

letters

Significant

"Is Brooks' raise deserved?" your reporter asks (ODE, Jan 30). Well, that question is difficult to answer when the article does not state his existing salary. According to a computer listing, he was paid \$55,480 as of Nov. 6, 1984. The \$14,000 raise (over 25 percent) brings his salary to just shy of \$70,000. Too much? Too little? For comparison, full professors at the University receive as little as \$29,000 to as much as \$54,000 — the amount varying principally by department. This is hardly one-fourth the salary of the football coach as alleged by the reporter, but it makes the significant statement that someone's talents for training young men to hit one another are worth more than the skills required to teach intellectual activities, for which a university supposedly is created.

Paul Konka
Law

Sarcastic

In response to Brian Moore's letter (ODE, Jan. 31):

Yes, you are quite misunderstood, of course we aren't accusing you of being sarcastic. We know you obviously don't have control over your own body.

In your letter you said (and we quote) that, "Abortion is a beautiful experience. A woman is able to show her control over her body. . . ." And if a woman is raped and impregnated by a man, that surely displays the ultimate control over a woman's own body, don't you think? We know if you asked the many women who've been in this situation and have had abortions, they'd all describe it as a "beautiful experience." Regardless of these women,

what of those that are encouraged by males in their lives, i.e. boyfriends, fathers, brothers, husbands, etc. to get abortions? If women did actually have complete control of their bodies, how many do you think would be in that situation?

Oh, and Brian, we have one small problem with your statement that abortion is sexist and discriminatory against you, men, the minority. Tell us when men fork out the large sum (HA!) of \$200 for their women friends' abortions that they aren't buying THEIR "right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Need they have "our authoritarian government" legalize this control? Let's face it, Mr. Moore, you have a severe case of vaginal envy!

Catherine O'Connor
Irene McNeely
Women

Not serious

I would like to make a correction in the otherwise 'good coverage the Emerald has provided on the Gypsy Moth issue.

Your editorial of Jan. 31 indicated that the Gypsy Moth has already done severe damage in Lane County. This is incorrect. Although visible defoliation has been observed in a handful of Oaks and Douglas firs in the Dexter area, the economic impact of defoliation is, to date, zero.

It is not yet known if the Gypsy Moth will thrive and spread on an exclusively Douglas fir diet. The defoliated fir trees seen in Dexter grew next to heavily infested Oaks, the moth's favorite diet in Lane County.

Hopefully, the question of the moth's impact on Douglas fir (Oregon's chief timber crop) will be addressed by thorough

scientific research on Lane County's infestation this year. Alterations in spray area ecosystems; human health effects; efficacy of trapping, sterile male and egg, and NPV virus techniques; and exploitation of natural parasites and predators are research areas which should have funding in the state's proposed \$13 million project.

Paul Ferguson
Survival Center

Boring deficit?

Is it possible that Michele Matassa is really Mike Cross in disguise? If she wrote the headline "Reagan budget puts clamp on deficit" (Feb. 5) that would be the logical conclusion. The honest and accurate headline would have read: "Reagan ravages social programs, deficit of \$180 billion still near record." Perhaps too long, eh?

Which prompt a few questions on the (I know, boring) deficit. Such as:

1. How was LBJ able to fund a "real war" in Vietnam and "the Great Society," for a much smaller deficit than Reagan's?
2. Do those folks who support Ronnie realize that if his total deficit is held (unlikely) to "only" a trillion dollars, the interest on it will annually cost every man, woman and child in America about \$400.
3. Given that the interest raised from middle-income taxpayers will go into the pockets of the wealthiest 5 percent of us who can afford \$10,000 tax-free bonds, is Ronnie doing this on purpose to (1) decimate the future ability of government to fund social programs, and (2) continue the massive distribution of wealth (upward) started by his first term "tax cuts"?

I know, boring, but do you really want to spend \$400 a year, forever, for the military's plastic toilet seat covers?

Michael Morrow
Graduate IS:IP

Judgement

I am so sick and tired of the things people are doing and saying in the name of Christianity. Yes, I believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Bible. But perhaps I've been reading a different Bible. Where does Jesus ever teach hatred, self-righteousness, condemnation, and judgement? Indeed, the Bible speaks about God's judgement, but never does it give any human the right to judge any other human. In fact, it teaches just the opposite: "Judge not, that ye be not judged." (Matt. 7:1). The worst cases have to be these neo-nazi groups and the like, popping up all over with names like "The Restoration of Jesus Christ." I wish I could sue these groups on Jesus' behalf for defamation of character. If anyone would care to read through the life of Jesus, they will find example after example of love, kindness, patience, and forgiveness. Did He bomb abortion clinics? No, He didn't even condemn a prostitute. Did He stand on a hill and scream at passers-by that they were doomed to hell? No, He sat on a hill and let His love draw people to Him like a magnet. Christians, since Jesus (not Jerry Falwell) is supposed to be our leader, do you think maybe we should start listening to Him?

P.S. To Jack Straton's commentary (ODE, Jan. 31), I have one thing to say: Bravo!

Susan Kinner
Eugene

Hedonist

This letter is in response to Jon Zweig's letter (ODE, Feb. 4) on the continuous arguments between pro-lifers and pro-choicers, and between Christian heterosexuals and militant homosexuals. Come on, Jon, we're all tired of hearing from those hypocrites, thugs, and arrogant narrow-minded fascist/weirdo pigs, respectively. But really, you should have known better than to address these right-brained, bigoted, bile-raisers in such a fashion.

My point being this: each member of these social groups being dogmatic and needing to assert her/his opinion, undoubtedly misses your point. Furthermore, we shall now be assailed by those self-same

views ad infinitum, ad nauseum.

Being a concerned hedonist, I believe that you will see my point about this unnecessary suffering. Enough of this. My personal belief favors encouragement by example rather than condemnation by sententious antagonists. In this regard my dear hedonist friend, what are the King's fools up to Saturday night?

Dawn Kimball
Literate libertine

Nothin' yet

To all those students who voted for Ronnie in November and then woke up to headlines about his cutting student loans: do you think you can live with him for four more years? I hate to say I told you so, but. . . . Actually, as the Gipper himself says, "You ain't seen nothin' yet."

For a mirror image of this country, I suggest you learn about the phenomenon of lemmings. We are they and they are we.

Norma Sax
Staff Person

Reality

Ms. "Pro-choice" (ODE, Jan. 30) mis-information needs to be corrected. She is either not in touch with, or refuses to accept, reality:

1. Her "three month old egg sac" with "potential life" has a heartbeat, arms, legs, and a body (a human body). She can make a tiny fist, get hiccups, suck her thumb; and she feels pain.

2. "Abortion is legal only during the first three months of pregnancy" is dead wrong! Tragically, abortions can be and are being "legally" performed at any and all stages of development, from the first months when the mother is aware of her presence until the very day she's born. And all this for such perverse reasons as the "wrong sex" (usually female).

3. The "fundamental hypocrisy" she tries to zap men right-to-lifers with more accurately describes her own self-serving position since, in attempting to defend sisterhood, she is killing more of her sisters than those of the other sex.

There are alternatives. Make your choice to save a life, not kill it. Abortion kills human rights!

Jon Wollander
Eugene

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