

■ LETTERS

Thief grief

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, I was on my daily lunch/study break in the EMU when I decided to buy a cup of coffee and visit the restroom. I stopped in the restroom. I then purchased my coffee. On the way back to my seat and books, I realized I'd left my wallet in the restroom. I ran back, only to find that it was already gone.

I knew that I left it in the restroom, but I checked the Fountain Court Cafe anyway. I checked at the Main Desk Store. I checked the lost and found in the recreation center. No luck. My wallet was gone. In only five minutes.

I couldn't believe that a fellow student had simply taken it. And indeed, that night, while I was full of disbelief, the phone rang. It was a woman who said she had my wallet, and we arranged a meeting in front of the EMU the next morning. But nobody ever showed up. I still don't have my wallet, and the woman has not called me back.

Perhaps if I had my wits about me more, I would have gotten a phone number or some other information from her. But I trusted her word — that she had my wallet and would return it.

A friend tells me that it is not an uncommon ploy for a dishonest person to call the wallet's owner and promise to return it, having no such intention. This gives the thief more time to use credit cards, etc., before the owner reports them stolen.

I canceled everything today anyway. But I am angry that someone has stolen my wallet, and has kept it without consid-

eration that I might really need the contents. There was no money in it, and there is no real room on my credit card. Fortunately, I left my checks at home that day.

Of course, all my identification was in there. Pictures of my kids. My long-distance calling card — that could cost me. The biggest cost to me is the nearly \$200 worth of food stamps that were in there. I would think that if someone saw my food stamps, they might realize that I am poor, that food stamps are the only way I can feed my kids and myself. Of course, it will cost me to replace my ID, and until I do, it costs me money to ride the bus each day, since my student ID card is my bus pass.

In closing, I guess I'd really just like to ask the person who has my wallet to please return it. At least drop it off at the lost and found in the recreation center in the EMU. I'd like it back — I need it all back — but I'd be happy to take whatever you decide to return to me.

Name withheld

Fact and opinion

In her efforts to balance opinions on all sides of the Eugene Public Library bond measure 20-30, I'm afraid Lia Salciccia's Oct. 14 article may have confused readers as to what is fact and what is opinion. I'd like to clarify some issues.

Yes, the Sears site will be used for the library, but the library will be an essentially NEW building, looking nothing like its parent. The Sears Building will be gutted and only the basement and a few structural walls will be maintained in the rebuilding. An

entire new wing will be added to the site.

It is amazing to me that while Eugonians take such pride in their recycling efforts, some balk when money and energy can be saved by using some parts of an older building to build a newer one.

As to student Brian Wanty's statement that voters are having second thoughts about the Sears site, I wonder who he has been talking to. In a 1991 advisory vote, 70 percent of the voters asked the city council to purchase the Sears Building for a library. And just last month, library supporters collected more than 1900 signatures in less than two weeks to place three pro-library arguments in the voter's pamphlet.

University students have the luxury of a world-class library with wonderful facilities conducive to study and learning. The Eugene Public Library, the second-busiest library per capita in the state, is grossly overcrowded and its facilities are completely inadequate for the over 2,000 people who visit each day. I urge you to visit the library to see it for yourself.

Measure 20-30 gives all Eugene residents an opportunity to have a library we can use with pride and comfort. If this measure fails, we will not have another opportunity for a long time to come.

Sheila Seitz
Eugene

Bigot's rights

The *Emerald* article covering a discussion of Measure 13 by members of Club Laissez-Faire (ODE Oct. 17), contained one

glaring error—that I will vote NO on Measure 13 because "it doesn't go far enough."

I will vote NO because Measure 13 goes in the wrong direction—it attempts to legislate morality just as the government has been trying to do with civil rights laws.

The Oregon Constitution states "No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens, privileges and immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens." In plain language, this means bigots have the same rights as non-bigots and any thinking person knows this.

"Bigots" pay taxes, rent property, hire employees and are citizens of this country. Court decisions ruling against discrimination as a private right are not consistent with our Constitution. It is only a matter of time before they are overturned.

My position is that government at any level may NOT discriminate except on the basis of merit. However, private citizens have the right to refuse to associate with anyone for whatever reason.

I do not condone racism, sexism, etc., but I believe unjust discrimination can only be changed by non-coercive means.

Although I expect Measure 13 to be defeated, gay and lesbian activists and educators should take warning that respect must be earned and self-esteem is not derived from one's sexual acts, but from one's productive achievements. Measure 13 is an understandable reaction to the homosexual attempts to compel undeserved acceptance.

Tonie Nathan
CFL Co-chair



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