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Thumbs



TO THE SUPREME COURT:

The court recently ruled that sexual harassment can occur between people of the same gender. Because such harassment is about power, this ruling is an important step to improving legal codes dealing with the problem. Additionally, it establishes a much-needed degree of equity in dealing with such claims.



TO U.S. USE OF DEPLETED URANIUM:

During the Gulf War, the U.S. military used shells containing so-called depleted uranium, a highly radioactive substance. While supposedly stable before firing, the shells often break open upon impact, presenting a health risk for soldiers sent to clean up the wreckage. U.S. officials neglected to mention the risk and failed to advise cleanup workers on the appropriate precautions to take to avoid excessive exposure to radiation. The military has also fired radioactive shells in practice drills at overseas bases without informing local officials about the danger.

The clean air of freedom

After surviving yet another long term, University students really need to get out of town

Spring break is rapidly approaching, and few things fill us with more joy. We really need a vacation.

Eugene is a nice enough town. The people are friendly, the food largely edible and the trees prevalent and green.

Nevertheless, Eugene quickly becomes wearisome. After an entire term, it's time to escape — even if this is your home town.

Therefore, in honor of the lateness of the term and the nearly brain-dead state of the editorial board, we present the Top 10 Reasons to Get Out of Eugene:

1) We have glimpsed the light. After witnessing a few hours of sunshine, we've been reminded of what nice weather entails. Even though the entire campus comes alive when the clouds do melt away, the average somber gray day is simply more de-

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pressing by comparison. Wherever your travels may take you, may it be sunnier than this place.

2) The smell of patchouli and body odor. Especially in light of recent appearances by the sun, the prevalence of aromatic oils and the absence of soap combine to create a lingering cloud of unpleasant scent. Until the Environmental Protection Agency adds odor to its list of pollutants, we could all use a breath of fresh air.

3) Signs of campus activism. We don't mean the occasional protest; we mean the impending arrival of actual signs — hundreds of posters and placards advertising candidates in the upcoming ASUO election. The process is important, but the paper can prove overwhelming.

4) Grades. Now that they aren't automatically mailed home, report cards can no longer interrupt our rest. Sure, our marks are waiting for us on DuckWeb, but our parents don't have to know that.

5) Little. Yellow. Sticky. Eugene is the pollen capital of North America, and anyone who suffers from allergies should make a run to the desert for a week of unimpeded breathing. You'll soon be wrapping your face in rags and dust masks.

6) Early bedtimes. Sure, there's lots to do after midnight. You can drink. Or, if you're under 21, you can drink illegally at home. Nevertheless, it will be nice to visit a real city and have early morning dining options that extend beyond the International House of Pancakes.

7) The dangers of alternative transportation. It's great that Eugene residents ride their bikes or hop on the bus, but both practices occasionally prove dangerous for pedestrians. After dodging yet another possessed city bus only to be run down by your math professor's 10-speed, you start to sing the praises of Ford Motors.

8) The Jim and Vicki Show. Eugene certainly isn't the only town with foolish politicians, but the

circus sponsored by Mayor Jim Torrey and City Manager Vicki Elmer inspires many headaches and little faith in the system. Asking them to get along is probably a bit much, but asking them to respect the people of Eugene and stop acting like little children seems reasonable.

9) Bad coffee. Starbucks is coming! Starbucks is coming! Starbucks is coming! Eugene's caffeine junkies can now look forward to poor-tasting, mass-produced java just like the sludge people are forced to choke down on the East Coast.

10) It's, like, a natural fiber, dude! Hemp is everywhere, from bracelets to bags to snack bars. Yes, it's useful and yes, it's time to change U.S. government agricultural policies. Still, we don't understand the apparent attitude that alternative fibers can be woven into the path to spiritual enlightenment.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kitzhaber outstanding

In response to College Republican chair Pete Enslow's tirade against Gov. Kitzhaber (ODE, March 2), we would like to highlight the governor's outstanding record and accomplishments.

The governor's commitment to the people of Oregon is unprecedented. His commitment to funding for higher and secondary education, protecting the environment and providing health care to all Oregonians shows his dedication to people. Increasing the gas tax and expanding the Oregon lottery to include video slot machines cre-

ates other avenues for funding these essential programs. While Enslow claims these forms of taxation will "usurp a higher proportion of the incomes of the poorest Oregonians," this taxation does not discriminate based on income level. When you purchase gasoline or play the lottery, people don't ask you how much you make; everyone is charged the same.

Without these forms of taxation, we all will be paying more in the long run. These tax dollars decrease the cost of in-state tuition, which allows Enslow to receive an affordable education at the University, an in-state institution of higher edu-

cation. Kitzhaber implemented an in-state tuition freeze for higher education institutions in Oregon in the last legislative session. As you can see, sometimes taxation benefits us all. Gov. Kitzhaber understands the need for students to receive an affordable education; without these taxation programs, our education would not be so affordable.

Show your support and re-elect Kitzhaber for governor. Oregon deserves a strong leader who is committed to the people he represents.

Brian Willett
Sari Wisch
Co-chairs, College Democrats

CORRECTION

The author of the letter titled "Avoid judgment" (ODE, Feb. 26) should have been identified as Annie Ebiner.

The Emerald regrets the error.