

letters

No right

More women die giving birth than having an abortion. I don't mean to say all women should have an abortion because it's safer, but I do advocate any woman's right to choose. Male anti-abortionists, on the other hand, with their "holier than thou" attitude, want to make sure that any woman who gets pregnant must have the baby, regardless of circumstances.

Let me ask you males some questions: do you know what it's like to have sore breasts, wonder if your IUD is secure, feel constantly nauseated, or take a pill which is only 99 percent safe — a pill that only several women die from — several too many!

What is your role in this process of reproduction and contraception? Sperm. An underlying problem of this patriarchal society is the false belief that women are responsible for contraception. Women's bodies are the ones that suffer, that must go through hormonal/physiological changes. Women are the ones who die — not men. I've never heard of one male dying giving birth or having adverse reactions to the pill!

Until we come up with safe, effective methods of contraception for men as well, then no man has any right to tell women they must have babies. I don't know what makes some men think they have the right to govern something that doesn't belong to them: women's bodies. When men get pregnant and go through it, then I'll listen. For now, it's Christian jargon by "righteous" males who believe women are fetus factories. One last thought: "If men became pregnant abortion would be a sacrament."

Laura Romano
Women's Referral
and Resource Service

More serious

Unfortunately, the cover of this year's faculty-staff directory was printed on orange stock with black ink, much to my chagrin. But, the article on page one of the Emerald (ODE,

Jan 24) includes some inaccuracies. University Publications and I are primarily "to blame." We are responsible for the publication, orange cover or not.

I did not say to the reporter that this office "is not to blame." Furthermore, I did not say that the printer would never work in this town again. What I did say was that we would not be using this printer for our faculty-staff directory next year because of the mix-up on the cover, because it was delivered to campus so late, and because a number of copies were poorly printed. More important, readers are inferring from the article that the University Printing Department was responsible for printing the directory. They did not print the book. The University Printing Department does fine work, as evidenced by the cover of this year's General Catalog and several other publications. The publisher who did print the directory was supplied a color sample of the cover paper wanted, and it was not orange.

In an effort to save some money, we entered into an arrangement with an out-of-state publishing firm which supplied the printing of the faculty-staff directory free of charge.

I extend my apologies to the campus community for the embarrassment the color of the cover has caused. University Publications takes its responsibilities more seriously than the article suggests.

George Beltran, Director
University Publications

Explanation

Despite the Emerald's comprehensive feature about Pioneer Cemetery last fall, Logan Dhonau's letter (ODE, Jan. 22) illustrates that many people still do not understand that Pioneer Cemetery is private land, not University property.

The cemetery, originally founded by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and abandoned by that organization in the 1930s for financial reasons, is now operated by a volunteer

Board of Directors on behalf of the plot owners. Fifteen years ago, the University did consider the possibility of engineering its relocation. That proposal raised such an uproar that then President Robert Clark pledged not to consider the issue again. Since that time, the relocation proposal has never again been officially broached.

When members of the campus community raised questions last fall about lighting the cemetery, I twice wrote to the Association president. I suggested that from its own resources or through a fund-raising drive, the Association might arrange to install some more lights. I also suggested that with the Association Board's concurrence, the University might be able to work out mutually satisfactory plans to illuminate the cemetery.

The Association president responded that the Association did not have sufficient funds for such a project. He expressed doubt that plot owners would wish to provide additional lighting for the cemetery. Because the Pioneer Cemetery is private property, the University cannot nor should not force its wishes on the Association. This letter does not resolve the legitimate concerns of the students. It is offered only as an explanation of why we have not been able to respond directly to the situation.

Daniel Williams
Vice President
Administration

Profit motive

I was appalled to read the lead article in the Emerald (Jan. 17) regarding the University bookstore. Imagine, our own bookstore admits to using as one of its selection criterion the potential saleability of the book it chooses to stock. Where is their sense of morality, their sense of decency, their commitment to a cause?

We live in a community which is blessed with a band of elite scholars whose talents should be tapped. Who could better make those decisions as to which books should be purchased and which should not? Instead, the bookstore relies upon the crass aesthetic of the common pleb. Simply because these people are the ones willing to plunk down their money and buy the books does not entitle them to dictate policy to our bookstore. So, I say to those in charge, "Show some courage." It is far better to be perceived as thinking correctly and insolvent, than to buckle under to the (ugh!) profit motive.

Lowell Smith
Graduate

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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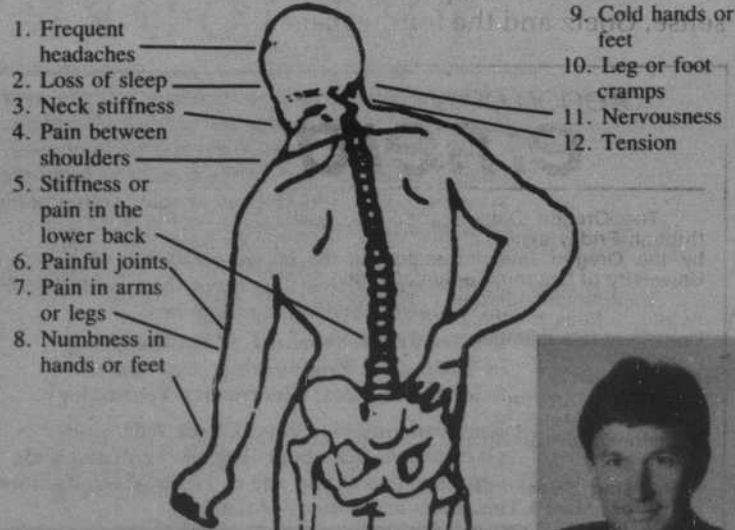
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