

# Chasing justice

Two local apartment complexes care more about money than fair and complete service to tenants

**M**y friend's cat is missing. It really shouldn't be a big deal. Cats disappear all of the time. But my friend lives at Chase Village, an apartment complex by Autzen Stadium. Why should this make a difference? Funny you should ask.

At both Chase Village and Duck's Village, a number of residents revealed to me some of the bizarre and unfair circumstances involved in their living environments.

The rumor I heard before I pursued



**Nicole Kristal**

this story was that Chase Village was capturing cats in "cat traps" and taking them to the Greenhill Humane Society to be exterminated. Fortunately, this is not altogether true.

Chase Village has a policy that all residents' cats be indoor cats. The management requires that the residents who have cats report them so they can be charged the pet clean-up fee. Despite this policy, a number of residents have unregistered, tagless cats — my friend being one of these people. Because she was too afraid of management punishing her for having an illegal cat, she never went to management to find what had happened to her cat.

When I spoke with management, I discovered that live cat traps have been a reality at Chase Village for the last two weeks. So far, three tagless cats have been captured. The first cat was taken to the Greenhill Humane Society. Chase Village manager Stan Efferding took a picture of the cat, documented it with a number and

left it there. Because the Humane Society receives so many stray cats in the spring and summer (about 60 per day), the 12-year veteran employee handling the cat failed to notice that the cat was declawed. Therefore, she exterminated the pet the same day it was brought in. When this employee discovered her error, she left work crying.

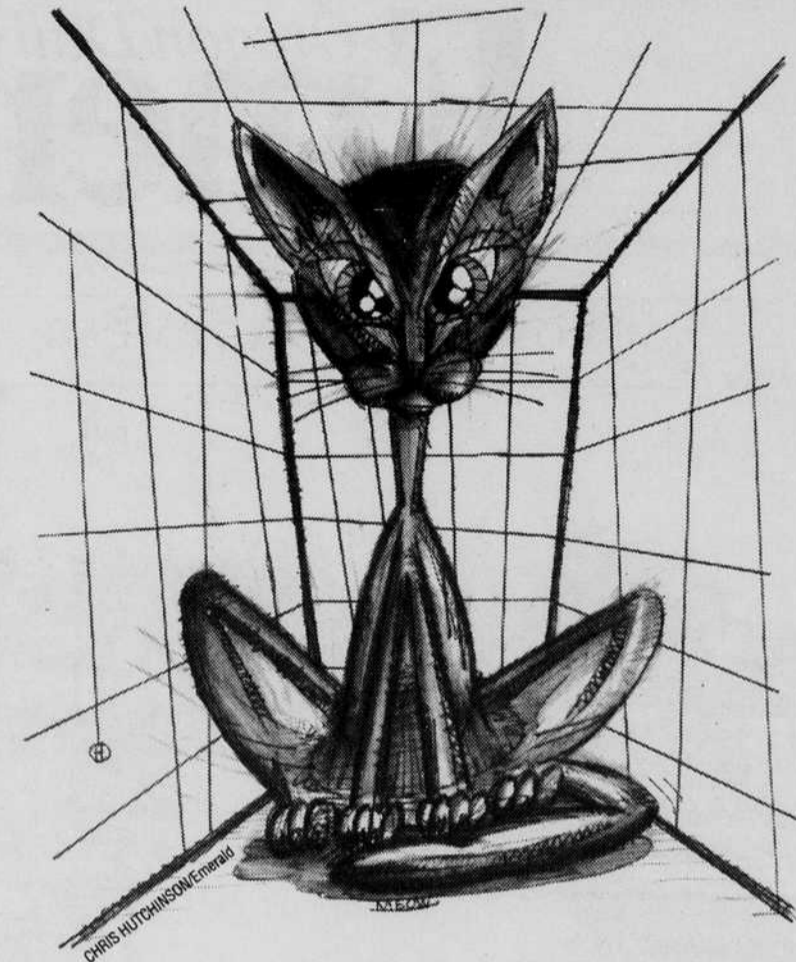
The owner of the cat went to the Humane Society two days later and asked whether the people there had seen her cat. They told her they had not.

After this incident, the two other captured cats were taken to Lane County Animal Regulatory.

Efferding said he set the traps because he received letters and calls from many residents that birds and squirrels were being killed. Cat refuse was found in sandboxes, and cat fights were preventing tenants from sleeping. He said in the past, residents who don't comply with the indoor cat rule have moved out, leaving their unspayed cats behind. Efferding, a cat owner himself, greatly regrets the error and called the Greenhill Humane Society to find out why the resident's cat was killed. He also has stopped setting traps during the day. Now, the traps are only set out from 1 to 4 a.m.

The point isn't that the Humane Society made a mistake. The point is that an apartment complex's management should not be capturing their residents' pets and transporting them across Eugene.

How can it be sure that the cat belongs to one of its rule-breaking residents? One of the cats captured belonged to a Duck's Village resident. The other cat belonged to my friend. The two surviving cats have been re-



tried.

Two weekends ago, three non-residents attending a party went for an after-hours swim. They were confronted by a Chase Village security guard and a police officer. One, carrying an open container, was arrested for trespassing. Maybe I'm overreacting, but that seems to be a rather harsh punishment for swimming after hours. Maybe I'm overreacting by being upset when pets are accidentally killed.

Although strict rules exist to provide a safe, quiet environment for tenants, sometimes management goes a bit overboard.

On the other side of Kinsrow Avenue, Duck's Village advertises 24-hour security as one of the advantages of being a tenant. However, a few residents informed me that their tires were slashed on their bicycles and that one of their bicycles was stolen. Their main front door lock has broken at least five times, and a knife fight was heard beneath one of their bedroom windows.

Because Duck's Village was built

so rapidly, many units are also falling apart. One-year-old balconies are already rusting. Windows, which were not caulked until this month, leaked water throughout the year.

Huge homogeneous apartment complexes do not exist to provide an aesthetically and environmentally pleasing living environment. Rent at Chase Village runs at the high cost of about \$355 a month, while Duck's Village is now raising its rent from up to \$325 for a four bedroom apartment to \$340 per month: A high price to live in "really expensive dorms."

It should be no surprise when these institutions insensitively solve noisy late-night cat fights with cat traps or fail to live up to the standard of quality security that they've promised. These actions are taken for one reason: to ensure a consistent profit.

*Nicole Kristal's column appears every other Tuesday in the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper. E-mail: nkristal@gladstone.uoregon.edu*

## LETTERS

### Life as usual

Erik Talbert's take on life as usual made me quite angry, even though he eats organic Gardenburgers (*ODE*, May 13). Somehow he missed the point that life has changed, and there are some things we just don't eat any more on principle, not because they sell and make money.

I expected others to have learned some new information as it became available to inspire us into different actions. President Frohnmayer has not learned it either and is in trouble now for several transgressions.

Yes, Gardenburgers are good. So are shrimps and scallops (the dragnets ruin reefs and sea bottom forever); so is steak (fed with grain humans could eat); so is

Jarlsberg cheese (Norway is whaling again); so are Nike shoes, Toys-R-U's and grapes. But if you have a social conscience and believe in justice or the well-being of our environment and can accept that the state of our planet is precarious, you might use your brain and reconsider.

Gardenburgers are boycotted because they are distributed by a company (NORPAC) that cares little about its workers. The product is good but needs to be with a wholesaler with conscience. In the meantime, could not Talbert and others eat another veggie burger and Frohnmayer could teach the students to stand up for workers' justice instead of only thinking money? Boycotts work!

**Hilde Cherry Eugene**

### Naked courage

I've let a lot of important issues go by due to my busy schedule but, this time, I just had to speak up. I think it's sad when a 16-year-old has to serve as the spokeswoman for equal treatment of women's bodies, and I commend her for her courage (*ODE*, May 15).

As an adult, I want to say that I agree with Jesikah Allen; there is nothing obscene about women's breasts. If society didn't hold women to a different standard than it did men, bare-breasted women wouldn't be a problem for businesses nor a concern of parents with small children.

If female toplessness became commonplace, women's breasts would cease to be ob-

jects of mystique and sexual allure for the male's gaze and lust, thus creating a healthier social climate for both women and children.

Such changes in social norms cannot occur, however, if people "agree in principle" but take no action. The silence on this issue is disturbing.

That is why I urge everyone who believes the female body should be respected as wholesome and presentable to call the city council and protest the formation of any ordinance which would classify the exposure of female breasts differently from that of men.

**Chen Zheng Ar-Rashid Psychology**

## WINNERS

**Larry King**  
CNN talk show host Larry King will marry 37-year-old Marry Shawn Sothwick in December — the couple will have 10 marriages between them.

**Tiger Woods**  
The golf super sensation picked up right where he left off at the Masters this weekend, earning his second straight victory on the PGA Tour.

**Laurent Kabila**  
The rebel leader's troops took control of the Zaire capital, marking the end of former President Mobutu's reign.

**Christopher Reeve**  
The actor who gained fame by playing Superman has recovered some feeling in his spine after injuring himself in a horse-riding accident two years ago.

## LOSERS

**Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr claims he may have enough evidence to indict the first lady.

**The Duck's Golf Team**  
After an impressive showing in the Pac-10 championship, the Ducks' were eliminated from the NCAA West Regional Golf Championships this weekend.

**Mattel Employees**  
400 employees for Mattel Inc. toy company are out of work after Mattel bought Tyco Toys Inc.

**Theodore Kaczynski**  
Attorney General Janet Reno said she believes the death penalty should be requested in prosecuting the suspected Unabomber.

## Correction

In the May 19 *Emerald*, the opinion on political neutrality implied that the labor practices of Wholesome and Hearty Foods, the producer of Gardenburger, were questionable. Actually, the debate revolves around the labor practices of NORPAC, which Wholesome and Hearty Foods does business with. The *Emerald* regrets the error.