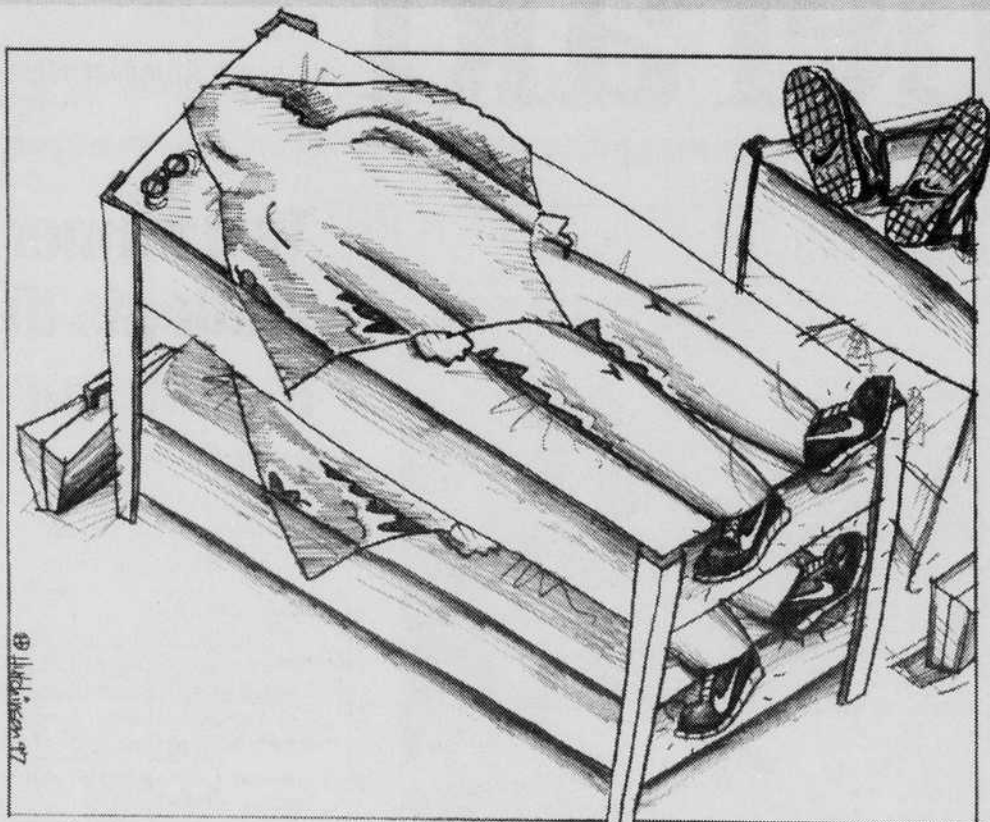
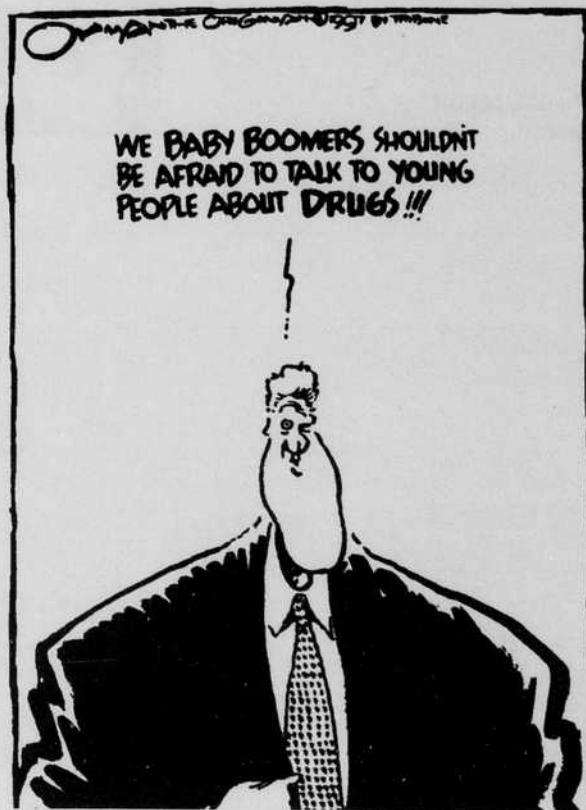


The Drawing Board



HEAVEN'S GATE CULT: THE OREGON CONNECTION?



LETTERS

Matters of the heart

I am writing to commend Mike Braden on his critique of the *Emerald* for putting Bill Sizemore on your "Winners" section in the Feb. 24 *Emerald*. In response to his letter, you said the "Winners" section is "based on events in their own lives," and that "Size-more is 'winning' at life."

I have two major problems with this. First, you should make it clear this is the criteria when you print these "Winner/Loser" sections. Otherwise, it does appear you are endorsing the "winners."

Second, under this criteria, the man who recently shot people on the deck of the Empire State Building could be called a "Winner," for he certainly succeeded in his goal of terrorizing people. And hey, Adolf Hitler certainly was a winner for a while there, as he succeeded in his goal of exterminating

millions of people.

Now, I'm not trying to imply that Bill Sizemore is anything close to a Hitler. But he has helped to create an extreme climate of uncertainty for the children and parents of Oregon. I suggest that if you choose to paint him as "winning" in life, you should show a corresponding photo of a school-child, who is "losing."

In fact, Eugene will be closing seven elementary schools and one middle school in direct response to Sizemore's Measure 47. South Eugene High School students will have to pay for any art or music classes and already have to pay for sports. It's reassuring to know that only kids from wealthy families will have access to the arts and sports. Call him what you want, but in my book, he will always be the Grand Puba of Losers.

Benno Lyon
 Environmental Studies

Political hypocrisy

"We will not ask the Palestinians to shut four Palestine Authority offices in Jerusalem; we will shut them ourselves," said Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boastfully while Yasir Arafat's coffee was still warm at his recent White House visit. And the Palestinian leader's airplane was still in U.S. airspace when the same people who served him coffee at the White House vetoed an United Nations resolution condemning the recent Israeli encroachment into Arab land, further Judaizing the real estate in Palestine.

This form of political hypocrisy has been synonymous with Washington's treatment of indigenous people. How can one forget the continued abominable treatment of Native Americans in the United States or the shameful history and practice of slavery with its continued ramifications. Therefore,

American policy-makers and their support groups in the media and academia in identifying with racist policies, glamorize and legitimize the Jewish state.

While Israel's interests are popularized in Eugene, other Middle Eastern polities and cultures are ignored. While a Judaic Studies department is planned at the University, the study of Islam is neglected. Last year's elaborate symposium on European atrocities against Jews is not matched by an equally elaborate symposium on American and Israeli imperialism against the indigenous peoples of the Middle East.

Pathetic leaders like Arafat and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak come and go. But the people of the Middle East and their courageous struggle continues even if it is eschewed in Eugene and the West.

No peace is viable with injustice built in.
M. Reza Behnam, Ph. D.
 Eugene