

Letters

Insensitive

I have just picked several small pieces of glass from my hand for the second time this term. I am a wheelchair-bound student and have been compelled to write about the serious broken glass problem that exists, especially around the 13th and Kincaid area.

It would seem that some people get a perverse pleasure from the smashing of bottles and glasses on our streets. Particularly enjoyable, it seems, is to smash glass on the curb cuts so necessary to handicapped students. Would these same

people be amused by the "cute" antics of breaking a beer glass in a public shower? I don't think so!

The next time these folks set out to lay traps for unsuspecting bicyclists, they might think about the pain and difficulty they are causing for many wheelchair-bound individuals.

Jim Petty
Education

Whose rights?

Today, in any of the 50 states, a pre-born baby can be killed by any physician at any time dur-

ing pregnancy. The only criterion is the place of residence, for the Supreme Court ruled that birth was the magic key to being human. However, at birth, the baby only has a change of residence and a different method of obtaining food and oxygen.

We're talking about a civil rights issue, and shouldn't civil rights protection be granted to all age groups? If today we give a mother the legal right to kill her burdensome and inconvenient daughter or son in her womb, logically, tomorrow we must give to the daughter or son the right to kill their burden-

some mother.

Should our government protect all human lives equally, or should we allow the big to kill the small?; the conscious to kill the not yet conscious?; the more perfect to kill the less perfect? This is precisely what abortion is doing.

Yes, I know, I know. I shouldn't impose my morality on another woman. But should we allow a mother to impose her morality, or lack of, on her helpless baby inside her womb, in a fatal and violent way?

Is abortion honestly the best solution? There are organizations like Eugene Pregnancy Hotline who have trained and concerned people that can help both the mother and baby succeed in life. Everyone, no matter how helpless and small, deserves a chance to live. It should be their right.

Kristi Walkin
Fine Arts

Not suprised

It is annoying, if not surprising, that the Emerald recently featured a complete center section on local recording studios while virtually ignoring a national conference — the American Women Conductor/Composer Symposium — in progress at the University's School of Music.

A direct outgrowth of last year's West Coast Women Conductor/Composer Symposium, this year's event was held Feb. 21-23, and hosted dozens of composers and conductors from all over the country. Seminars and workshops given by internationally known musicians were well attended, and the University Symphony Orchestra played to a full house on Sunday evening. This concert was only one of three featuring the music of living American composers — music all too rarely programmed or broadcast in Eugene.

The only thing notably lacking was support from U of O faculty. In three days, I counted a total of less than a dozen local faculty members in attendance, an occurrence which I find embarrassing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Marsha Mabrey and Kim McCarthy, primary organizers of the symposium, for an experience which was educational, enlightening and entertaining. Hopefully this type of event will become an annual occurrence of comparable stature to the much lauded Bach Festivals.

Hiawatha
Graduate, Music

Think again

In response to Paul Kim's letter "System's faults" (ODE, Mar. 3):

For those people who didn't notice, February 23-28 was "Greek Days of Giving" at the University. The week, being a philanthropy, contained activities aimed at raising money for the Eugene community and the University. This year's beneficiaries were the Eugene Mission, the Salvation Army, Special Olympics, the University Library and U of O Club Sports.

Earlier this term, the Delta Gamma sorority had its "An-

chor Splash" philanthropy. The proceeds went to Aid to the Blind. This spring, Sigma Chi has its "Derby Days." Past beneficiaries have been the United Way, the Pearl S. Buck Center and the Wallace Village for disabled and mentally disturbed children.

The Kappa Sigma fraternity has raised money for the Cancer Society of Oregon. Sigma Alpha Epsilon has raised funds for Muscular Dystrophy, YMCA children's programs and the American Cancer Association. These are just a few examples from all the fundraisers every fraternity and sorority participate in.

Realistically, as long as there is a Greek system, it will always be the subject of criticism. But, hopefully, in the future the criticism will be aimed at faults of the system, and not constitute personal biases and uneducated attacks of the system.

One parting thought: Paul Kim states, "The Greek system does more bad for everyone than good..." Please think again.

Heinka Peterson
Greek Activities Council

Can we talk?

Mr. Sacks, I have a State Department report on Afghanistan which you might find of interest. My extension is x4226 and I welcome you to phone me after 7 p.m. so I can go over the report contents with you. If you don't, then I will assume that you are scared of the facts and are not worth dealing with.

Andrew Beckwith
Physics

Worthy deeds

I am constantly infuriated by the small-mindedness of those who incessantly attack the Greek system. Paul Kim (ODE, Mar. 3) goes as far as to blame Greeks for the Gramm-Rudman act.

For your information, Mr. Kim, the Greek system does substantial good for the community. Can you say the same? I guess you must have been away when we were carving pumpkins with homeless kids, or when we threw a Christmas party for abused children. Maybe you didn't hear about the bike relay that will raise money for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.

This represents half of what one house did for one term, a mere fraction of what the entire Greek system put back into the community. But you probably didn't notice. After all, most Greeks are rapists who drive Porsches and join houses to cover up for their insecurities.

Instead of constantly badgering the Greek community and bringing out the bad incidents of a few people, maybe those who condemn it should go out and actually talk to a Greek instead of stereotyping them. True, just like all organizations the Greek system does have some weaknesses. It also has many more good qualities.

As a famous man once said, "Let he who hath no faults be the one to throw the first stone."

Tom Cooper
Student

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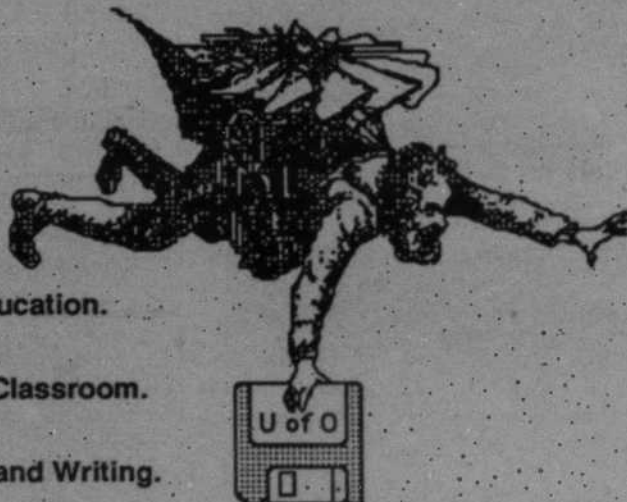
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