

■ LETTERS

Who to believe?

The article by Primo A. J. Fontana in the *Emerald* of Feb. 8 prompts me to ask the following questions.

When it comes to historic preservation, I confess my ignorance. I know very little about this subject. Now let me get this straight. Interim President Frohnmayer (an attorney) and vice-president Dan Williams (a member of the Landlord's Association and a landlord of the largest landlord in Lane County, Sacred Heart Hospital) and Primo A. J. Fontana (a University student) all say that the Amazon Family Housing Project is not worthy of historic preservation. On the other hand, the Eugene Historic Board, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Historic Trust, people that I presume have extensive knowledge of this subject, say that it is.

I also know very little about construction and building rehabilitation. The "lawyer," the "landlord" and the University student say that Amazon can't be rehabilitated and maintained as low-income student housing in a manner that is safe and cost-effective. But (University Director of Housing) Mike Eyster wrote a letter last year that states that the first engineering report the University commissioned concluded that Amazon was safe; the more comprehensive engineering report (Endex) also concluded that it was both safe and economically sound to rehabilitate Amazon, as do other architectural studies and local developers.

In fact, the St. Vincent dePaul Society, a national leader in low-income housing development, believes it can move and rehabilitate some of the units as low-income housing and a private property management com-

pany believes that it can move and rehabilitate the buildings to rent at market rates.

So who am I to believe? Historic preservation experts, engineers, architects, experts in low-income housing development and a successful property management company or the "lawyer," the "landlord" and the University student.

Wayne Ford
Co-chair, Eugene-Springfield Homeless Action Coalition

Down-trodden

Brian Womack's knee-jerk, reactionary filth that appeared in his *Emerald* column Feb. 21 could be easily summed up in one simple phrase: Poor little Brian is afraid he won't get that great journalism job after graduating!

Down-trodden Brian Womack, another victim of racism and discrimination. How bitter, how wretched to be born a middle (upper?) class white male in these days of such great injustice and crime (affirmative action)! Alas, cheer up, Brian, the "feminazis," "black racists" and "homosexual special-rightists" won't prevail. Look around, it's still a white man's world (and Congress and Senate and University and...!)

Womack and other reactionaries like him (Rush, Newt and other oppressed millionaire white men) are twisting history right before our very eyes. In this new radical right "revolution," white is black and war is peace. According to Womack's world, the racists are the African-Americans, the sexists are the women and the poor oppressed victims: white men. This flagrant turning of oppression/privilege upside down, this subversion of civil rights

rhetoric by the white right is not only comical but dangerous. When reactionary, white whiners like Womack use the words of Dr. Martin Luther King to support their twisted logic and self-serving politics, it is a sad day for those who truly know what those words mean and under what context their sentiments ring with hope and honor.

Phil Zuckerman
Sociology

Ms.?

There is a recipe for ecological disaster, Prov. 30:21-23. "For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear: for a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat; for an odious woman when she is married; and a handmaid that is heir to her mistress."

The directions are simple. Take men whose heritage has prepared them to be followers and make them leaders through affirmative action. Then select those who are too foolish to make ends meet and keep them well-fed through food stamps. Instead of preparing a Miss to someday become a Mrs., let Billy boy marry a Ms. who was a Ms. when she was single and is still one married. And instead of regarding a woman's job as supplemental to help nourish her family, let her sacrifice her unborn heir to prevent interference to her career.

If we do not know how to conform our human society to the natural order of life, we are hardly in a position to preserve our planet and we court disaster despite our lofty goals of freedom, equality and universal prosperity.

Earl Gosnell
Eugene

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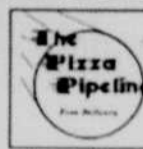
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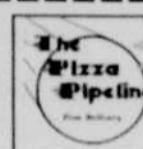
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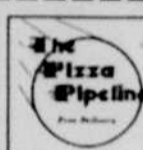
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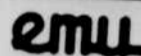
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