

■ LETTERS

More spaces

Open letter to the University parking department:
If you make the parking spaces just a bit smaller, you may be able to squeeze a few more cars onto this wonderful, wet campus. And, oh yeah, long live George Lucas!

Scott Klemp
Eugene

'Normality'

Celebrities ranging from Rev. Chumleigh to Ken Kesey to Paul Krassner to Artis the Spoonman have endorsed our new campaign!

"Heal Normality Naturally" is its slogan. As Newt warned, the counterculture will indeed drive normal people to madness! We've listed the warning signs of normality, hatched cunning plans, and — making it all official — issued a button. Who are we? We're an alliance of 30 grassroots groups, called Support Coalition. Our main office is in Eugene's Growers Market. We publish an award-winning "zine," Dendron, with a readership of 15,000.

Your readers may have seen our local group this past November when we protested deaths related to forced psychiatric drugging and solitary confinement in the Lane County psychiatric system. We also broke the silence about inadequate informed consent in the use of electroshock, down the street at Sacred Heart. And did you know in the state psychiatric institutions in one recent year eight Oregonians had forced electroshock?

These issues impact every University community member who may have a friend or loved one in need of emergency emotional

support. This issue affects everyone who may one day have a career related to the mental health industry.

Everyone loves to laugh in the face of normality. The "mad movement" is actually fun. So everyone is invited to find out more, and become involved. Phone us now in Eugene at 341-0100 (24-hour voice mail with actual loons) or e-mail us: chrp@efn.org.

David Oaks
Eugene

OCA returns

Important quotes were omitted in Kaly Soto's coverage of the inauguration of Gov. John Kitzhaber (ODE, Jan. 10). Both he and former Gov. Barbara Roberts disapproved of efforts by Lon Mabon, and his Oregon Citizens Alliance, to once more amend the Oregon Constitution to codify the creation of an outcast class of citizens in Oregon.

Mabon and his followers have filed language for referendum in 1996. People of good will, faith-based or not, will again have to combat these efforts. Who will join our coalition in 1995 and 1996 to make sure that Mabon and the OCA are defeated again?

In 1994, approximately one-third of the 21 Christian campus groups joined in the opposition to the OCA. For that I'm proud and grateful. But, what about the other two-thirds of the Christian campus groups?

The teachings and life of Jesus focused on compassion and love for the outcasts. Christians, from conservative to liberal, agree theologically that judging the behavior of mortals is the sole prerogative of the Creator. How can

anyone claiming to be a Christian support Lon Mabon and the OCA?

Do these people realize how much pain, anger, alienation and depression among homosexual people they create when they support the politics of Lon Mabon and the OCA? Join our coalition and refuse to be neutral or supportive of attempts to legalize discrimination. As stated by our new governor: "...We must stop ceding power to individuals and groups that draw their lifeblood from turning Oregonians against one another."

Jacob Veldhuisen
Eugene

Honor veterans

On Monday, University students and staff honored the memory of the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. by observing the state holiday established for this purpose. I strongly believe this nation owes a tremendous amount of respect and appreciation to Dr. King, and therefore, I find it not only fitting but necessary that the University honor this holiday.

But, I believe this University has neglected to pay similar tribute to an entire group of Americans to whom this nation owes a great deal — U.S. veterans. The national holiday established to honor these Americans was not observed on this campus. The University failed to recognize that not only do we owe veterans our utmost appreciation and respect, but many people throughout the world owe them much more — their lives and freedom.

It is no secret that this University has a student body with liberal tendencies, and with that in

mind, I am sure a failure to honor Martin Luther King Day would result in quite an uproar. But the University administration should not be in the business of catering to the politics of any faction on campus.

Liberal, conservative, apolitical or otherwise, there are some things that go beyond politics. Honoring the great men and women of this nation for their contributions is one of those.

Heather Leigh Davis
Political Science

Insensitivity

With all that's going on in sports these days, it's hard to believe that Kris Henry's "opinion" would be anywhere near the sports section, let alone the paper (ODE, Jan. 18). What Henry, a male Euro-American (white to you insensitives) like myself, fails to realize is that his heroes, his leaders, his role models have been in place for hundreds of years in this country.

He has never had to dream of sexual equality or racial justice — it has always been there for him. He might think (from his narrow view of the cosmos) that grand stories of a black astronaut, or the "first" female CEO, or a Hispanic Supreme Court justice are unnecessary because for him it has never been necessary. He has never had to dream of these things like others who have been treated with social, racial, or eco-

nomical prejudices have had to dream.

The spirit of Horatio Alger and others like him is still needed today. We all need to be reminded of the struggles endured and the triumphs experienced. We need a benchmark from where progress can be measured. Otherwise, no one can know how much work still needs to be done.

Next time you feel the urge to get socially righteous, take another look. And while you're at it — read Alger, too.

Michael Platt
Psychology

Choice forum

On Monday, Jan. 23, Students for Choice will be holding a celebration of the Roe vs. Wade decision. Saturday, Jan. 21, marks the anniversary of the famous court case that made it illegal for individual states to outlaw abortion and guaranteed a woman's right to choose. The celebration will be held in the Fir Room of the EMU, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be two performers singing, as well as three speakers from the community. Also, tables will be set up by groups interested in women's issues. It should be an interesting and enjoyable time, so try to stop by and show your support in a woman's right to choose.

Dana Gold
Psychology

■ LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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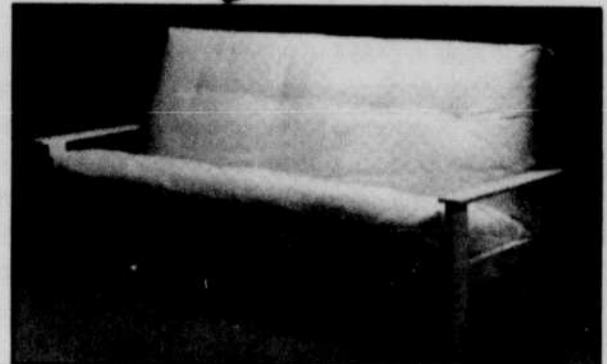


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