

INBOX

Displacing grad students could cause much grief

Graduate students are an integral part of the University of Oregon community. Despite the low pay and difficult teaching loads, on top of the day-to-day stress of being a graduate student in a competitive school, most of us enjoy being a part of this University community. Unfortunately, University Housing has found a way to make this enjoyment more of a burden than an educational experience. The proposed sale of Westmoreland Apartments means that the 360 leaseholders currently living there will have to stretch budgets that are already taut. It is generous of University Housing to offer those with children an opportunity to live in other University Housing, except that this housing is so much more per month than we are already paying. If we need more than one bedroom, the increase may be from \$135 to \$309 more per month.

Those of us without children? We

will have to figure out a way to find apartments within our budgets, as accessible to campus as Westmoreland, in a time when there will be more than 500 people displaced all at once. Some of us will be taking out (yet more) loans to pay for the inevitable increase in our rent. What will international students, who are ineligible for government assistance, do? Further complicating this debacle is that as of July 1, 2005, Westmoreland rents increased 6 percent in order to "provide safe, quality housing for its students and student families."

If University Housing is selling Westmoreland, what capital improvements and maintenance are we paying for? Why are we paying into a housing pool from which we will not benefit? Further, Allen Gidley (Associate Director of Housing) pointed out to me in a personal e-mail on Oct. 25 that the rental rates for Westmoreland are still below the average market rent for comparable units. This would be a valid argument in University Housing's favor,

except that many GTFs earn an income less than what the "average market" pays. With Westmoreland Housing, most of us could live within our incomes, even though our rent is one-third of our earnings. I am glad that the University is looking toward the future, but it is an unrealized future that is profiting from the already heavily burdened shoulders of the students it has working for it today.

Teresa Coronado
Graduate Student

Animal testing is not worth appreciating

This letter is written with regards to ODE's Oct. 18 commentary article "A step forward for stem cells."

Although a discovery regarding stem cell research with the use of mice might have incredible potential, Gabe Bradley is quite mistaken when he says, "The human spirit has done a nice little run around an ethical dilemma, reaching a solution that we can all appreciate."

Animal testing, aside from being generally misleading, costly and inconclusive, is barbaric, to say the least. These animals are capable of feeling pain and suffering just as humans are. Which life are we talking about, indeed! Where do we draw the line for ethics? Mice? Puppies? Monkeys? This "solution" involving mice is not a solution anyone should appreciate. It is an outdated method that certain overpaid scientists have deemed tolerable. A real step forward would be to use computer simulation and scanning technology, both of which are efficient, effective and reliable. See www.stopanimaltests.com for more information.

Jenna Facciuto
Pre-business student

Fur is not always truthfully labeled

Army Feth shouldn't be so sure that her fur coat came from a bunny's back ("Free to wear fur," ODE Oct. 26).

There is a thriving, hideously cruel

dog and cat fur industry in Asia, much of which is often falsely labeled before export. Without expensive DNA tests, it is virtually impossible to know exactly what kind of animal you are actually wearing if you choose to buy fur.

But whether the fur is from Rover or rabbits, there is nothing "gorgeous" or "beautiful" about how its original owners met their deaths. Much of the fur purchased in Western markets is imported from China, where animals are bludgeoned, hanged, bled to death, strangled with wire and often skinned alive.

If you have the heart to consider how your choices can mean the difference between life and an agonizing death for others, check out hip designers like Fabulous Furs, Charly Calder, Faux, Purrfect Fur, Sweet Herb and Coquette Faux Furriers, which sell stunning furs — that no one had to die for. To learn more, visit furusdead.com.

Brandi Valladolid
PETA Clothing Campaigns Manager

■ Guest commentary

Money spent on education now benefits the future

On Oct. 17 the Register-Guard published an editorial piece written by Mr. Hacelroad and Mr. Marquis, stating that Measure 11 brings justice and a lower crime rate. I would like to question one of their key assumptions.

They cite figures, which show that only about 15 percent of the Oregon general budget goes to prisons, police, public defenders and for district attorneys such as Hacelroad and Marquis, while 56 percent of the budget goes for education. What level of education are they referring to in their argument? K-12? Higher education? Community col-

leges? All of the above?

Education is a good investment of taxpayer money because of a number of factors. According to the information contained in the U.S. Census, college graduates earn about \$1 million more in lifetime earnings, about 62 percent more per year than people with a high school education only. Given the fact that they pay far more in taxes, educated citizens with a good job make a much higher contribution to the revenue stream, which provides the backing for all expenditures from the general budget of the state of Oregon.

In addition, educated citizens are far less likely to end up committing the very crimes that provide Hacelroad and Marquis with their positions and income. Educated people are less likely to be dependent on the government for food stamps, public housing and welfare, all of which greatly cost governments and taxpayers.

A more valid comparison for this purpose is to compare the state and local expenditures for one level of education with the 15 percent figure given. For instance, let us compare the cost to taxpayers of Lane County for

public safety and for funding of Lane Community College, and the return to the community from each one. Seventy percent of the general budget of Lane County goes for public safety. Given the fact that many of the people arrested, convicted and incarcerated for property crimes are people with a low level of education and marketable skills, when released, those people are very likely to return to the same behavior patterns that landed them in jail in the first place.

If the same tax revenue used to support this warehousing of people

were to be spent on the workforce development programs offered by Lane Community College, perhaps this cycle of crime and incarceration could be broken. Educated people with marketable skills benefit society and make economic contributions in all areas of our economy, as well as benefiting themselves. Money spent on community college has a return on that investment. Money spent on jails does not, and it is therefore an expense, not an investment.

G. Dennis Shine lives in Springfield

Halloween HQ's for Authentic Costumes

Flight Suits Fireman Suits Cooks Outfits
Soldier Uniforms Nurses Uniforms
Camouflage Face Paint Patches & Ensignes
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sadness hopelessness
no motivation trouble
concentrating
tired or
difficulty sleeping
depression

The worst way to treat it is to not treat it at all.


If you have been suffering from symptoms of depression for the last 2 months and are not currently being treated, you may be eligible to participate in an important clinical research study. Qualified participants must be between the ages of 18 and 64 and not currently pregnant or nursing. All study-related office visits, medical evaluations and study medication will be provided at no cost.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eugene Clinical Trials
541-434-6893

HAPPY

On the eve of one of the most popular events of the year, Halloween, we find our students leading the UO and Eugene community in an effort to create a safe and festive environment for everyone. The ASUO has partnered with the leadership of Lane Community College to spread a message of responsibility while having fun, and our RHA is working hard to develop entertaining programs for their residents. Students & staff are developing several activities that will take place in the EMU during the Halloween weekend. All across campus there is a flurry of activity being lead by students to ensure that we live up to our community standards while participating in all of the Halloween activities. At the University of Oregon, we have always prided ourselves on providing excellent educational programs and



experiences for our students. Since its inception, the institution has created and maintained a plethora of opportunities to aid students in their development as successful citizens. This ideal is articulated in our institutions mission, which states that the university will strive to enrich the public that sustains it through "the cultivation of an attitude toward citizenship that fosters a caring, supportive atmosphere on campus and the wise exercise of civic responsibilities and individual judgment throughout life." Our students have embraced this ideal and strive to better themselves and our community.

For this, the Leadership Resource Office says **Bravo!** We wish everyone the best during this festive time and encourage everyone to stay safe, be responsible and have fun.

HALLOWEEN