

COMMENTARY

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The trials of egg donation

The ad in the Emerald caught my eye last year — \$2,500 to donate my eggs. My first thoughts were, "Never, no way, you've got to be kidding!" But then this year, as I thought about it more, that \$2,500 was looking better and better. But to sell a piece of myself and walk away; I just don't know.

The process began in January, when I called the Fertility Clinic to ask for an information packet. My first step was an orientation appointment, scheduled with the coordinator of the egg donor program.



Salena DeLaCruz
 Say it loud

The coordinator explained in detail what the process entailed. First, I would have to be accepted into the program. In order to be accepted, I would have to have enough eggs to be harvested. I scheduled an appointment for a probe to take pictures of the follicles in the ovaries, which produce the eggs. I had 25, which is apparently a healthy number.

I then had to meet with a genetics counselor to find out if my family had any uncommon diseases in its history. Well, my uncle married a woman who had dwarfism in her bloodline and passed it to their children, but nothing else along my family lines.

I thought the physical probing was bad, but the mental probing was worse. What would they ask next? Well, then I met with a psychologist to see if I was sane enough or strong

enough to handle this kind of commitment. He even asked me when I was last in a steady relationship, and if I was bitter over my past relationship. Huh? I'm not bitter anymore — that was years ago, but I just didn't get what one had to do with the other. Finally, I was deemed sane enough to be an egg donor.

So I passed all of the preliminary tests. Did I get a great feeling of self-worth? Did I feel great for helping families that could not conceive? I'm still thinking about that.

In the mean time, the coordinator gave me details about the next steps in donating my eggs. Yes, I said "eggs," plural. They would harvest all 25 of my eggs, not just one. This picture is looking grimmer by the minute. I would need shots to stimulate my ovaries. I hate needles — that just brings up a red flag. It seems a little beyond the scope of what mother nature intended for my body.

According to the Advanced Fertility Center in Chicago, there are typically two different injectable medications used for in vitro fertilization cycles.

The first medication starts on about Day 21 of the woman's cycle and is called Lupron. This medication controls the stimulation of the ovaries and is usually injected into the thigh over a 14-25 day period.

The next medication begins a few days after the woman's period starts. This is the follicle-stimulating hormone that will stimulate the ovaries to produce multiple eggs. Examples are Gonadotropin, Follistim, Humegon, Repronex and Fertinex.

Then when the woman's follicles are mature, the egg retrieval procedure is performed to remove the eggs. A needle is passed through the

top of the vagina under ultrasound guidance to get to the ovary and follicles. Narcotics are given so there will be no significant pain.

Right now I'm in the waiting game, and the more I think about it, the less I want to be involved. Though I

started this adventure with the greatest of intentions, the \$2,500 is worth less than what I'd have to give — a part of me that would eventually be a child.

I can't help but think I would be searching the street for children that

looked like me, children that could've been mine. Children that were meant to be made just for me.

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



Peter Utsey Emerald

Research facilities threaten East Eugene

Guest commentary

Sen. Ron Wyden and University President Dave Frohnmayer are preparing to build two huge complexes for Defense Department-related research in East Eugene.

Production of artificial fish for use by the Navy and computer programs that compute more efficient Air Force flight routes are projects already under way at the University. Frohnmayer's column in The Register-Guard April 24, 2002, helped the University cash in on these inventions by encouraging voters to pass Measures 10 and 11.

Sen. Wyden is the principal sponsor of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act. Passage of this \$2.1 billion resolution will force intense development of the two Eugene sites.

This heavy-duty industrialization, along with steadily increasing tuition and planned demolition of 11 blocks of low-income student family housing (Guard, Dec. 1, 2002) creates a nightmarish scenario for East Eugene. The defense-related complexes are planned to replace the Moss Street neighborhood low-income housing blocks and the riverfront open space between EWEB and Autzen Footbridge. There is potential for devastating accidents associated with these developments (ODE, June 7, 2002, and Portland Tribune, April 4). Luckily, we have advance notice so that our "leaders" can answer the monumental questions most of our town will surely want answers for. The corporate majority of our city council has just added a 30-year extension to the Riverfront Research Park corporate-welfare development incentives (Eu-

gene Weekly, March 6, 2003). Sony and Hyundai have shown us what non-sustainable development is.

The Willamette River is in terrible shape, and replacing east campus housing with the "multiscale materials and devices center" is morally bankrupt and has vast socioeconomic consequences for the rest of Eugene. Although the University claims to honor diversity, the reality is that its plans east of campus amount to ethnic cleansing. Once the low-income families are sent down the road, the new child care center will serve elite researchers as they work on their defense-related projects just across Moss Street.

Approval of University administrators' request for more power from the Legislature will enhance administrators ability to execute this devastating agenda.

Zachary Vishanoff lives in Eugene.

Hate mail misrepresents true Christian spirituality

Guest commentary

I am writing in response to the article "Religious, racial hate mail infiltrates ASUO," (ODE, April 9). Being a Christian myself, I am appalled at what was said in the hate mail to the ASUO.

I resent being associated with the writer of that letter because I certainly do not feel the same way at all. The very fact that the writer claims to be a Christian and then takes the liberty to speak for all the other Christian students on campus, me included, on such a subject as this, offends me greatly.

What this person is saying is not the way true Christians believe. We as Christians are called to love everyone regardless of race, religion or sexual preference because God loves everyone the same. He does not play favorites. We are all his children, and it is not our place to judge anyone.

In John 13:34, Jesus commands us to "love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another." According to this verse, we, as Christians, followers of Christ, are called to follow his example and love everyone. Jesus himself,

God's own son, associated with and loved the very people that all of the more "righteous" people scorned (Matthew 9:9-13).

In fact, Jesus also commands us not to judge others. It is not our job; it is God's. Matthew 7:1-2 says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Just because someone has different beliefs or is from a different origin does not mean that they are in any way inferior to anyone else. The writer of the letter has not only managed to give a very detailed account of his or her hatred for anyone who happens to be different from him or her, but the writer has also managed to drag the precious name of Jesus Christ through the mud. Any person who discriminates or persecutes any other person in the name of Christianity has just done the exact opposite of what Jesus teaches.

These people also give a false impression of what it really means to be a true follower of Christ, and I think it is extremely sad.

Ashlee Garcia is a freshman anthropology major.

Online poll

Each week, the Emerald publishes the previous week's poll results and the coming week's poll question. Visit www.dailyemerald.com to vote.

Last week: How often would you like to see the Pulse (entertainment) section in

the Emerald?

Results: 68 total votes
 Every day — 17.6 percent, or 12 votes

Twice per week — 27.9 percent, or 19 votes

Once per week — 32.4 percent, or 22 votes

What's Pulse? — 14.7 percent,

or 10 votes

Leave me alone! — 7.4 percent, or 5 votes

This week: Do you think a company's press releases are free speech or commercial speech?

Choices: Free speech; Commercial speech; What's this about?; Leave me alone!