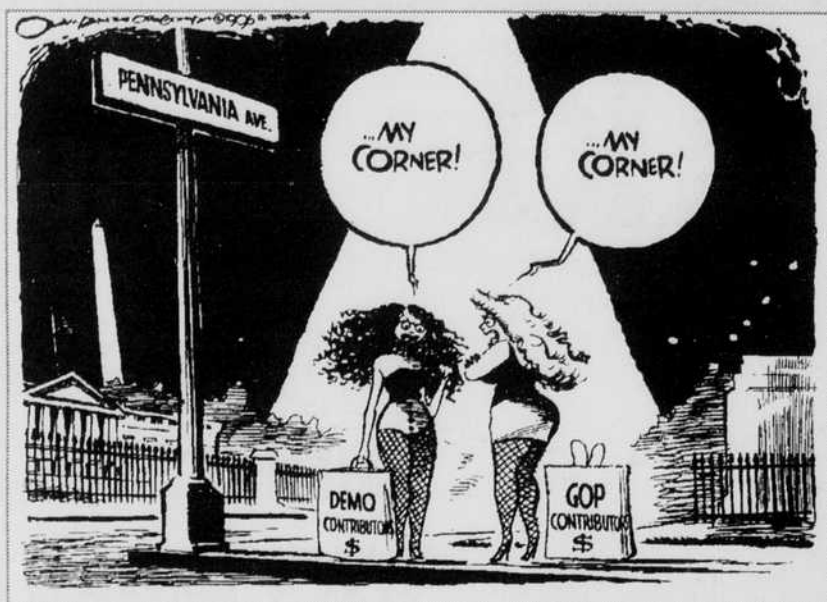


Should Catholic priests be allowed to marry? Let us know.

OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

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LETTERS

Co-ops have rich history

The Students' Co-operative Association (SCA) has suffered through its share of hard times and pitfalls. In its 60th year of existence, however, co-operative living is still a viable alternative for students at the University and Lane Community College.

The SCA began in 1936 with a co-op located on 13th Avenue and Kincaid St. The house was named Campbell House — not in honor of former University President Prince Lucien Campbell but for another man, Wallace Campbell. Campbell obtained his Masters of Science degree from the University in 1934 after completing his thesis entitled "Depression Co-operatives." After reading this thesis, the founders of Campbell House were inspired to create the co-op.

By 1938, the Campbell House expanded to a second house further down 13th Avenue because of high demand. Eventually, this house was named Kirkwood Co-operative. The SCA was officially formed when a third men's co-operative, Canard Club, opened in the early 1940s.

Since then, the Kirkwood and Canard co-ops have closed. In 1981, however, the SCA bought a house on 1790 Alder St., and it soon became known as Janet Smith Co-

operative. The house was named after the late Janet Smith, promoter of Co-ed Student Housing, Inc., the women's organization that began shortly after the men's co-ops.

In 1989, Co-ed Student Housing went bankrupt and sold its only house, Parr Tower. Since the house was located next to the relocated Campbell House (now Campbell Club), the SCA bought Parr Tower, and a year later, it reopened the house under a new name, The Lorax Manner.

This year, there is a new pride and responsibility in the SCA co-ops. Presently, there is only one vacancy between the Lorax and Campbell, and the winter term turnover rate is 63 percent lower than this year's summer term rate. This decrease in turnover may contribute to more continuity, community and ownership pride in the SCA.

Furthermore, many of the people who decided to leave after fall term said they would miss co-op life quite a bit. And their spots filled up quickly. SCA Recruitment Coordinator Micki Josi expects the last vacancy to fill up just as fast.

Student co-ops have flourished at other campuses as well. For example, many houses near University of California at

Berkeley and University of Michigan at Ann Arbor have existed as long as the SCA. Berkeley Co-ops own 15 properties and have about 1200 members. Ann Arbor Co-ops own 21 properties and have a membership of about 600. Strong co-op movements also exist in Madison, Wisconsin; Austin, Texas, and Los Angeles, California.

The student co-op movement is still alive, growing and moving toward stronger connections among other co-ops and the community at large. A recent party at Campbell Club generated 60 cans of food for Food for Lane County. The SCA hopes to continue these services to the University and Eugene community for another 60 years.

Ben Cutler
Biology

LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.