

**UNACCEPTABLE**

The Board of Directors of Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC) would like to express our concern about the current situation at the UO College of Education (COE). Students of color, as well as LGBTQ students and students with disabilities, find the learning environment at the COE to be hostile and believe it is risky to bring forward their observations and complaints.

The staff and curriculum at the COE are failing to prepare teachers, counselors and administrators to teach and work with increasingly diverse populations in our public schools. Multicultural education is extremely limited, and an overwhelmingly mono-cultural faculty is not equipped to prepare culturally competent future educators. This situation continues despite a COE policy which calls for the infusion of culturally diverse perspectives in all the courses offered.

The COE currently has a number of faculty openings. This is an opportunity for the college to make a significant transition towards cultural inclusiveness. We hope that the COE will hold these positions open until qualified candidates of diverse cultural backgrounds can be hired. We particularly support the idea of "cluster" hires, so that a change in the learning environment at the COE can occur.

Until the supply of new teachers includes more educators of color, and until new teachers of all backgrounds are culturally competent, our local districts are greatly hampered in their efforts to close the achievement gap and otherwise provide an equitable and culturally relevant education to all their students.

*Carol Van Houten  
Chair, CALC Board of Directors*

**MEDITATE ON THIS**

I would like to respond to the letter by Kelly Hinrichs (5/5) who was appalled that ODOT and *EW* would run an ad mocking and demeaning the Buddhist religion. If there is one thing I cannot tolerate, it is when someone disrespects another religion, no matter what that might be.

I dug through my recycling at home to find this bad ad, and was surprised to find a man in a business suit sitting in the lotus position, possibly meditating, with the headline, "Get Enlightened." Below that it reads, "Realization is the abandonment of ignorance" and further down it offers, "Achieve inner peace and heal anxiety, depression and anger," and offers commuting options other than driving to work. Sounds good to me.

Where is the injustice here that spurred your rage? All those things sound reasonable to me. First of all, *do not assume*, just because someone sits like this or meditates, that they are Buddhist.

Secondly, *don't rush to judgement*. What makes you think that *EW* created this ad or feels it contains the same message that you do?

And lastly, if you really need something to feel outraged about, just look around you. There's the war, the state of the economy, the environment, and the list goes on and on.

I think, Kelly, you should have sat and meditated on this, instead of firing off your reactionary, angry letter. Have some compassion for the poor ODOT marketing person who thought up this ad campaign. Oh, and by



the way, how did you travel to work today?

*Bhoddi Dharma  
Eugene*

**END DISCRIMINATION**

As an organization that cares about discrimination in our community, Lane Gender Task Force is very concerned about what is happening at the UO College of Education (COE). We are further concerned that very few people are aware of what has been occurring.

For the last 20 years there has been large scale discrimination at the COE. In the last two years alone there have been more than 40 documented incidents of discrimination. Many more cases are going unreported because of fear of retaliation. This includes discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality and ability.

The COE fails to provide a safe learning environment. There is retaliation against students who bring up diversity issues, as well as students being shouted down in class and followed to the bathroom. This is wrong.

All students need a safe learning environment. In addition, this is a problem that affects our communities as a large number of COE students become educators in our schools. Not only are students leaving the COE incompetent to deal with the diverse populations that they will be serving, but they are being taught in a discriminatory environment that makes the silencing of diverse voices normal and acceptable. This is a community issue.

A large coalition of student and community organizations working on this issue have put forth an eight-step plan of specific changes to address these problems. Join us and many other community groups in working to end discrimination at the COE.

*Lane Gender Task Force  
Risa Bear, Maceo Persson  
Joe Humphreys, Toby Hill-Meyer*

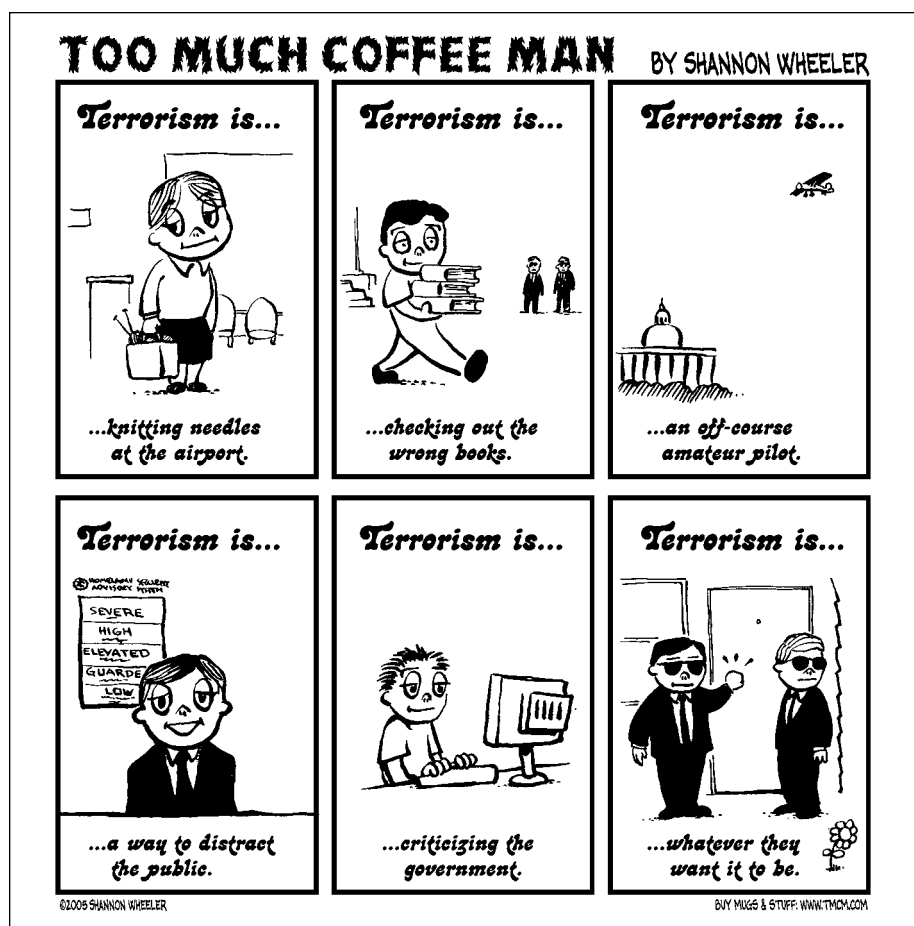
**HERE I SIT ...**

Answering a letter to the editor in *EW* like entering into a correspondence with that strange person who scrawls weird remarks in toilet stalls, but a lie-stuffed, political letter by Dennis Shine (5/5) requires rebuttal as much as Shine requires rebuke.

I am a member of the Safety and Respect Committee of the Springfield School District and have attended every meeting for the duration of every meeting. Mr. Shine is

not a member of the committee and, though I have heard him quoted extensively on events which have occurred at the meetings, I have never seen him attend one. Wade Richardson, a moderate parent, productive citizen of Springfield, and valuable member of the committee, also has attended every meeting and is known for his sincerity, searching questions, and attempts to get to the truth, instead of bobbing his head in ignorant agreement, as do, unfortunately, a number of the other committee members.

Mr. Richardson has always insisted on including *all* persons attending the Springfield Schools as being entitled to the full protection of the law as set forth in the 14th Amendment. Given the diversity of our country (yes, there are people in this community and elsewhere who are not homosexuals, minorities, illegal aliens, or suffer from diseases physical and



psychical, but are, in fact, normal, healthy, native-born Americans), and these persons deserve protection under the law also.

In contrast with Shine's false and politically motivated allegation that Richardson opposed celebrating Martin L. King Jr.'s birthday, Richardson has never made that statement, but has indicated a desire to distribute the district's sparse allocation of social studies time to the discussion of a number and variety of American historical figures, no doubt including George Washington Carver, W.E.B. DuBois, and our current secretary of state, Dr. Rice, not to the exclusion of Presidents Washington, Lincoln, and, perhaps, Roosevelt.

Finally, Richardson is not a candidate for the religious right as Shine claims, but is the father of a number of children he would like to see get at least a half-way decent public school education. Unlike Shines's favorites, Richardson has accepted contributions only from individual neighbors and friends and will finish the campaign not indebted to or owned by any group or organization.

Shine should be ashamed of himself for repeating lies and *EW* for printing them, but the two do seem remarkably compatible — a lot like the scrawler and the toilet stall — and such decency is not their forte.

*Reis R. Kash  
Springfield*

**NO NOBLE CAUSE**

In response to Josiah Sanders' letter (4/21): While I can certainly respect you and your comrades for your courage, I cannot "support" you or respect you for what you have done. You are *not* making your country safer, you are *not* protecting the U.S., you are *not* performing some great, noble purpose. You *are* a patsy for a corrupt government, you *are* complicit in the deaths of thousands of human beings, you *are* a tool that is used and discarded.

Those little magnets are a constant, sickening reminder of what was done in the name of our citizens. They do not "support" you or your comrades, they support the people that manufactured them. These magnets provide nothing but a false justification and frail peace of mind for an illegal and totally un-

warranted military action.

You say that you have "responded to the call of duty that not all good Americans are willing to do." My duty is to my family, friends, and community, not to a corrupt regime that steals my money and turns it into weapons of mass destruction. My duty is to ensure that I have as low an impact on the world around me as possible, not to fire depleted uranium rounds into the environment or drop cluster munitions into the playground of my neighbor. My duty is to attempt to live in peace, harmony, and understanding with those around me, not to kill the enemies of a morally defunct ideal.

I support our troops by calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal from our failed little brush wars around the globe. I support our troops by asking that they only risk themselves in the defense of our nation.

*Justin Bengtson  
Eugene*

**TAKES ALL KINDS**

There aren't many things sillier than people who feel they have to complain about things they don't have to pay for. (Well, OK, we all know that's not true — TV, Washington, D.C., and every state house in the country are awash in sillier things.) Me, I enjoy Date Girl, as I enjoy — even if I disagree with — just about any other writer who is willing to speak his or her mind and is not willing to pander to the myriad offensivities of every layabout who has nothing better to do than complain. (If they want pablum, let them read the *R-G*.) We need to realize just how dishwasher-dull life would be if everything in it were tailored just for our individual limited palates, and be grateful that it does indeed take all kinds to make a world.

*Michael E. Stamm  
Eugene*

**WHAT A DRAG**

The Playboyz wish to send out an apology to those of you who came out to Sam's Place see our Drag King Show on Saturday, May 7 merely to find that we were not performing after all. Due to unfortunate circumstances surrounding Sam's Place involving incidents