

# Letters

Dear Mother ...

...ing to the Feb. 18th edition of the Daily Emerald, you have ... of the University Housing ... the privileged of "buying ... for my children that would leave ... options." One need not ask why ... for this—it is obvious! You do not ... (daughter) to live her own life ... should be able to at this point of her ... she can not be trusted in a dorm- ... with visitation allowed, then where ... you failed? It is no doubt true that ... but any undesirable situation can ... on this campus if a person looks ... hard enough. The same situation ... in nearly every community in the ... I would be very ashamed to admit ... did not prepare my child to live in ... world by the time (she) is 18 or 19 ... old.

... you admit that your (daughter) is ... pared to live in a situation where ... interaction between the sexes is ... ed, you may wish to consider ... a suitable apartment for your ... er and at the same time find a ... sible baby-sitter to keep an eye on ... ou realize that if no visitation is ... d in the dormitory, there are a great ... other housing situations where she ... go and do whatever it is you are ... she might do in her dormitory room. ... time baby-sitter is the only solution ... dilemma.

... have stated that "It is a breach of ... te to entertain boyfriends in a ... om." Says Who? My dormitory ... oom" also serves as my study room, ... room, and business office. I often ... friends in to listen to music on my ... system, which could not be trans- ... down four flights of stairs to the ... every time I wanted to listen with ... s. The "bed" in my room becomes a ... during the day, and the entire room ... ctually designed for a variety of ... ses besides sleeping. There is no ... why visitors should not be per- ... d in dormitory rooms, unless (as in ... case) your child is not prepared to ... home at all.

... may also wish to consider the great ... er of students who are paying their ... way through school, and are com- ... pletely independent of their parents. ... d you impose restrictions on them, ... though you as mothers have ab- ... solutely no right whatsoever?

... our governance committee ... entative has stated, you may have

peace of mind with conditions such as these imposed on students, but what sort of confidence does this give your child? I would be very disturbed to think I was placed in a housing situation "for children who can't be trusted" by my parents. In my opinion ladies, the problem exists within your own homes, and if I were you, I would find a solution there.

**Roger D. Swayze**  
Soph. Architecture and  
Dormitory resident

### Repugnant letter

As a fervant admirer of the 1984 Big Brother system of government, I wish to applaud the recent letters to the editor seeking to pressure the Emerald to discontinue its "repugnant, degrading" sexist advertizing and its "disrespectful, belittling" references to the fair sex as "chicks." Certainly they have called attention to the damage done by the Emerald's thoughtlessness; how lives have been destroyed and degraded. Had I known at the time that all this was an issue, I would have written in to report on how hundreds of women, no longer able to face life after hearing that ultimate epithet "chick," had thrown themselves into the Millrace. Certainly such use of the press is illegitimate, and deserves an indictment for second-degree thoughtcrime.

The women's liberation movement is generally a serious, carefully planned program aimed against some serious and clearly definable grievances; inequalities in pay and promotion, restrictive abortion laws, etc. It is only at its peril that it is distracted from these substantial issues to peripheral bullshit like semantics and nude modeling. A Ms. can be discriminated against as easily as a chick, and to the best of my knowledge no latter-day Carrie Nations of women's lib contemplate busting up establishments like Gentleman's Retreat. If Mr. Lifsher's suggestions are followed, the only winners would be the forces of repression, and the losers would be not only those who believe in freedom of the press, but the supporters of women's liberation as well.

**Neil Albert**  
Senior, Phil. & Psych.

### Careful with words

This letter is written in response to an editorial appearing in the January 29 Register Guard, entitled "Signs of Resistance to the OSPIRG Tax."

If there is one thing that law students learn early in law school, it is to be careful with words. Obviously, some journalists adhere to no such canon. In a telephone conversation with Mr. Lloyd Paseman of the Guard, I was asked to comment upon the increase of students who legitimately sought their money in the form of refunds from OSPIRG. I told Mr. Paseman that I attributed the refund to two elements: low visibility and organized opposition.

By the first, I meant a deliberate policy to take on projects which would affect the state, but which, because of their nature, did not necessarily make headlines, and which would, and were expected, to hit us at the refund period. This is particularly true when students and perhaps newspapers weigh one's effectiveness in terms of headlines rather than change.

By the second, I meant that conservative student organizations like Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) and Students for an Informed Republic (SIR) had placed ads in many student newspapers stating in part "nearly 5,000 OSPIRG members last term obtained their refunds." The ads were, it appeared, designed to remain ambiguous so that it might appear to a student that 5,000 students on his campus obtained refunds—which was simply not the case. The figure reflected approximately 5,000 out of 41,600 who had been assessed that term. I told Mr. Paseman that the 5,000 figure reflected in the advertisement represented less than 10 per cent of the total amount received by OSPIRG last term, and that a fair presentation of the story would have revealed that 90 per cent of the students assessed had not obtained a refund. I was asked specifically whether that 90 per cent reflected student support on the campuses, and I replied, "No . . . that 90 per cent of the students assessed had not obtained a refund, and an advertisement that said '5,000 students had obtained a refund' might lead students, falsely, to believe that a larger number of students than 10 per cent on each campus had applied for said refund."

But my comment was not reported as such. It appeared in print as though I had said that OSPIRG had received 90 per cent

endorsement from students, a figure I would never endorse since OSPIRG received 26,000 plus signatures last year on petitions, which approached 55 per cent of the students enrolled. I have never attempted to inflate the percentage figures of OSPIRG endorsements from students, other than the majority support we received from students last year.

After Mr. Paseman's article in the Register Guard, I had been quoted on radio from Eugene to Portland as saying that OSPIRG's low-key visibility had "back-fired." Again, a statement never uttered.

Whatever happened to the quotes I did state to Mr. Paseman over the telephone surely were not reflected in the story that went out over the news wires.

What was reported became the subject of your editorial.

One means of taking to the public the issues OSPIRG investigates has always been the public media, yet when simple facts, figures and statements are confused and lost on pressroom floors, one begins to question the accuracy, or indeed even the courtesy, of answering questions asked by the press. Whether or not the Register Guard finds the time or space to print this, I have forwarded a copy to Mr. Paseman in the belief that his notes will reflect the statement, and the context of the statement I did make. If they do, then I would hope that his concern and yours would justify the clarification needed.

That freedom of the press must always remain a continued guarantee, is axiomatic. All the public interest can ask in return is that the press report with precision and accuracy that news it receives, and that such a policy will justify the high calling and continuing sacrifices asked of the press and its reporters. If accuracy fails, we will have abandoned truth for half-truth, a circumstance I fear we have already flirted with too closely.

I endorse your paper, if such are indeed its goals, and I respect both its posture and its position. I hope that it will do likewise for OSPIRG. After all, the statement appearing on its editorial page proudly states: "The Register Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on the news."

**Bernard N. Merrill**  
Chairman, OSPIRG

