

Oregon Daily
Emerald
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Perspectives

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Give more than thanks

With so many Americans going hungry, try to remember that the point of Thanksgiving is not to stuff yourself but to be thankful that you can

Thanksgiving is usually a no-brainer — whether going home or not, whether eating Tofurky or the real thing, wondering how you're going to celebrate the holiday isn't that tough. But for many Americans, there is no choice between laying back and watching football or doing the family thing, between starting with stuffing or eating pie first. In fact, they might not eat at all.

We know you've heard it before, but sometimes the statistics on world hunger can still overwhelm you. One that's particularly shocking is that a child dies from hunger every 2.5 seconds, according to OSPIRG. And it's not just kids. Families with grandparents or hard-working adults are going hungry; the stereotype of homeless people as the only hungry people in America has to go. Those at risk could be your neighbors.

In Lane County, homeless single mothers and their children are the most frequent visitors to such shelters as First Place Family Center. According to the center, such families have increased 20

percent in the last five years.

Last week was National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. The people that be probably made the juxtaposition with Thanksgiving on purpose; it's pretty pathetic that half of the country can't get enough food and half of the country has too much. In an exercise hosted by OSPIRG and White Bird Clinic last Thursday, people at a banquet were divided into three groups: elite, middle class and lower class. This wealth distribution was supposed to accurately portray the real distribution in the world: 15 percent were elite, 30 percent were middle class and a whopping 55 percent were lower class. Those at the bottom got only bread, water and rice for dinner. Next time you complain about being hungry, think what that's like on a daily basis.

What can be done about hunger is less cut and dried than the fact that it exists. This Tuesday, the Emerald will profile several ways to help out in the community on Thanksgiving. And while there are traditional ways of showing you care — volunteering or donating food — how about an easy way: Try not being wasteful.

Thanksgiving has become a 6,000-calorie day: With turkey, stuffing, pie and mashed potatoes, food is abundant, and people just gorge themselves. It's not really at-

tractive anyway, but think of the waste!

Many of us cook up a lot just to get that down-home feeling or to have one day to eat like a pig. But instead of cooking a 10-pound turkey for two, try going out to dinner and ordering just what you need. And if you cook, at least let the turkey provide a month of leftovers. Be thankful you'll even have leftovers.

Awareness is the key. Feel lucky for all that you have. Thanksgiving is an easy holiday to understand: It's not based entirely on the Christian religion, and it's not specific to one group of people. It's a day for everyone, no matter what they have, to be grateful that they have anything at all. This is one holiday that doesn't need to be clichéd. No matter how cool or important you are, giving thanks is what makes us human. It makes us realize how fragile we are.

When you're eating this Thursday, think about how nice it is not to be in school. Think about football. Think about calling your mom. Think about giving thanks. But, most of all, think about those who might not be able to.

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

THUMBS



To Ducks beating up Beavers

25-14. Need we say more? Kudos to the football team for silencing Oregon State University and for leading us into a very sunny new year.

To Fewer Deaths

Gun-related deaths dropped 21 percent between 1993 and 1997 in the United States. With images of school and office shootings still in our heads, it's nice to know that overall, gun deaths are fewer. Experts cite gun-safety courses and tougher gun-control laws among the reasons for the decline.

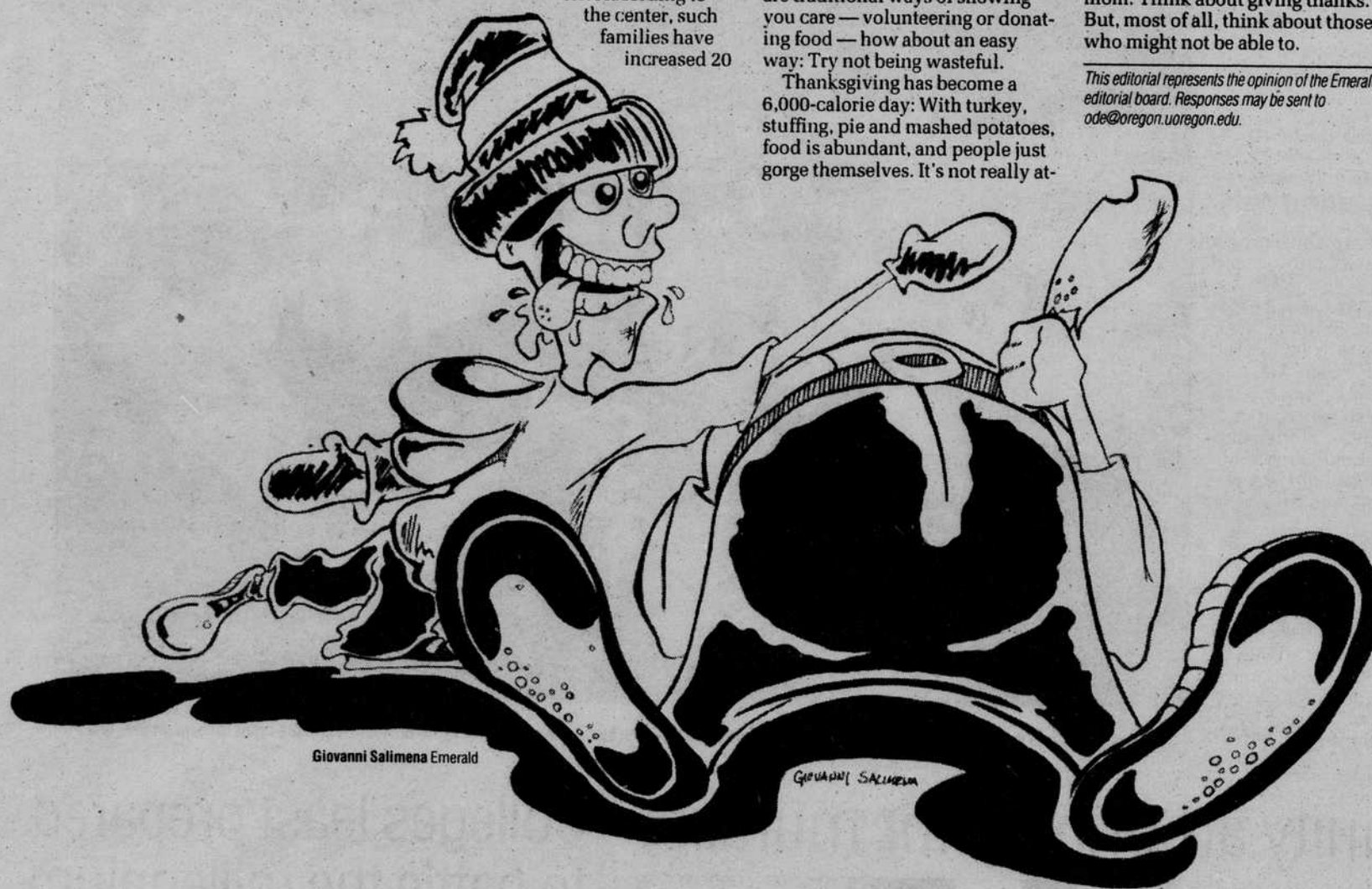


To cruel fate

The collapse of the wooden tower of logs at Texas A&M is probably not a sign that football fever has gone too far, but when lives are lost because of dangerous bonfires, maybe the tradition needs some updating. In light of heady Civil War fever, we feel for Texas A&M.

To drugs in the community

Eugene police seized almost a pound of black-tar heroin — worth about \$30,000 — and \$11,000 cash from a car abandoned on Highway 126 after a police chase from Whiteaker. The suspect, who got away on foot, was believed to be making deliveries in the area. Police say black-tar heroin is the biggest drug problem in Lane County.



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

Letters to the editor

Restaurant closure needed

I'm responding to the Emerald editorial that spelled the demise of the University Club (ODE, Oct. 15). Two main points were that Collier House and the University Club would no longer exist in their old forms due to neglect by the University community and that they would be replaced by bureaucratic, humdrum food and service.

The University Club was driven to some kind of action by necessity. We hit the bottom of our resources twice during the past year and were barely pulled out. We had to close over the summer. An extrapolation of our financial status into next year indicated that we would go out of business.

After exhausting other options, we approached University Catering to see if it could take over lunch service, our biggest source of financial instability. University Catering has a fine reputation for food service. Its condition was that it take over all aspects of the operation. Another condition was that Clancy's be used as a distribution center for student lunches.

We saw the acceptance of these conditions as the only way to save the Collier House. It will reopen in January with a refurbished interior and a new porch. Clancy's Thresher will function as usual. The dining area will be completely renovated and moved into the more attractive front end of the building. With campus approval, there will be a sign on 13th Avenue with the daily menu

and a schedule of coming events so the building will lose its aura of mystery and remoteness.

John A. Schellman
 Institute of Molecular Biology

Article unclear on stance

This letter is in response to the article written by Edward Yuen on office space in the EMU (ODE, Nov. 18). The article presents a valid concern among many of the student groups but does not clearly state the position of the International Student Association in this matter. We would like to take this opportunity to state our policy that has been approved by all the '99-00 ISA officers.

-Any international student groups (ISGs) who do not have an office space may use the office of ISA as

their resource.

-Any ISGs who request to be on the office key checkout must at least have one posted and kept office hour per week at the ISA office.

-Any ISGs who have more than three office hours per week are allocated two fixed office hours with priority access to the computer and telephone in the ISA office, for business use only.

For more detailed information, please contact the ISA. It is in our best interest to be a resource for the ISGs as well as to the international community as a whole, and we do not believe that was reflected in the article.

Haya Matsumoto
 ISA co-director
 Alberto de Albuquerque
 ISA co-director