

Just when you thought it safe to sleep

Sitting in a classroom listening to people ask questions is almost like visiting the zoo — there are as many different styles of asking questions as there are monkeys. Some people get excited, some get scared. Some are shy and some boring. But the ones who act like they're in a zoo are people who ask obnoxious questions.

They seem to break down into a few basic categories.

editor's note frank shaw

The "See What I Know" questioner. Spotted early in the term in your most difficult class, these people can usually be found sitting in the front where they won't have to look at their classmates.

Their question goes something like this: "While what you say *might* be true, I was wondering," followed by a string of six-syllable words that only a Master's student would know about. The question is asked with a whine, and finishes with the questioner looking proud of the question, the teacher looking like something crawled out from under a rock and the class looking like they want to either head for the Registrar and drop the class or lynch the student.

The "Let's Relate My Personal Experience" ques-

tioner. There's almost no surer way of embarrassing everyone in the class than to drag in some mystical experience you had 10 years ago. But this is exactly what these people do. The question goes something like this: "Reading this poem really reminds me of when I was three years-old and living with my grandparents in Wyoming," followed by a detailed description of an experience that in no way relates to the class.

But in my mind the worst is the "Interrupt the Professor and Any Students in the Class to Get My Opinion In" questioner. This person breaks into any lecture, dialogue or conversation without raising a hand. "Wait a minute, that's wrong. You don't know what you're talking about," followed by a five minute tirade about how wrong the speaker really is. A variation on the same theme is the type that picks a large lecture class and argues with the teacher on established facts for 20 minutes while the rest of the class falls asleep.

The problem is clear, the answer isn't. Peer pressure obviously doesn't work. A quick stab with a pencil might get the point home, but that only works if the questioner is within arms reach.

The answer could lie in a new quick-acting drug that paralyzes the vocal cords. Each student would be armed with a blow gun and a few darts. Points on the final could be awarded to the student who scores the first hit. Not too civilized, maybe, but effective.

letters

Bad behavior

The Emerald has once again decided that it is time to make public issue of individuals' bad behavior and call this the behavior of all Greek members.

This time it is the news editor, Frank Shaw, who described meeting drunken individuals at the Cal-Oregon football game. He referred to these people as mindless, drunken, Neanderthals and labeled them as "Greeks."

I have met drunken reporters before, but this does not cause me to label all reporters as drunks, much less Neanderthals. Was the purpose of Shaw's comments to show his dislike for those who save seats for their friends? That point was finally made in the second to last paragraph. Or was the purpose of Shaw's column to report the stereotype of all Greeks being drunken, inconsiderate Neanderthals? This point was brought out in the remaining 14 paragraphs. This can hardly be called fair and responsible journalism.

I plead with the IFC to let the Emerald become a subscription paper and not just a handout on the corner. This way only those who feel the need to read such one-sided journalism will be forced to pay for the paper.

Michael Mee
senior, finance

Find a seat

I would like to thank "reporter" Frank Shaw for his enlightening column on his inability to secure a seat at the Cal football game. Be-

ing the responsible, unbiased journalist he is, Shaw has now undoubtedly saved many students from this terrible reality.

It has been sometime since anything "Greek" has been mentioned on page 3 of the Emerald. What is wrong? It is getting difficult to dig up dirt? Surely there must be more negative things to say on 2,000 Greek students, all of whom (without exception, of course) are drunken, preppy, snobby socialites. Why, even the Greek system has learned to expect this kind of publicity from the Emerald.

Just as "reporter" Shaw pays money to sit wherever he wants in Autzen Stadium, I also pay money to read pertinent, interesting news in the Emerald. I suppose we are both getting screwed.

If Shaw's column on football seating represents the material that fill's his "reporter's notebook," then perhaps he should throw it away.

Randall Putz
junior, journalism

Wallies

Frank Shaw's column recent concerning Greeks at the Cal football game is yet another shining example of his ineptitude as both news editor and reporter.

While I applaud your accusations, I don't feel you are justified in condemning the entire Greek community. Although the people involved in this unfortunate incident are obviously Wallies, please don't identify all Greeks with this kind of behavior. If this logic is applied to all of your reporting then I guess this also means that the

Catholic Church endorses the philosophy of the Unification Church or Maranatha. They are all considered churches and are all religious institutions so they must embrace the same values. Right?

I met a rude, obnoxious, non-Greek idiot on the street the other day. Should I, therefore, classify all non-Greeks under this category? If you really are the reporter you claim to be, perhaps you might have taken the initiative to find out what fraternity these social invalids belong to. Then the blame could be directed towards the proper source. Articles like this one only help to alienate many of the readers this paper serves and assures us all of your gross incompetence as a reporter. Well, the sun is going down now and I can't see to write anymore with these Vuarnets glued to my head. Looking forward to your next article.

Michael Downey

Correction

Due to a typing error a sentence was inadvertently left off the letter "Task force" Emerald, Oct. 12. The sentence should have read:

"Only one out of 12 'enforcement' recommendations dealt with police discretion, through a reduction in 'citations-in-lieu-of-arrest' — actually a short term experiment to reduce, not increase, police discretion regarding arrests."

We regret any confusion this might have caused.

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