

## City may intervene in Amazon dispute

The Eugene City Council will analyze a proposal today that asks the council to step into the emotionally and financially charged Amazon debate. Friends of Amazon and residents will ask the city council to pass a de facto injunction to stop the University from demolishing Amazon.

This battle has already created a chasm at the University, leaving many bloody soldiers in its wake. The University's intention to raze Amazon and build new low-income housing has been a fiasco, but regardless of the bad decisions, those decisions were the University's to make. The University owns the land.

By asking the city to intervene on behalf of Amazon residents, the residents are setting a very dangerous precedent. It would be like the city deciding what kind of curriculum students should be allowed to study. It's not the city's business.

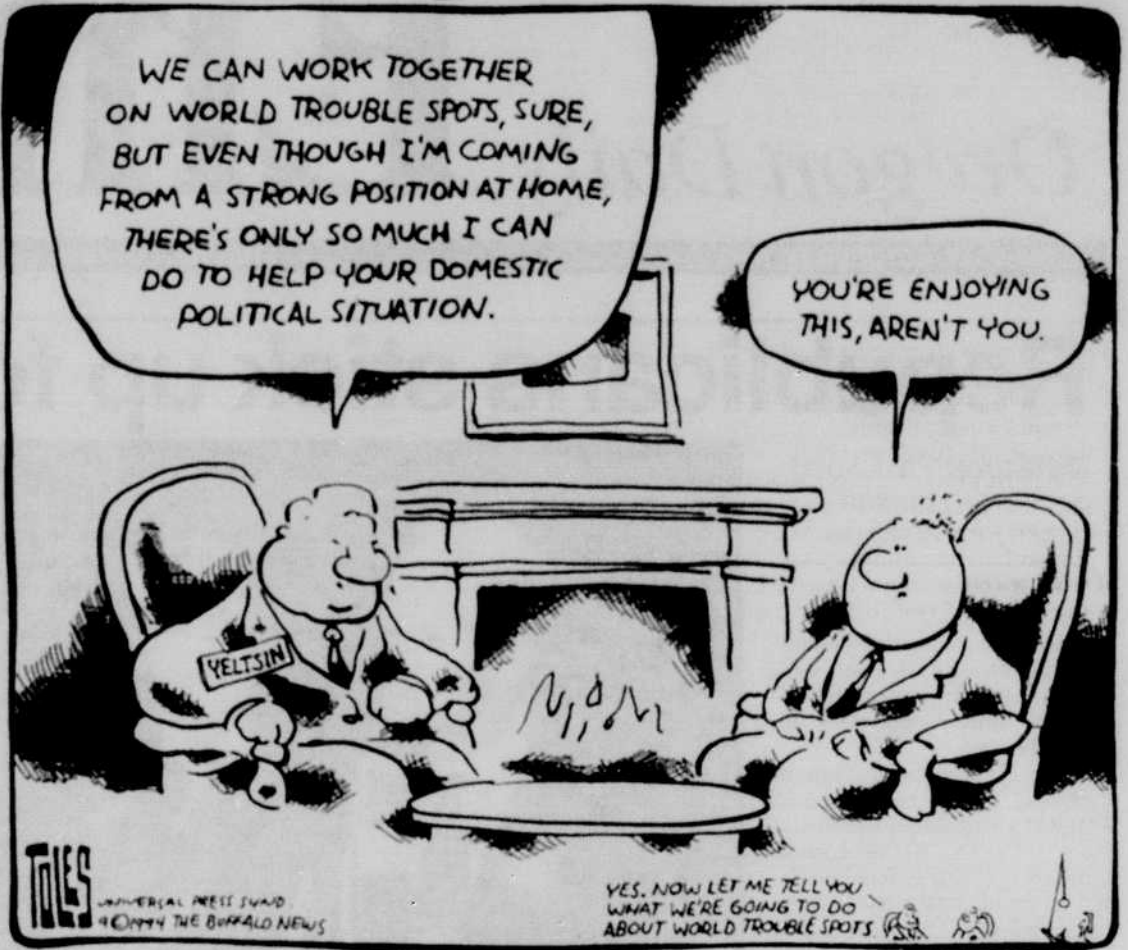
Council members said at last week's meeting that they were "concerned about the loss of low-income housing in the city." But Amazon housing is not city housing. It is student housing. If the city is concerned about low-income housing, it should be working with local builders and contractors to find a solution to its low-income housing dilemma.

Councilwoman Barbara Keller, who represents the southeast ward where Amazon is located, was quoted in Thursday's *Register-Guard* as saying, "I'm very upset with the University's decision, I think it was the wrong decision, and I wish there was something we could do to get them to change their mind." So, Keller found a solution; she would take jurisdiction into her own hands, because in her opinion a bad decision was made. Is it up to her to decide if it was the wrong decision? The answer is unquestionably no.

City Attorney Bill Gary said he was unsure if the council had the legal authority to stop the University from getting a demolition permit. The city is asking the wrong question. It should not be, *do* they have the legal authority, but *should* they try to override a decision that has been a year in coming?

Dave Frohnmayer's decision to demolish Amazon has been made and getting the city to delay the demolition by granting what is in essence an injunction is a direct attack on his authority as University president. It also attacks his character and integrity. Frohnmayer prides himself on being a good citizen and he knows what is good for Oregon. Amazon residents are attacking the public persona he has cultivated throughout his political career and his years with the University.

The bottom line is that no matter how ineptly the University handled the Amazon crisis in its early days, the decision to demolish it has been made. If the residents of Amazon don't stop looking backwards they are going to get hit by the bulldozers that are coming. Survivors of this battle have given so much. Their efforts will have been in vain if we don't move to the next phase.



OPINION

## Irresponsible drinking costly

My friend Brenda loved to dance. From the moment her mom bought her first pair of ballet slippers until her final dance across the high school auditorium stage, Brenda's troubles would disappear with each pirouette.

She loved to dream. She wanted to be an astronaut. But first, she would spend a summer dancing in the parade at Disneyland.

People used to say Brenda and I looked like sisters. We sometimes bought matching clothes just to be silly, and when she signed my high school yearbook, she wrote "your true sister" after her name.

I'm telling you about Brenda because none of you will get to meet her, and I want her to touch your lives as she did mine.

Brenda, who would have celebrated her 20th birthday next month, was killed in an automobile accident a few weeks ago. She was with a group of friends who thought it would be cool to get really wasted and drive to a ranch outside of town. After all, what else is there to do in a small town?

She wasn't driving the car, but she did her share of the drinking. After the car flipped over and the wreckage was cleared, the casualties were this: one teenager dead, two critically injured in the hospital — both of whom may be paralyzed for the rest of their lives, and one driver who has to live the rest of his life knowing



REBECCA MERRITT

he was responsible for the loss of his friend.

While many University students were at back-to-school parties testing their freedom from mom and dad, I went home to see Brenda one last time at the funeral parlor.

My friends and I tried to console each other by saying things like "It was God's will," or "She's at peace now," and "She's happier now because she's with her dad." Brenda's father died when she was young and Brenda never really quite got over losing her dad.

However, the preacher at her funeral told us we were talking nonsense. It's never God's will to take away the life of someone so young and promising, he said.

The accident happened, he said, because four young individuals made a stupid choice. They put their lives at risk for a crazy joyride. They knew how dangerous it was to drink and drive.

The preacher said he wasn't trying to place blame on anyone for what happened to Brenda. He was just trying to

get the hundred or so young high school and college students gathered at her funeral to understand that accidents like this can be avoided. Young people don't have to die.

This week is National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. Use this time to remember people like Brenda who paid a tragic price just to teach the rest of us a lesson.

Alcohol awareness doesn't mean learning which brand of beer can give you the cheapest buzz, or how to sneak a trough into Mug Night. It's about responsibility.

I'll be the first to admit that it's nearly impossible to keep college students from drinking. Beer parties and bar trips are part of the so-called "college experience" our parents and other previous generations fondly reminisce about.

Just use common sense. Know your limits. Walk to parties or, if the weather's crummy, designate a sober driver. Remember, riding with someone who has been drinking is just as dangerous and stupid as getting behind the wheel yourself.

People die from drinking and driving accidents all the time. Until it happens to someone you care about, these accidents are just statistics. Losing a friend like Brenda is a terrible way to learn about drinking responsibly.

Rebecca Merritt is news editor for the Emerald.

LETTERS

### Get involved

Recent events in Israel and the Occupied Territories surrounding the incident of the kidnapping and slaying of Corporal Nachson Waxman have raised concern regarding the future of the peace process. We feel that Jews and non-Jews in the U.S. should be made aware and able to respond to issues and crises threatening stability in the Middle East. The incident that

occurred last week showed that the Oslo Peace accord of Sept. 1993, signed by Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, is not necessarily going to secure peace.

Progressive Zionist Caucus is a student organization involved in raising awareness and debating issues surrounding Israel. We firmly support the idea of peace, but encourage continued debate over present policies. PZC is dedicated to a just and democratic Israel through peaceful Jewish-

Arab coexistence, religious pluralism, social and racial equality, separation of religion and state, and the creation of an autonomous Palestinian state within the Occupied Territories.

We will have our first general meeting on Oct. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Jewish Student Union, Suite 5 in the basement of the EMU. Please come and get involved.

Melanie Freeman  
PZC

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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