

# COMMENTARY

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511  
Room 300, Erb Memorial Union  
P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403  
E-mail: editor@dailymerald.com  
Online Edition:  
www.dailymerald.com

Editor in Chief:  
Jessica Blanchard  
Managing Editor:  
Jeremy Lang  
Editorial Editor:  
Julie Lauderbaugh  
Assistant Editorial Editor:  
Jacquelyn Lewis

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## Editorial

### Fund basic repairs before purchasing new bricks

The University has begun a campaign this year in hopes of raising funds to repave the intersection of 13th Avenue and University Street to celebrate the school's 125th anniversary. The advertising campaign for the project urges donors to purchase an engraved brick or "paver" — a stone block larger than the brick — to reserve their place at the "Heart of Campus." The Office of University Advancement is selling the bricks (which cost \$125 each, in honor of the University's anniversary year) and pavers (which are \$1,876 each, the same as the University's founding year) to honor their achievements and create a permanent legacy for themselves.

What was the University thinking? Beautification of campus is important, but the school is facing a multimillion-dollar deficit and some buildings and programs are falling apart at the seams because the University has lacked the funding to do even the most basic repairs and maintenance.

How logical is it to ask potential donors to pony up for a campus beautification project when the school could benefit far more from soliciting donations in other areas? Fundraisers would make a bigger impact on students by seeking donations for academic programs or scholarships, or building construction or remodels — far more practical causes than lining the streets outside the Erb Memorial Union with attractive bricks.

Brick and paver buyers would fare better by creating a permanent legacy by contributing to academic research, scholarships or athletics. Certainly the repaving would be more aesthetically pleasing, but it is hard to believe that this particular project will create more of a "Heart of Campus" than what already exists. There are a number of improvement projects around campus that could make better use of hefty donations instead of bricks and pavers in front of the EMU.

## Editorial Policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to [letters@dailymerald.com](mailto:letters@dailymerald.com). Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

## 'Iron Mike' fits boxing to a 'T'

"Iron Mike" Tyson is back in the news, in case you've been hiding under a rock for the past month or you're not into sports. Undisputed World Heavyweight Champion Lennox Lewis finally bit the bullet and agreed to fight Tyson on April 6 in Las Vegas, a break Tyson has been itching for since Lewis first won the title. Then, just when his sagging career was facing possible revival, Tyson mucked things up



Aaron Rorick  
Columnist

by attacking Lewis' entourage at a press conference last month.

Nevada's boxing commission quickly denied Tyson's request for a license in a 4-1 decision. "I am a human being," Tyson was quoted as saying to the commissioners, "but I haven't been treated that way. I haven't been written that way." He then demonstrated his humanity by going out to the parking lot and publicly calling Lewis a coward. "I'm going to fight him anytime I see him in the streets," he said.

Human being Mike Tyson has served three years in prison for sexual assault and one year for "road rage" assault. He also was suspended from boxing for a year after the infamous ear-biting incident against Evander Holyfield. On top of that, Nevada police are currently investigating two separate rape charges against him. Oh, the humanity!

The Association of Boxing Commissioners has called for all states to uphold Nevada's decision. My old stomping ground, Texas, flirted

with hosting duties. Eddie Gossage of Dallas' Texas Motor Speedway, home to monster trucks, drag racing and NASCAR, was a contender but ultimately declined.

"We cannot sell our values," Gossage said. "Texas Motor Speedway is a clean-cut, family-oriented venue." Beer-guzzling, mullet-headed rednecks may take their families out to the races, but I'd hardly call them clean-cut. Gossage briskly ended the interview when a reporter brought this to his attention.

In the end it didn't matter, though. Gov. Rick Perry actually wanted to arrest the fighter for failing to register as a sex offender. With his recommendation, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Executive Director Bill Kuntz denied Tyson's

license request.

"Psycho Mike-o" was able to get a license in Georgia. It should be noted, however, that that state's only requirements are \$10 and proof of physical, not mental, fitness. Not everyone was happy about the lax rules, though. Gov. Roy Barnes, in a touching Valentine's Day speech to a women's group, said his state should not grant any privileges to a "sexual predator" like Tyson. Tyson's camp, sensing a little hostility, moved on to the next state.

Colorado Gov. Bill Owens echoed Perry and Barnes' sentiment, saying a Tyson fight would tarnish his state's image. Lucky for Tyson, there is one place with an image so foul not even he could tarnish it further: Washington, D.C. The

Boxing and Wrestling Commission voted unanimously, 3-0, to grant Tyson a license last week.

That's right. Our nation's capital has embraced a man no one else will touch. But before you condemn Washington for reaffirming its sleaziness once again, consider the logic behind denying Tyson a license in the first place. Can anyone really be too brutal for boxing, America's most violent "sport"? This is a game where the surest way to win is to beat an opponent unconscious with one's bare hands. Nice guys just don't do that for a living, so is it any wonder boxing attracts scumbags like Tyson?

E-mail columnist Aaron Rorick at [aaronrorick@dailymerald.com](mailto:aaronrorick@dailymerald.com). His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald.



Steve Baggs Emerald

## Harvard professor's libertarian legacy will live on

In 1971, the academic world was awash with quotes from John Rawls' "Theory of Justice." Rawls' book covered the philosophic basis for a bureaucratic welfare state which would redistribute wealth in order to help the disadvantaged.

In 1974, Harvard professor Robert Nozick's book, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" demolished Rawls' ideas. Nozick argued that since the rights of the individual are primary, nothing more than a minimal state is justified. Nozick's book won the National Book Award and was named one of the "Hundred Most Influential Books Since the War" by the New York Times.

Regretfully, on Jan. 23, Nozick, extolled by many as "a brilliant and provocative scholar," died of

stomach cancer at age 63.

Law professor Alan Dershowitz, longtime friend of Nozick, said Nozick "was a University professor in the best sense of the term. He was constantly rethinking his own views and sharing his new ideas with students and colleagues. His unique philosophy has influenced generations of readers and will continue to influence people for generations to come."

What was this unique philosophy? In the opening sentence of "Anarchy, State and Utopia," Nozick wrote, "individuals have rights, and there are things no person or group may do to them" (without violating their rights). According to Nozick, the state may not use its coercive apparatus for the purpose of getting some citizens to aid others, or

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### Tonie Nathan

in order to prohibit activities to people for their own good or protection. It would seem Nozick's book is more timely today than ever, given ongoing debate over assaults on individual rights by newly adopted federal laws such as the Patriot Act.

Also included in "Anarchy, State and Utopia" are: an important new theory of distributive justice; a model of utopia which supports the theory of the minimal state; and the integration of ethics, legal philosophy and economic theory into a profound and unified position in political philosophy.

In the 1970s, Nozick's challenging views put him in a firestorm of controversy, gaining him considerable attention and influence in the world beyond Harvard. "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" transformed him from a young philosophy professor, known only within his profession, to the reluctant theoretician of a national political movement exemplified by the Libertarian Party, today the third-largest political party in this country. Nozick's book unwittingly boosted the party's prestige in academic circles and increased public support for the party's limited government position.

In his youth, Nozick was a member of the radical left who converted to a libertarian perspective as a graduate student after reading conservative econo-

mist Friedrich Hayek and libertarian economists Milton Friedman and Murray Rothbard.

Nozick used his teaching as a way of working out his ideas. With one exception, Nozick never taught the same course twice. Speaking without notes, Nozick would pace restlessly back and forth, drawing his students into a free-ranging discussion of the topic at hand. Nozick said, "Presenting a completely polished and worked-out view doesn't give students a feel for what it's like to do original work in philosophy and to see it happen, to catch on to doing it." His importance and influence on students is unquestionable.

Tonie Nathan graduated from the University in the Class of '71.