport, the only benefit which we receive from playing is enjoyment. Therefore we have to put our education first. Strange as it may sound, finals are important to rugby players as well!

Rugby is a great sport and we appreciate your interest in our team. I'd like to extend you an invitation to come and practice with us. I'm sure such an experience would dispel any doubts which you seem to harbor regarding our ability to give OSU a competitive game.

Sean Morris
University Rugby Team

Opportunity

I am writing in response to Fadi Ibsies' commentary (*ODE*, March 31), in which he describes the poor treatment afforded Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. I sympathize with their plight and I understand their anger.

This being said, I would like to address the stalled Middle East peace process. It is absolutely imperative that the peace talks be restarted without delay. Although the heinous Hebron massacre is still fresh in the minds of most Palestinians and many other people across the world, it is beginning to fade from the public spotlight, and the additional bargaining power that it may have given Mr. Arafat and his associates is quickly slipping from his grasp as the international outcry loses its intensity.

I will grant that the limited self-rule that the Israelis are proposing is a minor concession in the eyes of many, but it is a step in the right direction. If the Palestinian people fail to seize this opportunity, they may never get another chance. They must swallow their grief and anger for a while and return to the tables or risk living as poverty-stricken, second-class human

beings for the rest of their and their children's lives.

They cannot win in the streets where stones and bottles are faced with assault rifles and tanks. If the Palestinians ever want to live as free citizens of their own country, they must negotiate.

I encourage the Palestinians to take this opportunity to improve their own situation and bring peace to a region that has been torn by war far too long. It is in their power. Enough war, enough.

Zohar Abramovitz
Undeclared

Beware

Be aware of the pitfalls of fundamentalist interpretations of the Bible. So warned a recent letter from the Vatican to Roman Catholic Christians. Similarly, a local Protestant Christian clergyman, speaking at a Temple Beth Israel candlelight vigil, reviewed root causes of anti-semitism. Doctrines agreed upon at the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) and writings by Martin Luther, the father of the Protestant Reformation, 1517, contained language that Nazi Germans used to rationalize the Holocaust.

Some roots of anti-Semitism can be traced back to fundamentalist interpretation of some verses in the Bible. The same is true of homophobia fanned by the spokespersons of the Oregon Citizens Alliance. They base their justifications for their political goals on an abuse of Holy Scripture.

The U.S. and Oregon constitutions protect OCA people to interpret the Bible as they please. But, the same is true for everyone else. I find it productive to study my different Bibles. I find it challenging to compare different interpretations from different theological viewpoints. I seek conversation and dialogue with those different faiths. None of this endangers the integrity of my faith. It only makes me a better informed Christian and community member.

One synagogue shooting is enough for this community. Be aware of the dangers of a fundamentalist approach to the Bible.

Jacob Veldhuisen
Eugene

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