

Lawless need handcuffs, not handouts

Eugene's Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) recently made 29 felony and 78 misdemeanor arrests, wrote 50 traffic citations, issued warnings, and generally swept the riff-raff from the streets and sidewalks of the West University area.

Complaints from local businesses and students prompted the sweep, and though it didn't quite sterilize the area, the improvement is both noticeable and appreciated. I'm sick of trying to negotiate my way through the herds of raggedy dreads and neo-hippies with their puppies on strings and their obnoxious demands for spare change. None of my change is spare, and even if it were, I'm not about to hand it over to someone who doesn't have the sense to brush their hair and take a bath.

I'm tired of being forced to step over or around scuzzy people sprawled on sidewalks. I can't count the number of times I've wanted to go down to Coffee People for a double mocha breve only to decide it's not worth the hassle. Fighting my way past pushy panhandlers and smelly beggars is not my idea of a good time.

I'm disgusted by having to detour around their snarly humping dogs and pot smoke. I can find other sources of coffee where I don't have to risk stepping in dogshit or being followed down the street by some guy who is pissed because I refused his demand for a handout.

I did hand over money on an icy morning in February. I gave a dollar to the old guy in the baggy plaid clothes who frequents the intersection at 13th and Kincaid. He was shivering in the wind, and I felt sorry for him.

When I gave him the dollar he asked for another, but that's not what forged my determination not to do it again. I saw him that night at the Safeway on 18th, buying a six-pack of tall cans of Olympia. I still feel sorry for him, but not in the

same way.

Local merchants are right to think street folks cut down their business. At least three times a week I decide against purchases in the area, choosing to take my business elsewhere so as to avoid dirtbags who get in my face.

Call me unsympathetic, cold-hearted, biased or politically incorrect if you want to. Be intolerant of me by branding me intolerant and feel good about your enlightenment.

Eugene police Sgt. Rick Siel says University students have traditionally been more tolerant of vagrants. He's surprised at the number of complaints from students — he shouldn't be. Students as a group have changed. So has the street scuzz.

University students have been rocks in the shoes of conservative politicians for eons. President Johnson said during the Vietnam War that it wasn't necessary to pay any attention to what the "little shits on campus" were saying. He later had occasion to eat those words.

But most students in the '60s were much more laid back and mellow than they are today. Many of the students, street people, hippies and flower children shared a common attitude: "Hey, man, that's cool; I can dig it. Peace and love."

Sharing was good, and sharing was optional. Sharing your "spare change" was not mandatory, expected or demanded. Helping others wasn't politically correct; it was just cool. Now it's a guilt trip, something the sidewalk chaff think they're entitled to.

When I was a kid there was no such thing as homeless people. Bums panhandled, tramps came through town looking to get a hot meal or a few bucks in exchange for doing some chores, and hobos jumped the freights and lived under bridges. The rest of the community felt sorry for them. Many were willing to help them out. But no one felt obligated to donate money for nothing. No

COMMENTARY

Kelly Andersson

one felt special for respecting a tramp's diversity or for demonstrating his or her tolerance toward a bum. Bad-tempered beggars who sprawled on the sidewalk, blocked access to a place of business and rudely demanded money would have been promptly arrested and/or run out of town.

Law-abiding people who are down on their luck deserve our help. Coastal residents who suffered tremendous loss from the February floods need our sympathy and our money. Families trapped in poverty, who struggle at minimum-wage jobs with no health care, deserve our assistance and our advocacy. Abused and neglected children desperately need the caring and intervention of others.

Oklahoma residents who suffered the grief and tragic loss of last year's bombing surely merit the assistance being offered by the citizens of Denver. Lonely elderly people who waste away in nursing homes without loving family members to comfort them truly need our kindness and good will.

But the 13th Avenue hairballs are none of the above. How dare these people slouch around in our midst, holding out their hands and demanding we donate to their chosen lifestyle? How dare they pretend to deserve the compassion and assistance merited by people who truly are needy? Those deserving of our compassion do not amass more than 150 arrests and citations over the course of a few days — law-breakers do. My tolerance and respect for diversity does not extend to lazy lawlessness; my purchases don't happen at places where I have to fight my way in; and my donations are confined to those who merit compassion.

Kelly Andersson, a senior majoring in journalism, is a columnist for the Emerald.

supports eliminating corrupt money in politics through campaign reform and raising the minimum wage. He wants equal rights for all.

Talk with Harry. He's very accessible. Vote Lonsdale, a strong candidate with the courage to express his convictions.

Nena Lovinger
Career Information System
College of Education

Vote Lewis

Many voters share Congressman Peter DeFazio's objections to the undue influence of special interests/big bucks in politics. It's gratifying to know that Republican voters, at least, can now choose a candidate who refuses to play the big money game. Jeff Lewis is distributing posters headlined "WANTED! \$25 from 100,000 Oregonians!" to help him defeat Gordon Smith and Lon Mabon in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate.

Jeff is backed by volunteers

working full time in appreciation of his views supporting equal rights for all, separation of church and state, no governmental intrusion in abortion access and sound fiscal policies. Jeff Lewis is a welcome choice for many mainstream Republicans dismayed about the hurt done to our communities and our party by religious political extremists intent on forcing their agenda on everyone. The differences, if any, between Gordon Smith and Lon Mabon are miniscule. Their messages of intolerance and intrusion into the private lives and choices of citizens are the same.

Religion performs a legitimate role in society — but it's not meant to be a controlling role. Our country was founded as much on freedom from religion as it was on freedom of religion. Jeff Lewis supports both.

A vote for Jeff Lewis on May 21 is a great first step to help stop extremist agendas at the pass. Let's do it.

Carol Berg
Eugene

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MAY CONCERTS

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For more information on School of Music events, call 346-5678, or call the Music Hotline at 346-3764 for a taped message.

- Wed. BONES & BRASS plus Youth Symphony Brass**
5/1 UO Brass Ensembles & Guests 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- May SPRING STUDENT DANCE CONCERT**
2-4 UO Dance Majors 8 p.m., Dougherty Dance Theatre
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens
- Sun. CONTINUUM**
5/5 Vanguard Series; music of the Holocaust. 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens
- Wed. LAWRENCE MAVES, Violin**
5/8 BARBARA GONZALEZ-PALMER, Piano
Faculty Artist Series 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens
- Fri. THE JAZZ CAFE**
5/10 UO Jazz Combos 8 p.m., Room 186 Music
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- Sat. TLEN-HUICANI: The Singers of Veracruz**
5/11 World Music Series 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$10, \$8 students & seniors; call 346-4363 (EMU) or 687-5000.
- Sun. FLUTE CONCERTOS**
5/12 UO Flute Students 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- Mon. NORMAN CAROL: String Workshop**
5/13 Master Class & Workshop by former concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. FREE Admission. 1 p.m., Beall Hall
- Thu. UNIVERSITY GOSPEL ENSEMBLE**
5/16 UO Ensemble 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- Fri. SPRING JAZZ CONCERT: Parents' Weekend**
5/17 UO Jazz Ensembles 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- Sun. CHAMBER MUSIC AT TEA TIME**
5/19 UO Chamber Ensembles 3 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- Sun. MUSIC OF INDIA: Pandit Mulhar Kulkarni, flute**
5/19 Guest Artist Recital 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens
- Mon. BAROQUE SONGS & ARIAS FROM EUROPE**
5/20 Faculty Artist Series 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens
- Tue. PACIFIC RIM GAYELAN**
5/21 UO Ensembles 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- Wed. OREGON WIND ENSEMBLE**
5/22 UO Ensemble 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens
- Thu. UO SYMPHONIC BAND & CAMPUS BAND**
5/23 UO Ensembles 8 p.m., Beall Hall
\$4 General Admission, \$2 students & senior citizens

LETTERS

Vote Lonsdale

As you prepare to vote in the upcoming U.S. senatorial election, remember that Jerry Rust is not the environmentalist he wants the voting public to think he is. He promoted the development of the Riverfront Research Park that encroaches on the Willamette Greenway as it passes through Eugene. Rust also hatched the idea to develop a golf course on the banks of the river in Eugene's Alton Baker Park. With their dependence on herbicides, golf courses are not environmentally friendly. Their sitting on the banks of a river is not a mark of environmental sensitivity.

Harry Lonsdale is the strongest environmentalist running for Senate. Harry is committed to protecting the environment by ending the cutting of old growth trees on public lands and restoring salmon runs. He has traveled a number of times to Washington D.C. at his own expense to advocate sustainable forest practices in the Pacific Northwest. Harry

going overseas? catch the oregon daily emerald
on the world wide web: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ode>