

NEWSROOM:
(541) 346-5511
E-MAIL:
ode@oregon.uoregon.edu
ON-LINE EDITION:
www.uoregon.edu/~ode

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Ryan Frank
EDITORIAL EDITORS
Kameron Cole
Stefanie Knowlton

PERSPECTIVES

Something to be thankful for

As you hustle home for the holiday, take the time to appreciate what you have and remember those with less

Somewhere, a table is set with lace and candles. A mother waits for a child to enter through the door, home from school with bags packed sloppily and 5 pounds of laundry.

A puppy is curled up in front of a fire with a 4-year-old in a new taffeta dress, a satin sash tied in a big bow in the back. Her tights are sagging around her ankles.

She's not cold, even though the door is open.

Across the street, perhaps in North Dakota, or Chicago, maybe Bora Bora — depends how long the street is — a house looks sad. The snowman in the front has melted and now leans sideways toward the ground. The carrot nose has been taken, perhaps a dinner for someone else.

The mother closes the door, 5 pounds of laundry in the front hallway, and the 4-year-old in the taffeta dress howls, because she wasn't cold and wanted to give the heat she wasn't using to the outside, because it's cold.

And somewhere, someone wishes they had called that person they knew was alone, because a lover left or someone died.

A line of people, huddled as if a family, waiting for a meal of warm bread on this day of thanks, given to them by someone in a hat.

And, somewhere, someone sits in front of a candle or two, hugging their knees to their chest, watching raindrops slide down a window-pane. The outside air is dark, and it smells like snow.

Footsteps below and a person is scavaging through a bin, looking for something to warm a belly, but not a heart.

The someone in the window looks away.

They're cold enough already.

Thanksgiving. A time in the wintry autumn season where friends

and family gather around a table, enjoying each other's company and rekindling old memories. A table filled with food and wine, and laughter echoing through the house.

However, at this time of giving thanks, people should remember that not all are as fortunate and blessed. Many find themselves alone, cold and hungry.

At Thanksgiving time, especially, people should consider what they can do to help. Buying extra things at the grocery store to contribute to food banks is a simple but significant step people can take, or taking time out of the vacation to go help at a soup kitchen or meal distribution center.

Instead of throwing away extra food, donating the leftovers to shelters or food banks could help provide needy families with a Thanksgiving meal. Knowing that someone is actually taking the time to care could make a difference in someone's holiday.

For some, being alone at this time of year can bring on depression and loneliness. People should take into consideration that, at this time particularly, just letting someone know they are cared about could warm a heart.

Being in the company of family and friends may add joy and security to the season.

Thanksgiving is a time when people should open their hearts and outstretch a hand. People should consider what they can do to help those less fortunate, be thankful that they can help, or at least, realize that not everyone is reminiscing with friends and family, or sitting by a fire in a new dress with a big bow in the back.

Amy Goldhammer is a columnist for the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.



Opinion



Amy Goldhammer

