

The 'burbs

In response to your editorial (*ODE*, Oct. 26), I would first like to say that I too find the efforts of the Amazon Coalition to have the Amazon area designated a historic site misguided and foolish.

The issue was not and is not Amazon itself, but the availability of low-cost housing for students, especially students with families.

To the extent that it shifts attention away from this issue, the Amazon Coalition is misguided. Your assertion, however, to the effect that Amazon housing was no longer viable housing is incorrect.

It may not be as pretty as mommy and daddy's house in the 'burbs you came from, but for many students of modest means, Amazon (and other housing areas such as Westmoreland) has meant the difference between getting an education and not getting one.

The destruction of Amazon and the erection of new buildings on the same site at a much higher rent (no longer low-cost, but closer to the already high Eugene market prices) is merely another phase of the University's attempt to transform an institution of higher learning that's available to all to one that's designated to house rich kids from out-of-state who think all they need is a diploma and not an education.

This is not an issue of providing housing that can be dumped in the laps of city and county governments. This is an education issue. It involves access to education and hence falls well within the scope of the University's responsibility to its students and the people of Oregon.

Joe Renaud
Germanic Dept.

Educated go first

The *Emerald* ran a letter (*ODE*, Oct. 18) that condemned the cold war as basically a greed-based struggle for capitalism to rule the world's resources. While the writer didn't clearly state support for communism, I do see a lot of pro-communist literature around campus and I'd like to respond.

I worked as a missionary for 16 months with Asian refugees in California. Though I was called specifically to the Laotians and learned only their language, I also spent time with Hmong, Cambodian, Vietnamese and Chinese people. Why were they refugees? Well, they were all escaping the communists.

Anyone who had held a government position (not necessarily a high one — I knew a former mayor), anyone educated (lots of doctors and teachers), religious people (especially Christians), anyone loyal to the former government, and even poor farmers-turned-soldiers had to leave. The alternative was death or being sent to re-education camps like "Seminar" where they were tortured. Anyone caught trying to escape was beheaded on the spot — even as the children (who were interred there with their parents) watched.

"From each according to their abilities; to each according to their needs" sounds beautiful, but communism has never been that. It's something that causes cruelty, death and inequality. In the end, it dies out as the particular country becomes more and more democratic and capitalistic.

In Laos they now have semi-free elections — the government chooses the candidates, but the people can vote for whomever they want. Also, the market is becoming more open

If an Asian culture, in which the collective is valued over the individual, can't make communism work, there's no way the U.S. could.

And I don't really understand why anyone getting a college education would support communism. The educated ones are the first to die.

Gina Harris
History, Romance Languages

No one perfect

While I agree with the need for United Nations reform, I feel that I must point out several of Primo Fontana's arguments (*ODE*, Oct. 25) that I believe are flawed.

As support for his view of the ineptitude of the United Nations, he mentions "The horror of watching a dead American soldier, part of the U.N. force, being dragged through the streets..." The operation to capture Adid was a U.S. operation and it was the armored vehicles from the Pakistani peace-keeping force that were key in extricating the surviving members of the Army Ranger teams and the 10th Mountain Division from that situation.

I would also like to remind Fontana of the several hundred Marines killed in Beirut in 1983 who were not wearing blue helmets.

The problems involved in the use of peace-keeping forces are

CORRECTION

In the Oct. 25 issue of *ODE*, the story on Jaroslav Pelikan falsely reported that his lecture was sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Pelikan is the president of the group. The speech was cosponsored by the Humanities Center and the Office of the President.

not limited to the United Nations — nor are its failures.

Keith S. Quebodeaux
Political Science

Opposite direction

"Uncle Tomism" means fawning on one's oppressor. After gay legislator Chuck Carpenter's recent stunt the gay community might coin a similar term — perhaps "Uncle Chuckism?" Carpenter endorsed U.S. Senate candidate Gordon Smith despite the Smith campaign's hobnobbing statewide with the extremist, anti-gay Oregon Citizens Alliance, even blithely accepting the OCA's endorsement. Smith claims he opposed the OCA's anti-gay Measures 9 and 13 yet he persists in mouthing OCA's "no special rights" discriminatory rhetoric — an insult to any minority that seeks basic equal rights.

Additionally, Smith tried foisting a parental notification bill on Oregonians who'd previously voted down this nonsense. Oregonians understood many pregnant teens would take matters into their own hands, with certain tragic results, rather than have a physician notify parents prior to providing a safe and legal abortion. Carpenter helped lead the effort to stop this dangerous legislation only to now endorse Smith — despite Smith's anti-choice legislating and anti-gay "no special rights"

rhetoric. Politics does indeed make strange bedfellows.

Unlike "Justice" Clarence Thomas who secured his lifetime post after brown-nosing "Massa," Carpenter will face voters who elected him *because* of his allegedly pro-choice, pro-gay positions. They won't forget his bizarre endorsement of Smith. Carpenter will find little comfort or security in now being the far right's poster boy and lap dog.

Norma Paulus has been clearly, unwaveringly pro-equal rights and pro-choice. Let's send some backbone and integrity to Congress.


Carol Berg
Eugene

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