

# Attend noon rally today, fight against hate

It is my hope that the University can develop a solid and prompt way of dealing with hate issues on campus.

In principle, I welcome President Frohnmayer's commentary (*ODE*, April 9) concerning the growing number of racist incidents on campus and around the country, but I would like to question several points in his response.

While he recognized the "joke" mailed to student leaders of color on April Fool's as hate-mail, he failed to mention the series of racist and anti-Semitic flyers distributed throughout campus during the middle of winter term and the strong student reaction that followed.

Calls made to him from various campus groups asking for a response fell on deaf ears. The University's Race Task Force and the Racial Issues Advisory Council, groups that Frohnmayer claims will gather to "discuss the recent incidents and find ways to best ensure a campus climate that will discourage their recurrence," have yet to take any meaningful action.

It is now eight weeks later, and Frohnmayer can only say that action will come "soon." Maybe those responsible saw the lack of action as a green light for further opportunities to disturb students.

Why did Frohnmayer fail to include this episode in his letter?

I contest Frohnmayer's remarks that the Office of Public Safety and University Housing are the two groups that will "take action to make certain that racial incidents are dealt with swiftly and surely." It is important to recognize the uneasy feelings of the student who first reported the racist flyers two months ago.

First, the OPS officer filing the report seemed to be culturally ignorant and insensitive to the student's concerns.

The student, badly shaken by the incident, reported to the officer that she believed the flyer had targeted her specifically. She had been away from her car for less than an hour, it was the only flyer left on any car in the vicinity and the only item inside on her dashboard was a kippah (the head covering Jews often wear).

A few days later, in the police blotter in the

## COMMENTARY

Kevin Aaron

*Emerald*, the report was published in full — right down to the details of the student's sex, the time and place the incident occurred and that the student thought the "skullcap" on the dashboard may have tipped off the pamphleteer.

This was a hate-crime, not a citation for a minor in possession of alcohol!

As it is frightening to report incidents like these (especially if you think you are target), she believed her report was given in confidence. What if the memory of a Neo-Nazi was sparked by this report?

A few days after this, the student received a call from a *Register-Guard* reporter who wanted to ask her some questions about the incident.

How did the reporter get her number? According to the OPS officer contacted immediately afterward, no information of that kind was released.

This seems unlikely. Somehow, the information came out. Could a Neo-Nazi have also called, under the guise of a reporter and received her name and phone number?

Frohnmayer boldly stated that "we do not tolerate racism at the University," but flimsy examples are all that follow in support.

I believe that the "first step onto a slippery ethical slope" has been taken. Since Frohnmayer's commentary, further incidents have occurred. Positive steps are required immediately.

Along with the need for courageous and constructive steps taken by the administration, students need to demonstrate their support for those individuals and communities targeted by the authors of hate.

I encourage everyone to attend a rally organized by Students Against Hate and Discrimination today at noon in front of Johnson Hall. Together, we can establish a "safe and accepting place for all of our students, faculty and staff."

Kevin Aaron is a co-coordinator at the Survival Center and an undergraduate at the University.

## LETTERS

### Dirty dancing

I have to admit, I must have looked pretty funny. There I was, standing next to my locker in Esslinger, half-dressed, dancing around a cockroach the size of a rat, hollering, "Oh my God!"

This cockroach could have carried off a small child! It had just dashed out from under my locker as I rattled around.

After disposing of the beast before it could steal my backpack, I thought back to the ignored comment sheet I submitted to the Esslinger powers that be in early February about

the unclean conditions in the locker rooms.

My request was simple: Mop the locker room floors and shower stalls on a regular basis with disinfectant. I made this request after noticing an increasing amount of removable grime on the floors and in the showers.

If Esslinger was a private health club, it would have been shut down because of its filthy locker rooms!

I realize Esslinger isn't a private club and I don't expect it to come close to a private club's standards. What I do expect is the minimal satisfactory sanitary

conditions to be met. I can point to slime on the locker room floors that has been there since January. There is no excuse for this!

As you may know, Esslinger recently applied a pesticide to route out the roaches, yet the locker room floors are still filthy.

Rather than giving money to a chemical company to poison roaches and poison the rest of us who use Esslinger's facilities, how about cleaning the place once in awhile instead?

Jane Steckbeck  
Law School Career Counselor

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# It's The Hultimate!

## Feld Ballets/NY

Saturday, April 27, 8 p.m.

See the first Eugene engagement of the hottest contemporary ballet company on earth. Feld consistently turns ballet on its head with "white-hot originality" and exhilarating motion. A must see—the company described as "perfection itself."



## Spalding Gray

"It's a Slippery Slope"  
Friday, April 19

"Gray On Gray"  
Saturday, April 20  
Soreng Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Two shows, two nights. Exploring virtual reality with Timothy Leary. Meeting the Dalai Lama. Learning to ski at 53. Spalding spins these and other tales into a web of satire and self-discovery. Listen up!

Saturday Sign-interpreted



## Naa Kahidi Theater

Friday & Saturday, May 3 & 4  
Soreng Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Alaska's Naa Kahidi Theater takes the audience into the world of magic, spirits, and oneness with nature. Join Raven, Bear and Moon in an evening of Tlingit storytelling, masks and tradition.

Sign-interpreted



## GET INVOLVED! Hult Center Community Involvement Programs

### FELD BALLETS/NY

Get to know this New York company at an informal pre-performance talk with a company member. Saturday, April 27, 7 p.m., Studio One. Seating is limited.

### NAA KAHIDI THEATER

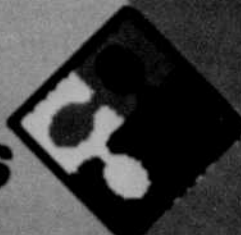
For a more in-depth understanding of Tlingit traditional arts, family histories and ancient legends, you won't want to miss Naa Kahidi's Free Cultural Workshop. Saturday, May 4, 12-15 p.m., Hult Lobby.

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