

Ban discriminatory

I would like to make sure everybody knows what is happening to our lovable Eugene! I hope people are aware and disgusted by the new dog and skateboard ban on 13th Avenue, because this has really gone too far.

I am a resident of 13th Avenue and yesterday I was issued a \$40 citation for having my dog off her leash when I went to get my mail. Now, my mailbox is all of 90 feet from my front door. I will not claim that my dog was on a leash because she was not. However, I passionately believe I should not have to leash my dog when getting my mail. I feel it is a simple and basic right of any resident. I would also like to point out the improbability of a resident of the South Hills getting such a ticket. For some reason, it seems people who live in wealthy neighborhoods have greater residential rights. This is completely outrageous and unacceptable.

I would also like to point out the increasing number of police on the streets and the increasing number of tickets being issued in the last week. What is the cause of all this? I mean, is the city of Eugene trying to raise some extra funds? If my experience with the police yesterday is any indication of the important matters these extra police are needed to handle, then I would rather not be paying their salaries with my taxes!

We are losing the uniqueness and diversity that has drawn so many people to Eugene. Our community leaders have passed a blatantly discriminating law while a vast majority of the affected people were away. This law was passed despite a loud outcry against its proposal at the City Council meeting on Aug. 5.

The new law, combined with the increased police patrols, has made Eugene feel like a police state. Is this the Eugene we want? Is this the Eugene you want? Or is this the Eugene a select few want? Think about it. Let's act together as a community. Get involved and let your voice be heard.

Indigo Teiwes
Business Administration

Clean up coming

Thank you, ODE, for your comments regarding 13th Avenue and the deterioration of the West University area. It has been my honor

to represent the students of this University in the city's endeavor to develop strategies to improve the West University area.

The intention of the city working group that I belong to is to improve the quality of life for students, faculty and staff in an area where most of us spend time due to its immediate proximity to campus. The skateboard and dog policy is only one facet of the overall campaign to improve our safety.

Another activity we are pursuing is a community involvement day to be held in less than two weeks. The day will bring together University students and a wide range of community members so that we can all work together in cleaning up the West University area. We will meet at the Koinonia Center on the corner of 14th Avenue and Kincaid Street on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 11 a.m. Together we will make a notable difference in the way the area looks and feels. I encourage everyone who wants to be part of a solution for this area to participate.

In the mean time, the working group that I am a part of is continuing to meet in order to develop longer term solutions to our overall goal of improving the quality of life in the campus area.

Bill Washburn
Political Science

Sweeps a waste

Well, I read the story on the "drug sweeps" made on 13th Avenue last week (*ODE*, Sept. 30) and ain't it just typical. The donut-munchers of the Puritan patrol have cracked down on "drug dealers" in the West University district, making it safe for the sheltered children of the middle classes to get a pack of cigarettes without tripping over someone who not only sells drugs, but in what may be a bigger social sin, may not have had a shower recently. What a waste of time.

From the article, I gather these young businessfolk must have been selling marijuana excessively, as no other drug but grass was mentioned in the article. It was mentioned that people "from out of state ... think they can come here and be mellow and panhandle and sell drugs all day long." So we demonize these people by calling them outsiders and crack

down on mellowness. Yes, by all means, keep 13th Avenue safe for mean local drunks.

Do I get approached by people on 13th Avenue to buy "buds"? Certainly. Have I ever been "harassed" by these young entrepreneurs about it? Never. They quietly nod and tell me to "take it easy" if I choose on that particular day not to buy an eighth. They are in fact friendlier than many of the merchants in the area I have had the misfortune of dealing with.

And now we get a pious editorial from the *Emerald* praising the police crackdown; not only that, but calling for even more restrictions in personal freedom in the 13th Avenue area (*ODE*, Oct. 4). Not only do they want to do away with drugs, they want to do away with "relaxation" as well (close Guido's?). This may come as some surprise to many of you at the *Emerald* and other moralistic pharisees at the University, but the reason there are so many people selling pot near the University is that a lot of University students like pot and know how to enjoy it sensibly. Illegal or not, it is a positive waste of resources to go around busting people for selling something far less dangerous than either tobacco or alcohol.

Finally, I notice there was no condemnation in the *Emerald* concerning the arrest of people who were simply photographing the arrests of the street people. To simply fall into lock-step with the tactics of the local police, no matter how much you approve of their goals, is to abdicate your responsibility as a vital news source for the University community.

And, as a little hint to your proof-reader, Calvary is the hill Jesus was crucified on. Cavalry is the word I think you wanted to use to make the analogy between our local police and the soldiers who used to round up innocent people who differed from European Americans in the 19th Century.

Joe Renaud
Germanic Languages

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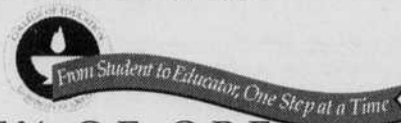
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