

letters

Not silenced

For men who feel their power is in jeopardy because women are seeking equality and choices, rape is the cure-all defense. They throw rape words around like long-barreled shotguns and feel safe again, unconquerable, like a Clint Eastwood in the desert. On this campus, men are throwing childish pranks of obscene phone calls, threats, and bathroom pornographies on a woman because she refuses to

be quiet; she has chosen to fight. Well, we won't take it. The threat of rape must not be used as your armor. This desert is for all of us and all of us must share our power; a power of equality and consideration. We are here to say that the silence is now broken. This woman is Laura Romano, and we are all strong with her. Rape is not an idle threat. Not in this society. It is not a viable option. It is an act of violence used to degrade women back to "their place" since the beginning of time. But

not this time. We, on this campus, as a community, must show our solidarity. Women must have a voice if they are to gain equality in this society. Our voice will not be silenced by anyone.

Chris Gonzalez
Co-director
WRRS

Impact

Jim Simasko, Assistant Race Director at Willamette Pass, wrote to you recently saying that, "Skiing does not impact the environment as greatly as other economic activities." Now I love a good colloquialism as much as anyone, but the prevalence of the misuse of this word is beginning to have an impact on my ear.

Whatever defenses can be mustered for this use of the verb (and there's a polemic available for any occasion), it strikes (not impacts) my ear as dissonant, at the very least unpretty. When I hear it street spoken, as a verb,

it is rarely stressed on the second syllable: "imPACT," which my dictionary defines as "to force tightly together; pack; wedge." Let us do none of these things to our environment — think of the impact it would have!

Michael Powell
Asian Studies

Great concern

The ousting of Mr. Harper from the Women's Task Force should be of great concern to us all. The problems of discrimination facing women and men are intertwined. The women's movement can not accomplish its goals without taking into account the problems men face.

Men, as well as women, are victims of violence based on sex. It is men the military drag from home to the horrors of war. The theatre has us fighting one another in countless bloody battles, while television kills us off in droves as victims of God knows how many bullets, knives, and bombs. The courts take our children from us because we are not mothers. Male criminals far outnumber females, driven to a life of violence on the outside of prison, and one of rape and more violence inside.

This injustice does not end with violence. The discriminations we suffer are interwoven with women's problems, up to and including exclusion and expulsion from university-sanctioned groups. The Women's Task Force has discredited its members, and perpetrates the very evil it hoped to destroy.

Scott Ellicott
Law

quences you should be aware of: 1) Abortion itself will not end. It will simply return to the "coat hanger/back room" status, resulting in many more deaths and injuries (many of them permanent), 2) If abortion is illegal, then the man who helped create said fetus (after all fella, it takes two to tango) should be considered an accomplice. One last note: If you take no responsibility for birth control — it is a mutual responsibility — then you A) are showing your immaturity, and B) have no right to enforce a patriarchal ideal on your sexual partner.

Janis Sellers
Eugene

Let's forget it

As a University student who likes to keep up on today's news in the world, I am fed up with seeing story after story on the starving nation of Ethiopia. I see a story on these people's plight almost every other day, and, quite frankly, am sick of hearing about it. We are all well aware of the situation and since nobody is really doing anything about it, let's forget it.

It's really quite annoying to wake up in a good mood and to see in the Emerald, or other news sources, pictures of starving resemblances of humans. I know that it is not my fault that they are what they eat (nothing), and therefore I don't like to hear about them.

So let's live our lives and forget about the other part of the world. I mean who likes to be hummed out by a picture of an underprivileged dead person?

Charles Knechtel
Economics/Pre-Law

No right

This is concerning all letters to the editor by those men opposing abortion. Actually it concerns all men opposing abortion.

First, abortion is not used as a primary source of birth control, but as a last resort. The decision whether or not to have an abortion is a difficult decision for a woman to have to make. For the sake of a simplified argument, let's take abortion only as a form of birth control. It is very rare that men use any type of birth control, if at all, therefore delegating all responsibility for birth control to the woman. If you have this attitude, and are delegating the responsibility to the woman, then you have absolutely no right to tell her what type of birth control she can or can't (as in this instance) use.

In addition, if abortion is outlawed there are two conse-

Remember

In the midst of all this hemming and hawing about abortion there are a couple of things that we need to remember. Number one, recall that saying: "If you want to dance, you must pay the fiddler." How much does it cost? Only about 18 years of your life, given with total devotion, plus thousands of dollars. Who is willing to pay that price? Some are.

Number two, we need not cast stones only at women who want an abortion. Whatever happens to all of the men who help start this sequence of events, with its huge price tag? There are many men to whom the word devotion has not become obsolete. Along with many women, they are willing to share the costs. Also, both share the rewards.

We need to remember these things whenever we feel like fiddling around.

David Goss
Elementary Ed.

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