

## Repositioning

My party's symbol is the elephant. Folklore tells us the 'elephant never forgets.'

Yet Republican U.S. Senate candidate Gordon Smith is now operating under the notion that Oregonians will forget his past support of discrimination in housing toward gays and lesbians.

On May 20, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down discrimination against gays in housing.

Gordon Smith's pious response? "I've always been uncomfortable with government imposing morality." Quite a reversal from his words last December.

Smith also hopes voters will forget his efforts to "impose morality" in May 1995 when he led the effort to criminalize physicians who did not first notify parents before providing safe abortions for Oregon teenage girls.

Fortunately, Smith failed in using government to enforce his morality on other Oregonians.

Do not be conned by Smith's calculated repositioning. We fought too long and too hard in support of equal rights for all citizens to now be deceived by the new packaged Gordon Smith.

Recognize the difference between sincerity and mere political calculations. Gordon Smith is the same man who accepted the OCA endorsement in his first run for U.S. Senate.

The best packaging and whitewashing money can buy will never erase the harm Gordon Smith has already inflicted on gays, the environment and protecting a woman's right to choose.

Carol Berg  
Eugene

## Protect yourself

Keith Cunningham's article (ODE, May 16) makes a good point about the stereotype of rape being out of a horror film, but the start of the article was very distasteful and insulting to the victim of last week's assault.

It is true that date rape occurs

more often than people realize, and it isn't the only type of assault that harms women at the University.

There have been many cases of women getting sexually harassed and having their breasts touched. Cunningham's comment on how women are taught safety measures such as joining self-defense classes, carrying a whistle and learning to use pepper spray should be taken very seriously.

There are many men on campus that, given a dimly lit corridor, would love to sexually harass or assault women.

Learning self defense allows a woman to defend herself from strangers and acquaintances, and carry a lot more confidence.

Most people are too embarrassed to scream or freeze from being in shock as to what just happened. This can be a very emotional experience that can happen to any woman at any place and time.

No matter what the situation — stranger or acquaintance — if a woman knows how to scream, kick and punch, her chances of getting out of that situation are greater than if the woman had not been taught what to do.

Laura Simpson Geffner  
Psychology

## Springtime

I was both amazed and amused as I read Robert L. Wasson III's letter (ODE, May 14).

Granted, I cannot climb inside Keith Cunningham's mind to know exactly what his intentions were in writing the spring column in question.

I can, however, assert that my reading leads me to the conclusion that Wasson completely missed the point.

True, Cunningham's column is a bit odd, but even the Emerald editorial editor claimed there was a degree of sarcasm included. I hope most were able to see such a twist.

However, read plainly in the text of the column, was a plea for people to relax and enjoy spring.

Take Cunningham's advice, put on some shorts and stop

worrying that your legs might be visible by satellite. Feel free to stop and smell the roses. Grab a fly rod and try to fool a beautiful rainbow on McKenzie. Play catch. Roll on the grass. Play some basketball. Ask those working at Coffee People just what "back talk" really is. Have some fun.

We need watchdogs, I grant you. They provide a valuable service sometimes.

However, when it comes to spring and some sarcasm ... I beg you, sniff a tulip and smile.

Paul Klausenburger

## Easy as 1,2,3?

Is it the Emerald or the EMU that cannot count? How is it possible for the "First Annual Oregon Grind" to take place when there have been at least two Oregon Grinds before it?

I have the Second Annual Oregon Grind poster in front of me, and I am sure I attended that Oregon Grind concert two years ago.

The first sentence of Regina Brown's Folk Festival article did not make sense (ODE, May 22). It said, "The First Annual Oregon Grind will not take place on the EMU lawn as it has for the past three years," and I am perplexed as to how Brown derived those numbers.

There have only been two Oregon Grinds and there was no grind concert last year.

If the concert had taken place in the past three years, this year's concert cannot be the "First Annual Oregon Grind." Brown, the Emerald's higher education editor, and the EMU Cultural Forum staff need to begin counting with their fingers.

If they are unable to do that, they may give higher education a bad name.

Autumn De Poe  
Oregon Commentator

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The official name of the event is the "First Annual Oregon Grind." We are quite confident in the EMU's and the Emerald's ability to count.

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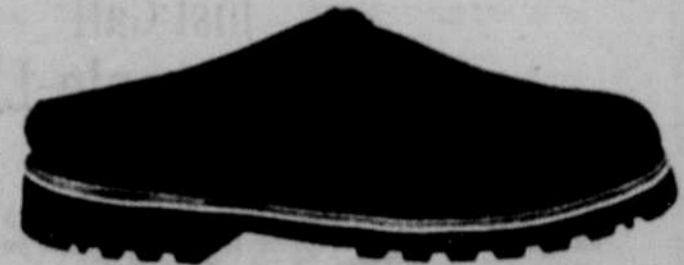
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