

Editorial

Erotic publications difficult to regulate

Southland corporation recently announced that 7-11 stores will cease carrying such publications as Playboy, Playgirl and Forum.

College bookstores may soon be under similar pressure to cease providing magazines viewed by some as immoral, by others as degrading to women.

The University of Oregon Bookstore should resist attempts to declare non-obscene publications inappropriate merchandise. Dangers to freedom of expression outweigh subjective determinations of morality or degradation.

Obscenity has a specific legal meaning and can only be determined by a court. In Oregon, the Court of Appeals recently said that even the obscenity statute is constitutionally flawed.

Whether a publication is immoral is an inherently subjective judgment, with as many opinions as there are people. Bookstores, particularly those in college settings, should not become arbiters of morality.

Magazines such as Playboy are relatively mild forms of pornography, but undoubtedly contribute to stereotypes of women as pretty playthings for men. This stereotype is prevalent throughout our male-dominated society.

The heart of the problem facing those who judge taste is where to draw the lines. No rational distinction can be drawn between an erotic poster of Natassja Kinski wearing nothing but a snake and a Salvador Dali painting of a nude woman beset by a tiger and a gun.

Both depict a woman in a submissive posture. So what? Shall both be banned along with Playboy?

Playboy may arouse male ideas of dominance by picturing women as helpless babies dressed in spike heels and wisps of silk. Should paintings by Rubens or Titian be banned from sale or publication because they, too, portray softly-focused recumbent nude women?

The appropriate response to tasteless or offensive publications is education, not prohibition. Prohibiting offensiveness raises an unanswerable question — whose standard is applied, and by whom?

Should the government be allowed to choose which magazines can be published or distributed? The First Amendment prohibits this.

Allowing a class of people to holler "offensive" and cause magazines to be pulled from shelves is almost as bad. Plenty of what is published is offensive — even damaging — to someone.

This is a society full of ideas, some good, some bad. Choosing between them is up to the individual. Unless society wants to delegate those choices to the government — or the churches — by abandoning the First Amendment, offensive magazines must be tolerated.

Women's roles in society interesting for both sexes

The University's annual Women's Symposium begins Thursday. We encourage women and men from the University community to attend this four-day series of events featuring women's creativity.

Too often history, literature, the arts and religion are viewed only from a traditional male perspective. Any viewpoint is enhanced by discovering new ways of seeing the world.

The Women's Symposium offers a good opportunity for men and women to better understand themselves and each other. Take the time to attend.



Letters

Equal rights

The ASUO shuttle bus for women is a step toward solving the problem of attack-faced by women on campus who must travel alone after dark. However, if the shuttle is being subsidized with money paid by all students a "women only" service is inequitable and sexist.

The need for a separate shuttle for women is real, but a shuttle for men must also be provided, else the ASUO is using student money to promote a sexually discriminatory service.

Hiawatha
Graduate, Music

Credibility gap

I was a fan of college sports before most of today's students were born. I remember Ron VanderKelen's comeback in the Rose Bowl, and Bill Bradley's heroic attempt to beat second-ranked Michigan almost single-handedly in Madison Square Garden.

But more recently, I have become disgusted by the corruption of educational values represented by big-time college sports. I have seen institutions of "higher learning" recruit, ac-

cept and retain (but not educate) criminals and students whose SAT scores would get them laughed out of any admissions office if they couldn't run so fast or jump so high.

When I returned to school after a 12-year absence, I found myself at a university which cannot afford to pay GTF's a minimum starvation wage or provide adequate heat in the basement of Deady Hall, but which is raising millions for a domed stadium with no legitimate academic purpose whatsoever.

Many others feel as I do, but also feel powerless to influence events. So when 12 people in Georgia got the chance, they voted an exorbitant damage award to a University of Georgia employee who had been fired for promoting educational standards over a winning football team.

And when I got the chance, I voted against the Athletic Department's request for more student money. The Georgia jury and the Oregon students are only a tip of an iceberg. Athletic departments across the country have a big credibility rebuilding job ahead of them.

Stan VerNooy
GTF, Math

Faulty logic

For your comments about KWAX, Robert Duffy, I submit the following. Perhaps due to your newness to Eugene, you make several false assumptions.

First, you assume students don't listen to classical music; second, that KWAX must cater to student taste; third, that college stations must be an alternative to "conservative" stations; and fourth, that by virtue of financial interest you can dictate station programming.

You're wrong. Students do listen to classical music, and

not just those attending the oldest, largest and best music school in the west. Some of the very people who savor the subtle beauty of rock'n'roll also listen to other kinds of music.

College stations may exist to provide broadcast experience to students but, like all stations, are licensed to serve the whole community. KWAX best serves Lane County by being the only classical station. Unlike the bay area, there isn't enough audience — yet — to support a commercial classical station, although KWAX is the third most popular station among adults (ARB, Fall, 1985). For alternatives like jazz, fusion, punk, rock, pop, talk, etc., try any of the 15 other stations in the area.

As for money, KWAX gets \$1,700 a year from the ASUO for work-study students. So your precious 113 cent share is specifically for financial aid to students. The remaining \$214,000 comes half from state and federal grants and half from local underwriting and donations.

The latter half comes to about 50-cents-per-person in Lane County and, by your reckoning, Robert, they out-vote you 443 to one.

Rich Reed
Romance Languages

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.

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff
Advertising Director: Susan Thelen
Production Manager: Russell H. Steele
Classified Advertising: Vince Adams
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: David Wood - Sales Manager, John Boiler, Jessica Cederberg, Michael Gray, Laura Goldstein, Robin Joannides, Carlos Lamadrid, Marcia Leonard, Shawn Leuthold, Catherine Lilja, Shawna Reed, Kathy Stein, Joan Wildermuth, Laura Willoughby.

Production: Vince Adams, Kelly Alexandre, Lynne Casey, Shu-Shing Chen, Ellen Cross, Stormi Dykes, Manuel Flores, Shannon Gaither, Ross Martin, Mary May, Rob Miles, Angie Muniz, Charla Parker, Ken Parrott, Jennifer Peterson, Geoff Rainville, Michele Ross, Alyson Simmons, Gregory Tipps.

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Assistant Editorial Page Editor
Sports Editor
Photo Editor
Friday Edition Editor
Sidelines Editor
Night Editor

Associate Editors
Community/Politics
Higher Education
Student Activities
Student Government
University Affairs
General Assignment

Reporters: Tony Ahern, Sean Axmaker, Dan Coran, Kim Kaady, Capi Lynn, Amy Moss, Chuck Thompson, B.J. Thomsen.

Photographers: Lynne Casey, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Steve Gibbons, Derral Hewitt, Ross Martin, Karen Stallwood, Mike Wilhelm.

News and Editorial
Display Advertising and Business
Classified Advertising
Production
Circulation

Julie Shippen
Michelle Brencé
Jolayne Houtz
Alan Contreras
Scott Harding
Robert Collias
James Marks
Sheila Landry
Allan Lazo
Michelle Brencé

Paul Sturtz
Andrew LaMar
Chris Norred
Stan Nelson
Kirsten Bolin
Mike Rivers

686-5511
686-3712
686-4343
686-4361
686-5511