

Editorial

ASUO shuttle plan should include men

A University shuttle system that would transport women at night is being planned. Representatives from the ASUO administration, the Greek system, Rape Crisis Network and the Women's Referral and Resource Service have formed a committee to organize a system of vans to serve women in the campus area. Information is still being gathered, so few definite details have been determined.

Before the final plans are made, we would like to make a few suggestions. We think the system is a great idea that would be widely appreciated. We also support the cooperation on the part of the various groups. However, some potential aspects of the program mentioned by committee members are disturbing.

For instance, preliminary plans specify that the service would serve only women. Ray Veillet, ASUO University affairs coordinator, said this is because the system would be an effort to protect women from rape.

We suggest that the service be available for men as well. Though not often threatened by rape, men are faced with other crimes such as mugging or assault. Oakley Glenn, the director of the public safety office, said that only a few men have used Campus Security's service. But even if men choose not to take advantage of the service, they should not be specifically barred from it.

A second feature concerns the qualifications of the drivers. Veillet said that the committee is seriously considering restricting the program to women drivers. This restriction would be objectionable.

The committee proposed the idea because members felt that hiring men as drivers would reinforce the idea that women need men to protect them. Jack Straton of Men Against Rape agrees with the idea because he says that women need to learn how to protect themselves.

But protection should not be defined in terms of gender. Women should learn how to protect themselves, but there is nothing wrong with accepting protection from another human being, male or female. Rather than define rape in terms of women being the victims and men being the attackers, it should be defined in terms of people being rapists and people not being rapists. The people who are not rapists should band together to protect society from rapists.

Also, most men are not rapists and can be trusted. Excluding them from participating in services aimed at fighting rape suggests that all men are guilty. Women should learn to avoid dangerous situations, but they also should not be so blinded by paranoia that every man is viewed as a potential rapist.

Eliminating men from programs to fight rape not only suggests that rape should not be any of their concern, it may insult and alienate men who otherwise might contribute to the fight against rape. Men are also victims of rape when a woman they care about is assaulted.

The Women's Resource and Referral Service has planned since last year to organize an escort system completely operated by women. WRRS members proposed the system, which in this aspect is similar to the proposed ASUO system, in part because they felt that women could be assaulted by their male escorts. But if men are carefully screened, there is no reason why they cannot be trustworthy escorts.

Campus Security has begun its third straight year of offering a vehicle escort service operated by both men and women, and has never received a complaint. The Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity has also begun its third year of providing a walking escort service run completely by men, and also has never received a complaint. Participants in both programs, which together perform about 35 escorts per night, are screened and monitored by the public safety office and are clearly identified while on duty.

If the ASUO committee develops a sufficient screening program and provides clearly marked vehicles, both of which Veillet verified would occur, men should not be prohibited from applying for a driver position.

Also, refusing to consider men for the paid driver positions could violate affirmative action codes according to the University Office of Affirmative Action. We think the policy would be a clear case of sex discrimination.

The program could play an important role in the ASUO's campaign to fight violence against women. We encourage the committee to develop a program that utilizes the abilities of both men and women.



Letters

Go to Kansas

I would like to respond to Todd Saunders and Kevin Lewis "A Proposal" (ODE, Oct. 21) in the letter to the editor column.

First, I am wondering just how you reached the conclusion that reinstating the rights of certain members of the ASUO and IFC to read the Emerald will make the students as a whole better informed. There is a logical inconsistency there. Perhaps you meant to say that reading the Emerald would make the IFC and ASUO better informed? (Also a possible logic flaw!)

I also take issue with the proposition that the ASUO only represents 850 of the 15,000 students who attend the U of O. I would say that the ASUO represents 850 of the 1500 students on campus who care at all about such issues. Remember that the two of you together shared the remaining 650 votes.

So I have a proposal. Let's reallocate some funds. Give the Unassociated Students of the University of Oregon (Todd Saunders and Kevin Lewis) \$360 (180 multiplied by 2) in the form of bus tickets to Kansas, and finally be free of the Davis administration.

L.S. Leuthold
Senior, Business

Are you?

This letter is in response to the letter by Clyde Davenport, which asked the question, is science rational? The real question is, are you?

I think not. However, due to "limitations of space" and time, I won't present my evidence, nor will I list any of the hundreds of thousands of people who quite probably would agree with me. In other words, just sign me, a closet sado-masochistic manipulator, who likes to torture defenseless little animals.

Robin Stalcup
Biologist

Big downfall

I was in your town on the weekend of Oct. 5 to watch a football game between Washington and Oregon. On Saturday I saw a number of things that upset me greatly. Before the game started, I witnessed large groups of young people drinking alcohol in the parking lot of your stadium. Where were your school monitors while these young drunks were carrying on? Why were these students not singing songs of school support? And whatever happened to wholesome social gatherings before games where milk and apple cider were shared?

I also saw many young women walking around without escorts or fatherly figures. Is this acceptable at your university?

When the game was over and my family was preparing to leave, we were approached by a shabby looking man with broken glasses who smelled of alcohol and cigarettes. He used profanity and told us to go back to Washington. Whatever happened to Christian fellowship between sportsmen?

I haven't been to a game in many years, but if your university is like other schools in your state, then Oregon is headed for a big downfall.

S. Maher
Mossyrock, Washington

Correction: The writer of a letter printed in this column Oct. 21 asked that his name be clarified from "Richard Wright" to "Richard Bruce Wright II" to distinguish him from his father.

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

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