

EDITORIAL

Community must not pay beggars

You've probably seen them on street corners or along 13th Avenue. These days, it seems like the campus community is full of panhandlers.

Some of the beggars out there are polite and creative in their attempt to separate legitimate wage-earners from their money. However, a number of panhandlers in the community are coercive and threatening.

The Eugene City Council responded to the complaints of citizens and passed an ordinance prohibiting aggressive panhandling, defined as a time when a person is assaulted or touched in some way, or when a panhandler blocks the route of someone else. When a citizen is willing to sign a complaint against a panhandler,

In an attempt to be a service to the community, the *Emerald* compiled a list of suggestions for what residents can tell panhandlers when asked for money. Use them liberally when encountered by a local beggar.

Here are the *Emerald's* top ten put-off lines for beggars.

10. "You can sell me those Doc Martens™ for \$50."
9. "Apply for student loans, pal."
8. "Change comes from within."
7. Offer to buy their puppy. "One less mouth to feed."
6. When they ask if you have a quarter, say "yes" and walk away.
5. "What, do I look like the Dept. of Health and Human Services to you?"
4. "Get a job."
3. Ask the panhandler for spare change first.
2. Tell them to put your donation on your parents' Gold Card™.
1. Give a long, boring lecture on the Protestant work ethic.

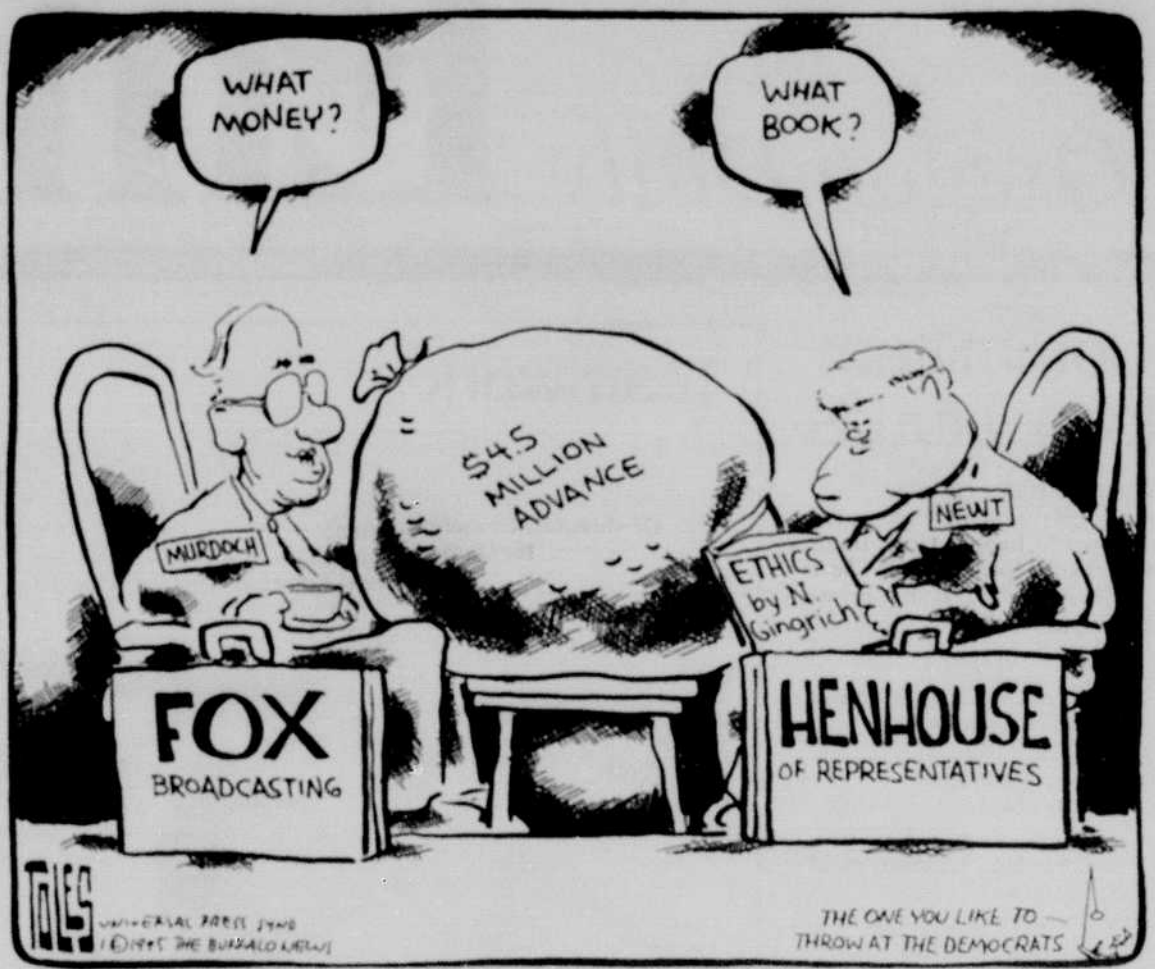
All fun aside, paying beggars doesn't help anyone in the community. There are other ways to solve the problem of aggressive panhandling.

While there are some people in the community who are in genuine financial distress, there are a number of resources available that can help with employment, food, schooling and shelter problems. A bit of effort by the person in need is necessary to obtain help. They are not forced by economic or societal ills to stand on street corners to panhandle near a major University to survive.

However, some choose to stand on street corners and beg instead of taking the initiative to get help. In some cases, this can be a fruitful method of earning money. In some areas, it is conceivable for a person begging to earn up to \$100 in a day — all for doing nothing. While this may help a person in the short run, it breeds dependency on the street for people in need and is annoying for those who must put up with them.

Some people are down on their luck and need help. The way to give people help is not to give them spare change and encourage them to continue begging.

By refusing to donate spare change to those who ask, members of the community will help to solve the problem of aggressive panhandling by showing that begging doesn't pay.



OPINION

Year of the Pig offers acceptance



ANNE MOSER-KORNFELD

The Chinese New Year begins today and each year's celebration belongs to the family. The Year of the Pig or Boar is the last animal in the Chinese Zodiac. Every year, following the first day of the new moon after the sun enters Aquarius, the New Year celebration begins.

New Year's Day provides the Chinese culture one way to express the meaning of family values. The jubilant celebrations of Yuan Tan include spending time with loved ones, businesses generally close and people wear new clothes to avoid being recognized by evil spirits. Rough language and swearing are not tolerated during the two week celebration. The color red symbolizes joy, and is used to decorate the home or places where people gather to wish each other good luck.

The postal service issued a gravure representation of the boar that became available Dec. 30. The artist, Clarence Lee, emphasized traditional Chinese culture, but the stamp itself isn't very dynamic or striking. Perhaps it's even patronizing, a concession to multiculturalism.

"Dear Abby" sends greetings, "confidential" to her Chinese readers, this time of year — congratulations and happiness. Besides her consistent message, the mainstream press pays little attention to the Chinese community throughout the year.

Part of this may come from the division among Chinese people. At the University, the Chinese Student Association presented a cultural night Saturday to offer audiences a feel of Taiwanese culture. Taiwan and

mainland China view the new year differently. While both groups may be quite insular and fearful of outside interpretation, the Taiwanese students appear more political and open to modern viewpoints.

The event sponsored by CSA left me with a disappointing feeling for a time of year otherwise known for its hope and fresh start. The meal was badly organized, as food supplies ran out, and crowds rushed the serving tables. There were a few tables set up to give background information to anyone who wanted to know more about Taiwanese culture, but overhearing conversations among students gave me more insight into unfamiliar customs.

I expected much more from this school because of the academic disciplines devoted to Asian studies and the large population of students from varying parts of the East.

This brought up many questions, particularly ones I'd asked myself in preparation for writing this column. I wanted to know where a general interest publication on Chinese culture could be found.

Feminism has yet to reach Chinese women and when it does, the entire system will break open, just as it has been doing here for over 20 years.

Traditional religions, such as Buddhism, doesn't invite believers to question their spirituality nor are they going through an identity crisis like many Christian religions in the United States.

Pork consumption, for reasons that leave a sick sensation in my stomach, has risen in the past year. Pork fried rice is commonly eaten in the Chinese culture and served in American-Chinese restaurants. Pork, regarded by some as unhealthy and from the carcass of an unclean animal, is being eaten in this country at a rate equal to that of the Depression era.

This comment may sound out of context to the new year, but it introduces students who have contrasting ethnic backgrounds an opportunity to discuss their heritages. Food allows people to agree or disagree about tastes and share thoughts that otherwise wouldn't enable them to bridge gaps.

The Year of the Pig, a practical yin sign, represents ease and family prosperity. The action implied with the pig is one of acceptance. Chinese beliefs hold that a person's zodiac determines someone's character and destiny.

Persons born in the Year of the Pig are honest, brave and always complete projects they start. The last Year of the Boar was 1983, before that 1971, and students who were born that year can be assured they're able to learn their studies well.

The Chinese New year possesses great meaning for me. I celebrate the new year and ponder Chinese astrology, not only as a way to discover additional societal customs, but to ground myself into how people meditate and unravel their lives.

The volatile political situation in mainland China throughout this century may enter a new era this year with the ailing health of the elder statesman, Deng Xiaoping. State officials deny that his health is failing, but the Year of the Pig often precludes the death of a government leader. Trade between the United States and Beijing has also picked up since China proposed a new initiative with intellectual-property rights.

I was born in the Year of the Fire Horse, and will not come into my element until well into the next century. Next year marks the Year of the Rat. It's not supposed to be a very good year for horses. I'll enjoy this year while I can. Kung Hei Fat Choi!

Anne Moser-Kornfeld is a columnist for the *Emerald*.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3158, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor-in-Chief: Kaly Soto
Managing Editor: David Thorn
Editorial Editor: Robbie Reeves
News Art Editor: Jeff Piasley
Freelance Editor: Lori Bettineski
News Editor: Rebecca Merritt
Sports Editor: Chris Metz
Supplements Editor: Trista Noel
Night Editor: Rebecca Merritt

Associate Editors: Friederich von Carp, Student Government/Activities; Marcelene Edwards, Community; Tiffany Smith, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Steve Asbury, Amy Colombo, Pat Daly, Amy L. Devenport, Tasha Eichenseher, Primo Fontana, Gayle Forman, Christopher Fox, Matt Garton, Gary Grass, Joe Harwood, Kris Henry, Trevor Kearney, Shannon Kilduff, Adam Kincher, Suzanne Marta, Mark McTyre, Ben Moebius, Natalie Montgomery, Anne Moser-Kornfeld, Colleen Pohlig, Sherry Rainey, Kate Sabourin, Paul Van Sickle, Hideki Tomeoka, Kim Weiss, Brian Womack

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Mark Walter
Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising: Anne Amador, Anita Borgaes, Marco Ching, Tony Fox, Erin Hersher, Nicole Herzmark, Jeremy Mason, Sarah Mitchell, Tom Mittelstaedt, Kelsey Wekell
Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager, Kyle Davis, Joli Sellen

Distribution: John Long, Ferenc Rakoczy, Regina Zsopnik
Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor, Judy Connolly

Production: Dehlla McCobb, Production Coordinator, Shawna Abele, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Clayton Yee

Newsroom: 346-5511
Business Office: 346-5512

Display Advertising: 346-3712
Classified Advertising: 346-4343