

Ethnic baiters

Mike Bratland is ignorant and insensitive to the culturally diverse practices of a proud and ancient people. In his letter "Get real" (ODE Nov. 4), Bratland criticizes Don Vladsdek's need to "finish carpeting his family room with bear skins."

For some people, a bear provides a family with food for a month. Prohibiting individuals from baiting for bear will deny families their basic sustenance. These individuals will be hardest hit by Ballot Measure 18.

But baiting and hunting is not only a way for families to put food on the table, it is also a ritual in many cultures. Ruthless politicians lobby for 18 while they have no respect for the art form or its masters.

According to the August issue of *Historical Archers-Hunters Annual*, baiting is an art form predating the white man's presence in North America. The ritualistic custom of baiting harkens to a past of ancestral culture and ethnic pride. Tribal leaders relied upon the talent and expertise of the hunters and baiters.

The white man wiped out the Indian tribes and now he wants to wipe out families in the hills and mountains. Do not allow the ignorant whim of professional politicians to cloud your decision-making process. Not only is an age-old practice at stake, but the lives of families will be ruined if this ballot measure passes.

Save the families. Save the master baiters.
Vote no on 18.

Owen Brennan Rounds
Women's Studies

Bike karma

For three years I have roamed this campus. For three years I

have seen students struggle with bike locks. For three years I have seen bikes get stolen anyway.

But now I offer a final solution — stop worrying about your precious bike. I have had six bikes stolen, and I have had seven given to me.

Do your math. True security does not come from a Kryptonite lock or even an insurance policy. It does come from letting go. Have faith in the Great Bike Karma god and cease your struggles.

Edwin Marty
Anthropology

Hail Womack II

My wife and I enjoyed Brian Womack's column of Oct. 28, "Whiners and victims."

We are glad Womack has the courage and foresight to speak out. It's good to know that the editor will publish this type of material.

I lived and worked in the Los Angeles area for over 50 years before retiring here eight years ago. I understand where Womack "is coming from!"

Generally speaking, neither the media or the public want to rock the boat down there. Home owners simply sell out when they reach their limit in tolerance and move to places like Eugene.

All of Los Angeles is strictly a Third World country, and becoming worse as the big industry flees because of the uneducated labor market. One thing I'd like to point out is that while first generation Latinos work hard, the second generation quickly grabs on to the welfare system.

It's good to know one person in Eugene has the courage to speak out on whiners and victims. We hope Womack will continue to point out to others the problems caused by the welfare system and excessive indi-

vidual rights.

I wish Womack the best in all of his future endeavors. To me, his writings represent old fashioned patriotism. Unfortunately for this country, patriotism went out of style in the Vietnam era.

Bob Cook
Eugene

Go USSA!

Everything the *Emerald* printed about my experiences within the United States Student Association is true. But the *Emerald* chose not to print a plethora of other things that I said during my interview, things that could change the tone of the article from anti-USSA (which is the *Emerald's* agenda, not my own) to that of critical support.

In my interview with the *Emerald*, I stated that I am a supporter of USSA. While I find the anti-Semitism that functions in USSA disgusting, I also believe that the work they do in Washington, D.C., is invaluable to our campus and to students in general. This was not clear in the article.

Additionally, I believe that USSA should be funded by student fees on our campus and USSA should be given more recognition for what they do for students on this campus (lobbying for Pell grants, the Violence Against Women Act, against the Crime Bill, etc.).

It was not made clear that the University delegation was and is extremely supportive of the Jewish coalition. Leslie Warren, Josh Norris and Kevin Easton, all University delegates at the USSA Congress, should all be commended for their support of Jewish students.

Fighting anti-Semitism is especially important when it exists within an organization

you believe in. I am giving USSA a year to clean up its act and prove it really does support access to higher education for all students. This will take some educating on my part, but is worth it.

Yohanna Kinberg
Chairwoman, National
Coalition for Students of
Jewish Heritage

15 destructive

Too often in Eugene, the Ballot Measure 15 debate is framed as K-14 versus higher education. While that is certainly understandable — Eugene has a world-class institution within its city limits — it is not entirely accurate.

Higher education is just one of many state agencies and programs that will have to vie for the sliver of state funding that is left over if Ballot Measure 15 passes. The cut to state human resource programs would be dramatic. Youth services, disabled services and senior citizen programs will all be gutted.

Why would Ballot Measure 15 force these cuts? It actually has nothing to do with the actions of our elected representatives. When legislators in Salem try to determine the budget, they will find that over 65 percent of the budget will already be determined by Ballot Measure 15. All other state agencies will be left with the scraps of state support. Is that good public policy? I don't think so.

Now don't get me wrong. I know it is vital to have quality schools. But education is more than what happens in the classroom. Prekindergarten preparation services such as Head Start, Child Protective Services and Crisis Nurseries are all part of a healthy educational system. Gang intervention programs, abused and neglected children

services and public safety are also essential supplements to our grade, middle and high schools. All of these, in addition to higher education, will be dramatically cut if Ballot Measure 15 passes.

Lets teach our children that in a time of crisis, we work together for balanced solutions, not hurtful mandates.

Vote no on Ballot Measure 15.
Mark Rhinhard
ASUO Vice President

Bait necessary

The reason the use of bait and dogs is allowed in the hunting of bear and cougar is because those animals are so hard to hunt in much of the state.

In the densely forested and rugged terrain of western Oregon, the sparsely populated cougar and bear would be otherwise impossible to hunt. Contrary to what many people believe, the use of dogs and bait take a very large investment of time, money and effort — before and during the hunt. Even with these techniques, hunting success is not guaranteed. The treading of animals by dogs actually allows hunters to more selectively harvest the animals.

The facts are that cougar and bear populations are thriving and growing and are in no way threatened by this type of hunting. The evidence of this is the overflow of cougars and bears from their prime habitat to areas inhabited by people. The best way we can help animals is to protect their current habitat and set aside more when possible.

The only reason left to vote for Ballot Measure 18 would be personal. But that isn't appropriate. Cast your ballot for tolerance and reason, vote no on 18 (also vote no on 13 while you're at it).

Chris Berven
Graduate, Physics

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