

# COMMENTARY

Editor in Chief:  
 Michael J. Kleckner  
 Managing Editor:  
 Jessica Richelderfer  
 Editorial Editor:  
 Pat Payne

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

## Letters to the editor

### Americans should proudly sacrifice for equality

While reading "Title IX is in serious need of revision," (ODE, Mar. 6) I was once again disappointed with the perspective that many people have regarding this issue.

We live in a country with an appalling track record of classist laws and oppressive actions. In recent history, many noble attempts have been made (including Title IX) to even the playing field for the marginalized. These shifts have increased opportunities for some, thereby limiting opportunities for others.

Decades ago, this country decided to allow blacks to serve in the armed forces. As a result, there are simply fewer positions available for upstanding white folk. Providing tax relief and governmental support to socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals raises taxes for the rest of us. Should we ever get around to granting homosexuals the right to marry and receive commensurate insurance benefits, heterosexual couples everywhere can surely expect their rates to rise to make up for the financial losses incurred by the insurance companies.

My point is this: When the reality of finite resources is paired with a desire to even out the appropriation of those resources, there will necessarily be individuals who "suffer" in the process. This is the price we pay for equality, and we should pay it proudly. As Americans, it is who we are.

Jessica Rasmussen  
 first-year graduate student  
 special education

### State must fund suffering education system

Bent over the guillotine, funding for post-secondary education sits on the chopping block; the blade of the state budget cuts hovers a mere inch above the heads of students. Once the current budget plan, recently signed by the Oregon Senate, receives the governor's signature, more than 3,000 Oregon college students will lose some or all of their Oregon Opportunity Grant for the next school year. Oregon recently received an "F" for affordability by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, and any further cuts will drastically damage students' abilities to attend college.

I know that K-12 education is facing a funding crisis and that the Education Stability Fund money is needed to keep K-12 schools going. However, Oregon's colleges and universities are suffering their own crisis as well. Oregon needs to support education at all levels, rather than transferring funds between higher education and K-12. By maintaining funding and grants for higher education in the next biennium, students will have the opportunity to receive a college education, allowing Oregon to reap the economic benefits of a highly educated workforce in the future.

Tobias S. Piering  
 freshman  
 pre-planning, public policy and management

### Letters to the editor and guest commentaries policy

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.

### Online poll

Each week, the Emerald publishes the previous week's poll results and the coming week's poll question. Visit [www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com) to vote.

**Last week:** What was your favorite PBS kid's show?

**Results:** 93 total votes

3-2-1 Contact — 15.1 percent, or 14 votes

Electric Company — 6.5 percent, or 6 votes

Mister Roger's Neighborhood — 19.4 percent, or 18 votes

Reading Rainbow — 17.2 percent, or 16 votes

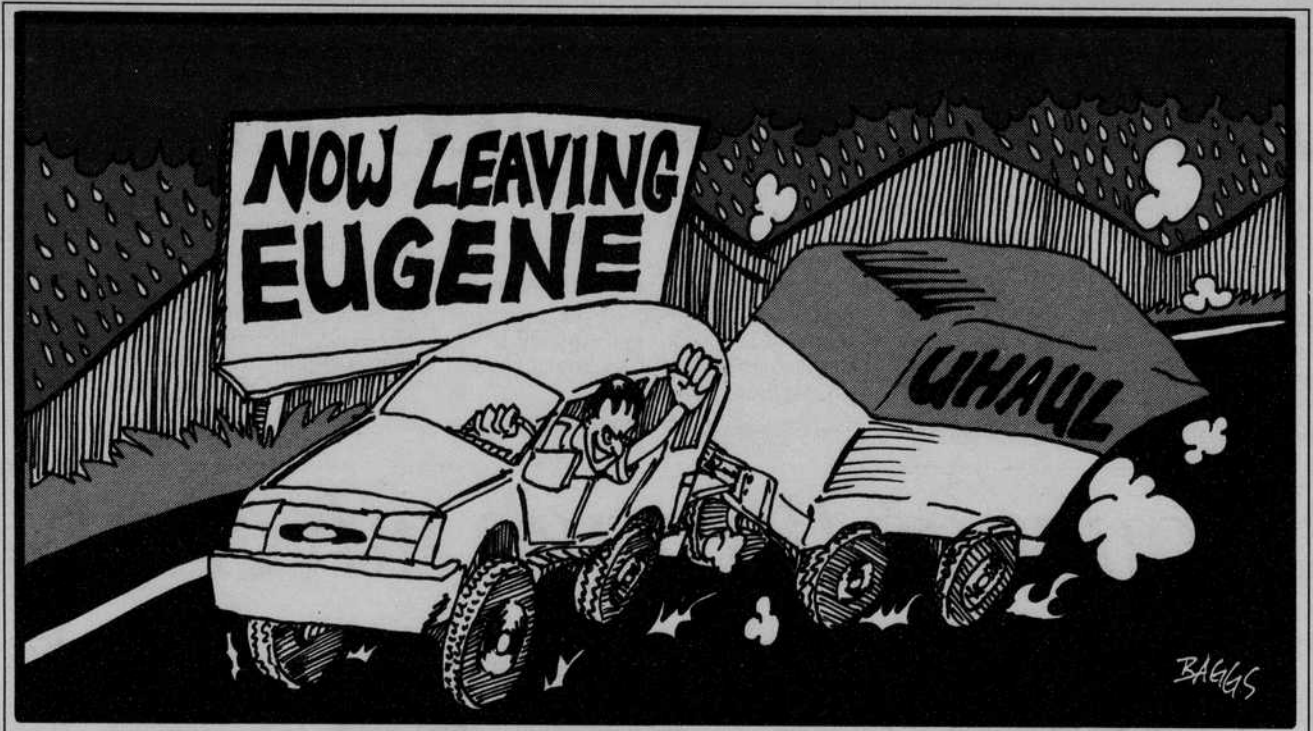
Sesame Street — 25.8 percent, or 24 votes

I watched cartoons — 12.9 percent, or 12 votes

Leave me alone! — 3.2 percent, or 3 votes

**This week:** How much does Dead Week suck?

**Choices:** It's a vacation; It's worse than finals week; It's like any other week; Get me the hell out of here!



Steve Baggs Emerald

## Farewell to annoying Eugene

As of April 1, I will no longer be living in Eugene. When I leave, I hope to have a diploma in my hand but am allowing for the possibility that I may fail a class — no sense in setting myself up for disappointment. Either way though, I'm out of here.

I can't imagine what my life would be like right now had I not gone to the University of Oregon. I've been blessed to be around a number of amazing people in both my school and work lives, including brilliant professors, from whom I've learned so much.

I feel fortunate that I have had the chance to attend this school.

Of course, in the four and a half years that I've lived in Eugene, there are still things about the city that have annoyed me. I was going to keep my final column on the positive side, but anyone who knows me knows that the positive stuff doesn't generally last too long. So, just a short list of the top four things that annoyed me about Eugene.

1. All of the hype surrounding the University football program: It wasn't so bad this year during football season (because we sucked) but when Joey Harrington was still here I almost disliked the guy

simply because I heard his name so damn much. It doesn't help that even after he's moved to Detroit, he's still starring in a television commercial — selling cars, no less, to the folks of Eugene. Give it up, people. He's not even from Eugene; he just spent a few years here to attend school. And now he's gone. Mourn, move to Detroit, do what you have to do. He's gone — get over it.

2. The smell of patchouli oil: I'm not attributing this foul smelling product to any one group or type of person. I've smelled it on people sporting J.Crew and Banana Republic clothing just as much as on people wearing patchwork pants and tie-dyed dresses. Either way, the stuff reeks. If you're into scented oils, there are a number available that aren't abrasive — check them out.

3. Landlords — or slumlords: It's a shame that the landlords in this community prey so heavily on the college-age population. I've lived in a couple of dumps in my years in Eugene. The rent has been high, things have lived in our walls, the plumbing hasn't worked, and ceilings leaked. Everyone has one story or another about crappy houses and landlords. I'm sure that this has gone on forever too. But, why has nothing changed? Why? Because Eugene, with a lack of renters' rights, operates in such a way to encourage these scumbags to continue to do business in the manner that they see fit. It sucks.

4. LTD bus drivers. I think that public

transportation is a great idea. I just don't understand why the drivers of these massive buses feel the need to test the limits of their capabilities by taking corners at 60 miles an hour. I have been a witness on two different occasions to see an LTD bus tear down 19th Street and wipe out a side mirror on both a car and a truck. It's just not right. I fear for my life when I'm driving beside one of the monstrous buses — and heaven forbid trying to cross the street in front of one, even if you have the right-of-way — unless you have a death wish.

OK, I'm done. I feel good that I can leave Eugene with nothing bad left to say. It's all out in the open and, maybe, Eugene and I can make up and eventually see eye-to-eye again. We were a good couple for a number of years. I learned a lot about myself, thanks to Eugene. We had some really good times. I love Eugene, I really do. I just feel that we've grown apart; my life is headed in a different direction now.

Sometimes Eugene and I disagree on ideas and politics, but that's all right — it keeps things interesting. Maybe sometime in the future we will get back together, who knows. As for now, thanks, Eugene, for everything. I'll call you, I promise.

Contact the columnist at [kathrynpetersen@dailyemerald.com](mailto:kathrynpetersen@dailyemerald.com). Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

## Citizens should be grateful of military's protections

### Guest commentary

I am a cadet in the Army ROTC program, and today as I was walking in uniform back to my residence hall, another University student asked me "So, you want to go kill babies do you?" in a very mocking and disrespectful tone. Not really knowing what else to say to him and certainly not wanting to engage in a conflict with this person, I simply walked on. This really disturbed and offended me because I feel that it reflects a sentiment felt by some students on campus. I want to take this opportunity to say that not only was this individual being extremely rude to me, but he was showing his complete lack of knowledge on the subject of war and the military.

Yes, I concede that in the past soldiers in the Army — and the armies of all na-

tions — have committed war crimes and killed civilians. However, such an action is not something that the Army praises or intends to do. In ROTC we learned about the laws of war, and it was stressed to us during training that the murder of civilians is condemned in the Army and it will probably result in criminal process for the offender. It really angers me that people are so uninformed and intolerant of things they don't understand. The Army strives to protect the United States, not kill innocent people. Just because in the past, wrongs have been committed by an organization, doesn't make the entire organization bad. By that logic, we should condemn churches, schools and practically every other organization because in each of those organizations great evils have been committed.

In war, things which shouldn't happen

end up happening, but to say that soldiers murder babies and civilians out of bloodlust is an incredible overstatement and is really hurtful to the image of the armed forces and the brave men and women serving our country. After all, soldiers are human beings too and are just as horrified by violent crimes.

To the gentleman who made this remark to me I have to say: You should be grateful to the military for voluntarily protecting the country you live in, and if you disagree with the war and other political issues, remember that the military doesn't decide to go to war. That is the job of politicians, not soldiers. Stop blaming the military and cadets such as myself for the wrongs in this world. Get to know us ROTC people. I think you will find that we are not the baby killers you imagine.

Zachary White is a sophomore history major.