

LETTERS

E-coli not new

At this sterile time in getting grants for research, the Oregon Health Division has landed one to "combat new diseases". Interesting how the much-maligned government has come through to rescue Oregon and the beef industry.

The weird part is that E-coli is not a new disease at all and only a symptom of sloppy meat handling and inspection that passes dirty and contaminated meat as OK to be sold. Then the customer is made responsible for cooking it "well-done" to kill all the bacteria. They should not be there in the first place—and that is new.

The beef industry is in enough trouble already with declining sales without getting into lawsuits from illness and death resulting from undercooked hamburgers. This is disgusting! Who in their right mind wants to eat a contaminated hamburger well-done?

Hilde K. Cherry
Eugene

Unjustified

I don't want to burst anyone's righteous bubble, but in response to Bob Weigel's letter concerning the abortion clinic murders, there is no such thing as justifiable homicide.

Who does he think the real criminals are? The receptionists who are working to insure that women have the option to a safe abortion when they aren't ready to commit themselves to the demands of a newborn? The doctors who give women quality care when they've made one of the biggest decisions imaginable? I don't wish to get into the politics of the issue (I'm sure y'all know it thick-n-thin) so I'll just cut to the chase.

Calling murder justified for "murder" is blatant hypocrisy. Who is "worthy of the death penalty", Bob? I'd hate to find out. Maybe we should find the

man who committed the murders innocent and let him become the Catholic Priest, so that the righteous right may continue to demean their own position by their own ignorance.

Andrew Christiansen
English

Support policy

I am perplexed by protests and letters like Carol Berg's claiming that Sacred Heart Hospital is monopolistic and oppressive regarding its policies on abortion and assisted suicide (ODE Jan. 6).

Given the liberal political environment we enjoy in this city, it would seem a more politically correct response would be to allow a Catholic hospital to operate in a manner which is consistent with the church's religious doctrine. I doubt that the Eugene Clinic and Women's Care are being "forced" to join Sacred Heart Hospital—I'm sure they still possess free will, financially strapped or not.

A more reasonable response would be to rally financial support for these clinics. It frustrates me to see such a blatant example of conditional acceptance of others and their beliefs. For Ms. Berg and others who share her concerns, there is more to be gained from seeking community support for their services, than from asking a religious institution to violate its own doctrine.

I support the rights of Sacred Heart to continue to operate in a manner consistent with their religious doctrine. Truly liberal persons who support the rights of all people, not just those who share their opinions, would do the same.

Kirstin Parmeter
Sociology

Violence wrong

Concerning Gayle Forman's opinion article printed in the

Jan. 5 edition of the Emerald, I would like to make the following comments.

A section of your piece described the murder of Dr. John Bayard by pro-life demonstrator Paul Hill. I agree with you on the fact that the actions of this "crazed, pro-life zealot" were not only illegal, but immoral and hypocritical. However, you continue by stating that "fellow pro-lifers applauded this gunman's deed." This statement is obviously skewed to reinforce false stereotypes regarding pro-lifers.

A large majority of those subscribing to the pro-life platform do not in any way condone violent intervention. I would appreciate it if you would abstain from making misleading statements in future articles.

James Boyd
ASUO Student Senate

Hallelujah Man

Whoever chose to print the front-page photo accompanying the article on street crime (Jan. 5) should be held accountable for a serious lapse in judgment. The "street person" pictured is the "Hallelujah Man," whose worst "crime," as far as I know, is loudly and jubilantly singing praises to his Lord. He represents street crime and aggressive panhandling about as well as, say, Dave Frohnmayer.

You might as well have used a picture of Dan Williams, who is known to stroll the sidewalks of 13th Ave. fairly regularly, or Eagle Park Slim, or a zillion other people, most of whom would be offended to be linked with that caption and article. You at least owe the Hallelujah Man an apology. For the rest of us, it's about what we've come to expect of *The Emerald*—dare we hope for responsible, ethical, and careful journalism in the future?

Jeff Harrison
English and
Humanities

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Frank J. Geltner, Jr., Ph.D.
Member, National Association of Parliamentarians
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Shakespeare in Ashland
Whether you are new to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival or a seasoned professional, a trip to Ashland is always great fun. A trip is being planned for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 17, 18 and 19, 1995. Plays include *Twelfth Night*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Pravda*, and possibly, *Mississippi Delta*. Rooms are being held at the Albion Inn Bed and Breakfast (5 rooms) and Stratford Inn (5 rooms). Transportation will be pooled among participants. Call Frank Geltner at 346-0007 for details! Rooms on first come, first serve basis.

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