

COMMENTARY

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Editorial

Quacks & smacks

Editorial note: Quacks & Smacks is a new addition to the Commentary section that will give props to a job well done or a job done wrong for different people, places and things going on in the news. Quacks are good — Smacks are not.

Quacks to the Yellow Jackets program and what it's trying to accomplish, and to the 12 people who have already volunteered. Note to members of the campus community — volunteers are still desperately needed.

Smacks to Georgia Gov.-elect Sonny Purdue for having the audacity to quote Martin Luther King Jr.'s line "Free at last, free at last..." in his acceptance speech. Purdue's election victory is a far cry from the achievements of the Civil Rights movement — Purdue's use of the quote is nothing but offensive.

Quacks to Leroy Stubblefield for legally taking on the state of Oregon and the federal government after his medical marijuana was seized — and more Quacks to The Hemp and Cannabis Foundation, which gave him new plants and an ounce of medicine.

Smacks to the state for cutting the most-needed health care services (drug and alcohol treatment, mental health) for those who need it most (poor adults covered by the Oregon Health Plan). Double Smacks to Oregonians for not paying enough taxes to support state services.

Quacks to the Student Recreation Center for wanting to paint murals to beautify the center on the inside.

Smacks to the Rec Center for wanting to paint murals of people working out on a wall in a room filled with people working out.

Editorial policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submission must include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

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Love CONQUERS hate

Three weeks ago, some young vandals threw rocks inscribed with swastikas at the Temple Beth Israel synagogue during the Shabbat service. The next Friday, I attended the service with two friends.

Hundreds of people held candles for a vigil outside and overflowed the aisles inside. It was not just how many, but also who: Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey, Cafe Soriah owner Ibrahim Hamide, Tamam Adi, director of the Islamic Cultural Center, and Minister Dan Bryant of the First Christian Church. I was pleasantly surprised to see prominent representatives attend this service. The vandals committed a terrible act of hate, but the city responded with acts of love.

In his sermon, Rabbi Yitzhak Husbands-Henkin recalled the biblical character of Amalek, who attacked the weak and powerless. Like Amalek, the hoodlums attempted to intimidate and isolate the Jewish community. They tried to put fear into



Philip Huang
 A different light

the whole city. But very wise hearts responded differently, choosing instead to see the image of God dwelling among us.

Jonathan Seidel, the rabbinic assistant, read a 1790 letter from George Washington to a Newport, R.I., synagogue, affirming the country's commitment to tolerance and pluralism, and its abhorrence of bigotry. What followed were latter-day messages of friendship from the heirs of Washington: Mayor Torrey, a practicing Catholic, praised the contributions of Temple Beth Israel.

After Sept. 11, he said, the first person he contacted was the rabbi, to protect people of Middle Eastern descent from potential reprisals. Ibrahim Hamide spoke next, to great cheer. Our love is much bigger than their misguidedness, he



Peter Utsey Emerald

said. Tamam Adi greeted the congregation with Shalom — and some members responded with Salaam. Those two words — shalom and salaam — signified the shared cultural heritage of Muslims and Jews. He concluded with a message to the vandals: Change. Wake up. The world is changing. Credit changes in mainstream Christian theology for shaping this climate of tolerance.

Many churches have denounced anti-Semitism and taken responsibility for their historical role in fostering expulsions, inquisitions, ghettos and pogroms. As Reverend Bryant said, an attack on the temple is an attack on all houses of worship. I reflected that while Amalek and his ilk attack the powerless, the Jewish culture has a tradition of caring for the vulnerable

and weak. One outside speaker described the congregation's role in helping folks in the larger community: supporting the cause of farmworkers, the homeless, gays and lesbians, and last September, keeping watch over the local mosque after it was attacked.

Maariv, Shalom Aleyheim, Shema, Amidah, Kaddish — my ignorance of Hebrew kept me from truly understanding the prayers and songs. But I could appreciate their dignity and harmony. I recognized the word for peace, which popped up often. And I remember one prayer in English, by Judy Chicago, which declared: "And then all that has divided us will merge, and then compassion will be wedded to power, and then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind." When the service ended af-

ter two hours, I left to find people still holding candles outside.

I thought about what had drawn me to come that night. I went partly from a sense of outrage at the act, and a desire to show solidarity. I went partly because I found out the Emerald would not be covering it. But I was drawn because of the things I value — tolerance, compassion, fairness, love and justice. Because I learned these values in part from my Jewish friends and teachers. Because these simple values seem at the present to elude some people in this country and abroad. Because love is the opposite of hate, and therefore its best response.

Contact the columnist at philiphuang@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Letters to the editor

Pencil inflation

Textbooks be damned! I know for a fact that the University Bookstore scams students buying even more basic items. On the ground floor, pencils cost 15 cents. On the main level, where students are expected to buy pencils, the prices are inflated to a quarter? What?

Terence Li
 freshman
 undeclared

Tune out, turn off, stop bitching

In response to your editorial on KUGN-AM being "the voice of the Ducks" ("Ducks should find their voice, demand end to KUGN contract," ODE, Nov. 12) while at the same time airing such inflammatory social commentators such as Michael Medved and Michael Savage, I would just like to remind you that freedom of speech is a double-edged sword.

By no means do I agree with the views expressed on the talk shows in question. In fact, I find them both to be quite sheltered and ignorant. But at the same time, I listen to both be-

cause their idiocy is entertaining, and I believe they add valid viewpoints from time to time. With that said, I find it funny how the extreme left, at times, find it hard to live their own lives.

You preach tolerance and harmony, but once you hear something you don't like, you can't simply respect their freedom of speech. You feel the need to force them admit to their wrongness and change their ways. Pretty hypocritical if you ask me. KUGN has the right to do business how they see fit. Proclaiming themselves as the "voice of the Ducks" is in respect to the Athletic Department, not the University as a whole.

If you don't like what's being said on a certain radio station, you are more than free to turn your dial elsewhere. Instead of bitching about someone exercising the same freedom of expression you have, make a stronger statement by not tuning in at all.

Ben Lacy
 senior
 journalism

Campaigning lacked compassion

I have been wondering what the term "compassionate conservative" meant ever since President George W. Bush began calling himself

one. I now have a better understanding of what a "compassionate conservative" is.

A compassionate conservative is a person who never fought in Vietnam because his father got him a place in the Texas Air National Guard, from which he then went AWOL for over a year, who then campaigns against a volunteer Vietnam war hero and veteran, Max Cleland, who lost both legs and his right arm serving his country.

A compassionate conservative is a person who campaigns against a widow, Jean Carnahan, whose husband and oldest son were tragically killed in a plane crash.

A compassionate conservative is a person who campaigns against a respected statesman and former vice president, Walter Mondale, who was picked to run for the seat held by a visionary U.S. senator, Paul Wellstone, who was killed in a plane crash just a few days before an election.

Bush singled out and vigorously attacked these sympathetic figures, and, as a result, these were the only incumbent Democratic seats which were lost in the Senate election.

That's compassion? Sounds pretty mean to me.

Kevin Franken
 second year
 Law