emerald
platform

Women's group fights tyranny of night

A woman fears the night. She knows after the darkness falls sexual violence may be around each blind corner and in every wavering shadow. She never knows when the hands will seize her from behind. She sees every man as a potential rapist. She has to be afraid and ready in the night. If she isn't aware the knife blade will suddenly flash in the streetlight and he'll force her staggering back into the shadows.

This tyranny of the night prompted a feminist group, Angry Women Against Rape and Exploitation (AWARE), to post a flyer on the Eugene Downtown Mall Saturday that stated Lane County had enacted a curfew for men.

The hoax was particularly poignant as it was to become effective Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day.

The flyers said men were required to "remain indoors after dark unless accompanied by at least three female companions." The reason, according to the flyer, was because of "numerous assaults on women by men."

In the first three-quarters of 1981 the number of rapes in Eugene increased more than any other crime. Thirty-eight rapes were reported in that period.

Also last year six rapes were reported in the University district — and three women were assaulted in the dorms.

Linda Spring, AWARE spokeswoman, said the flyer was to point out "how it feels to be a woman on the street at night. Men don't realize that women have a curfew already."

Public awareness of sexual violence has even become a plank in the campaign platform of a gubernatorial candidate in New Mexico. The candidate, William Sego, is running on an anti-rape platform.

Sego has proposed a million-dollar program that consists of a larger state police rape investigation squad, more rape crisis centers and more money for treatment of sex offenders. Sego also advocates more funds for medical and psychological treatment of victims — for which convicted rapists would have to pay.

Sego's anti-rape stance is exceptional, as politicians go. Though he becomes unique when he says he might consider castration for habitual rapists.

Sego's comment caused an immediate outcry among editorial writers. They called the idea "barbaric". The barbarism of rape seems to have escaped those writers.

A Playboy article last year stated that only half of the suspected rapists nationwide are arrested; about two thirds of those are prosecuted; and less than 47 percent are found guilty. Looking at the odds, that isn't much of a deterrent.

A man is bewildered and ashamed in the night. He passes a woman who furtively glances at him — then averts her face. He knows she is afraid of him even though he isn't a rapist.

letters

Misinformation

The editor's note of last Friday (Feb. 12) was another example of the misinformation and lies that always abound in an anti-nuke article.

The article says plutonium leaked during the Three Mile Island accident. That is a lie. The leak was a form of Krypton gas. And the amount that leaked was truly miniscule.

Harry Esteve then begins the usual condescending drivel about the "I-told-you-so's." He mindlessly strings together the trite anti-technology buzz-words to come up with his "statement."

Nowhere does Esteve mention the impressive safety record of the nuclear industry. No form of large scale power production can come close to it. More than 100 people have died this year already in airplane crashes. Why doesn't Esteve play Chicken Little to the airplane industry?

The real problem is not Esteve's personal case of garbage on the brain. The real problem is that editors like himself do a tremendous disservice to the public by not providing a rational forum in their papers for the debate of nuclear power.

His solution to the very critical worldwide energy problem is to place your head in the sand, or up your ass, which ever is more comfortable.

Doug Sheldon
GTF, physics

Incorrect quote

Your news story on Northwest Christian College, Emerald, Feb. 5, quotes an NCC representative as saying that NCC receives no state tax revenues but relies only on tuition and private donations for its operating funds. That statement, which may, of course, be an incorrect quotation, is grossly incorrect.

For the academic year 1981-82, NCC is scheduled to receive $24,876 in state funds. In 1979-80, NCC received $39,334 in state funds; and in 1978-79, NCC received $40,620 in state funds.

These monies are provided to NCC, as similar funds are to most private colleges in the state, theoretically to assist in instruction in non-sectarian subjects.

J.T. Sander, department head
Department of Religious Studies

Foolish move

I agree with your editorial opposing closing the law school at the University, and would like to add some more reasons to the already long list of why this would be a foolish move.

Law schools traditionally give less in financial aid than other graduate programs. This is because law students have less to teach that would be suitable to undergraduates, and teaching assistantships are at the core of most graduate financial aid.

Now, in addition, President Reagan's latest proposals would make all graduate students ineligible for guaranteed student loans. With little aid, and no loans, how will people attend law school? Answer: they will not. Students are having a hard enough time attending school as it is. The higher cost of private law schools will put this dream out of reach for a huge percentage of our undergraduates.

Oregon would become the most populous state in the nation without a publicly supported law school. Right now, only Alaska, Vermont, New Hampshire and Rhode Island lack such an institution.

Also, the law library is a necessary component of fine scholarship on this campus, not only for law students and professors. Many members of the faculty in C.S.P.A., political science, journalism, and others would be unable to pursue their chosen research without the law school. My field is First Amendment Law. Without the law school, I do not believe that the University would have sufficient resources for me to do my job properly.

I am glad to see that, of all the proposed cuts — all of which are dangerous to the future of quality education in this state — the law school is the one people are rallying behind.

J. Marc Abrams
School of Journalism

IFC clarification

There are some points from Monday's editorial that require clarification.

The Incidental Fee Commmittee has not recommended a $5,000 budget for intramurals. That $5,000 recommendation was the preliminary figure from the ASUO executive.

When the committee does act on the intramural budget, the Emerald feels the IFC should transfer $57,000 from the athletic department's budget and back this move with a student referendum. This may discourage Johnson Hall administrators and the State Board of Higher Education from capriciously reversing IFC's decision as it has in past years. Intramural funding should come from the athletic department budget and not from the ASUO program budget.

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