

University slum lords?

I would like to question the current University Housing Department policy, published in your paper (ODE, Nov. 11). Michael Burnham, an Emerald reporter, wrote a story "Council discusses housing plan." This story leads me to wonder if the University fits the mold as a slum lord. I took this story as important news, and it disturbs me. After reading, I wanted to find out if the University was or was not a slum lord and to reassure myself that I was reading correctly. I contacted Mike Eyster with the University Housing Department and found my interpretation of the article very clear. Eyster reassured me that Burnham did not misquote him, and his statement was correct.

I found the University opposes the adoption of a city-wide housing code on economic grounds only. When I asked what current safeguards were in place to assure students that University housing meets with state compliance, Eyster replied, "The University meets or exceeds all state housing codes." He did not elaborate further and felt that University housing would not benefit from city inspections.

Eyster further explained that the proposed housing code would only affect off-campus housing because the state already has a statute that exempts the University dormitories from city inspections. I then asked him why the strong policy opposition to a proposed city-wide housing code. He responded, "The city was proposing a \$12

per unit fee (only \$4 per term per unit) for a city managed inspection program." He continued to explain that a tax on rental deposit interest earned by the University was the major contributor to his negative view of the city code. (Note the interest is above and beyond any student paid monies and is created by investment of security deposits.)

Eyster revealed that the security deposit money from the 800-plus units draws interest and the city wants to tax it to pay for city rental housing inspectors. This is only one proposed option within a field of many. Yet because of a city discussion that includes a tax as one form of payment, Eyster will not yield in his opposition. He did say that if the University was exempt from any city inspection program, he would support every effort to implement the proposed housing code.

I view his concerns as real factors in development of current University policy. Nevertheless, if all landlords were able to opt out of every new proposed ordinance, would there ever be any new housing legislation? And what amounts of money are we talking about? My understanding of mathematics and finances causes me to think the dollar amount cannot exceed very much compared with the overall University housing budget. I cannot visualize the taxable interest being large and plus, the benefits of city housing inspectors should outweigh any additional costs.

When will the University, city, landlords and renters wake

up and take financial/personal responsibility for their actions? Many students are living in substandard conditions and a city-wide rental unit inspection program would alleviate many students' or parental concerns.

As adults, the learning process and educational experience that this University provides should enter the realm of political and social innovation. Furthermore, a University student should be able to live in the highest quality housing possible. Consequently, I feel that the University should attend to housing needs and provide all resources possible so that students can feel safe in their off-campus housing. This is not limited to University-owned units. Therefore, this University should set an example to its students, other landlords and the nation by supporting the proposed city of Eugene housing code.

Leslie Wilson
Planning, Public Policy and Management

Avoiding rape

Recently, after the play "Drawing the Shades," somebody asked the question: How come women keep putting themselves in dangerous situations where they might get raped? The statistics say that happens to a lot of people. So why do people keep putting themselves in these situations?

Let's pretend I'm a woman student who wants to be safe. Help me plan my life at the University, okay?

First, where am I going to live? Well, I'm definitely not going to live by myself, because

somebody might attack me while I'm alone in my house. I'm not going to live in a dorm, since rapes occur in dorms. I sure don't want to live off-campus with roommates; one of them might assault me. I can't live in a sorority because there are parties there.

Now that my housing problem is solved, help me decide how I'm going to get to class. I can't walk, especially at night, because that would be dangerous. Riding my bike would be almost as bad. I'm certainly not going to stand around on a street corner waiting for the bus. I can't afford a car right now, so I can't drive. Saferide provides free transportation for women students at night, but some of my classes are in the daytime, and it's dangerous for me to walk around alone.

Now that we've figured out how I'm going to get to class, let's plan my social life. Obviously I'm not going to date men, because everybody knows that date rape is common, and rapists are usually men. Now everybody realizes that sometimes women rape, too. So I'm not going to date. I guess I could hang out with friends or go out with acquaintances — but sometimes "friends" or acquaintances rape people too. That's why they call it "acquaintance rape," right? I definitely won't go to parties, bars or dances. I guess I'll stay home all the time at my house where I live alone ... I mean, with people ... Never mind.

Of course, social acquaintances aren't the only people I have to be careful about. We've all heard stories about profes-

sors who assault their students, bosses who harass their employees and co-workers who threaten the people they work with. So I won't have any professors or bosses or co-workers.

I'm not going to get married, because husbands often beat and abuse their wives. We already decided that I'm not going to go out and have relationships with men or women. I shouldn't be single, either, since then people would consider me available.

I can't travel, and we already decided I can't stay home either. I definitely need to put some bars on the windows of my bedroom and extra locks on my doors. Better yet, I could build a sort of prison, with bars and locks and a great security system. Then nobody could get me, and all the rapists would stay outside where they belong.

Wait a minute... Did you say the rapists are the ones who should be locked up, and not the people who are trying to stay safe? Did you say the rapists are the ones who should be changing their behavior, not me? What do you mean, rapists are responsible for the crimes they commit and for the climate of fear they create? You say I should be able to make friends and date if I want to and go to parties if I want to and wear whatever clothes I like and be alone without having to be afraid and go outdoors without having to fear that someone will attack me?

I could never say a thing like that. Somebody might think I was a feminist.

Suzanne Kocher
Graduate student



EMU News

For the latest EMU/ASUO event and renovation information, check out the EMU WEB PAGE
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~emumain/>

EMU TICKET OFFICE

How about a Hult Center gift certificate... or tickets to...



- Hot Tuna** December 15th
- The Nutcracker** December 18th - 21st
- The Eugene Opera's Die Fledermaus** New year's Eve
- Trillian Green & Shelley Doty** Nov. 14 & 15, Actor's Cabaret
- GREASE** January 29th - 30th
- Porgy and Bess** April 1st - 2nd

OPEN: Monday-Friday 9-7:30
Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-4

The EMU Ticket Office is a ticket outlet for: Fastix, Hult Center, W.O.W. Hall, LCC Theater, EMU and UO Athletics.

TICKETS BY PHONE: 346-4363

LOST & FOUND SALE

Today and tomorrow from 10am-4pm in the Walnut Room. Come and stock up on umbrellas, mugs, calculators, books, hats, gloves and more! Nothing over \$5! Come early for all the best deals.



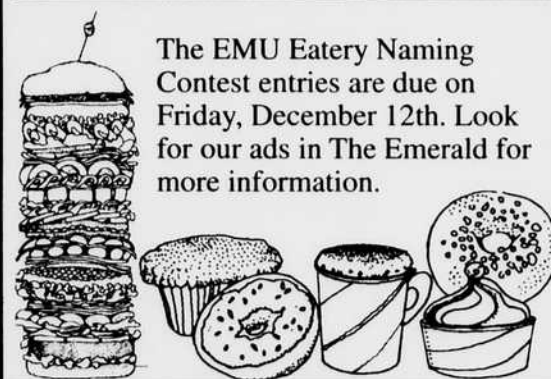
Craft Center Winter Workshops

Registration begins
Dec. 4 at 10 am

Lower level EMU / 346-4361
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~craftctr>

Food Service

The EMU Eatery Naming Contest entries are due on Friday, December 12th. Look for our ads in The Emerald for more information.



EMU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The EMU would like to CONGRATULATE

- April Davis**, Greek Life
- Tamara Theodosis**, Child Care & Development Centers
- Jennifer Petersen**, Administration

for receiving the first EMU Student Scholarship awards as the three top outstanding student employees in the EMU! Thank you Council Travel for your generous contribution to these awards, and thank you everyone who participated in the nomination and selection process. We'll do it again next term!

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the outstanding students who were nominated. We appreciate you!



EQUESTRIAN

Equestrian Meeting
Monday, Dec. 1, 1997
Cedar A 6 - 7 p.m.



SCUBA

Discover Scuba
Tuesday Dec. 2, 1997
Leighton Pool
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

