

■ LETTERS

Pretty petty

Cheers to Benno Lyon for his letter to the *Emerald* (ODE, May 4) in support of Joey Lyons. I too thought it was ridiculous for the *Emerald* to run a front-page article on the use of an ASUO computer to write a letter.

The *Emerald's* attempt to slander Joey Lyons was cruel, pointless and totally obvious. Will there be an in-depth investigation of and a front page article on Jason Grigsby's use of a Senate computer for his school-work?

With petty, unimportant occurrences like this getting so much attention, it makes me wonder if the newly-elected [candidates] will have time for the really important issues.

I'm so glad I'm graduating and won't be subject to this bullshit any more. Good luck to those of you who have to remain at this horribly run institution.

Jennifer Davis
English

Knows little

In yet another reply to Brian Womack's column (ODE, May 2), Mr. Womack does have some supporters. These people are honest, hardworking folks. They maintain family values and they vote regularly. These people are very much against the legalization of the marijuana plant.

It would greatly upset their livelihood if the plant were to be made legal to grow and use. No, I'm not talking about the pharmaceutical giants or the timber industry. This particular demographic group can be found all over the United States and comes in many colors and sizes.

Have you guessed who they are yet? Okay, okay, I'll tell you already — they are the ones who are growing the marijuana that gets sold to the public.

Just like their predecessors during Prohibition, this group of citizens is making a fortune due to the illegal nature of their product. There are no regulations, no taxes. Keeping the hemp plant illegal is just fine with them, a necessity in fact.

So when Brian Womack writes articles that are filled with deception and distortion, he is supporting the industry he knows obviously little about.

David Emrich
Eugene

Spewing cynicism

Conservative talk show hosts have been quick to deny responsibility for creating any climate of hatred and intolerance that may have contributed to the Oklahoma bombing. Their denials are surprisingly arrogant and brazen.

Instead of dissolving division and violence, they have, or so they argue in gleeful perversion of reason, been engaging in "social dialogue," "voicing just complaints" and "airing contrary views," all in accord with their First Amendment rights.

A better guess is that many of them, from Rush Limbaugh to G. Gordon Liddy, along with many lesser known regional and local radio "personalities" whose shows routinely spew forth a corrosive stream of cynicism and resentment, are doing it merely for the power, notoriety and money it brings them.

Having discovered a dark vein in the social fabric, they are cynically mining it for all it's worth. Shielded by legal and constitutional protections, they feel free to say any outrageous thing they want — never mind the disastrous social consequences.

Counseling restraint and good sense to these people is as futile as arguing philosophy with a cat. Instead, a "behavioral" approach, one that addresses the heart of the problem, would be more effective.

Concerned citizens should contact the commercial sponsors whose advertising dollars support these shows. Advise them that if they continue to sponsor "hate radio," their products and services will not be welcomed in the communities that must listen to it.

Only when stations begin losing lucrative advertising contracts will the smug, opportunistic purveyors of hatred and discord who work for them change their song.

Noam Thiel
Philosophy

Appalled

I'm absolutely appalled by the front page article by Ben Moebius titled "Students find creative ways to make money." (ODE, May 8). To be perfectly honest, I think your paper needs to grow up and take a serious look at what you consider to be thoughtful reporting.

The example used in the article of a female student from LCC who of strips in order to make extra money is glorified by your reporter, not only by the beginning lines, but also by the very suggestive photo that accompanies the article. I don't particularly care what "Kiya" does to increase her finances for school.

That is her decision, but the fact that your reporter singled out this one example and that the paper decided to accompany the article with this photo (there must have been some other shots of "Kiya," or perhaps of someone donating plasma) suggest that the woman's body is only there as a tool for gaining knowledge.

Dan Gilfillan
Germanic Languages
and Literatures



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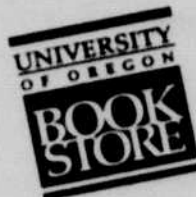
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■ LETTERS & COMMENTARY POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes letters and commentaries from the public concerning topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Commentaries should be between 600 and 800 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the commentary is submitted.

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

ODE CLASSIFIEDS... worth looking into!