

## Ignition locking system deters drunk drivers

A House Bill proposing the installation of a device into convicted drunk driver's automobiles is a safe and effective idea for deterring potential drinking and driving. The device would lock an automobile's ignition if the driver were too drunk.

The device is wired to the car's ignition system and designed to detect the driver's blood-alcohol level. If the driver's alcohol level is over the legal limit of .08 percent, the car will not start.

The system would be offered as an optional part of the occupational-license program, which is given to convicted drunk drivers whose licenses have been suspended. Currently, drivers with a suspended license can apply for an occupational license after the first year. House Bill 2449 would make the installation of a breath-test device an option for judges issuing the licenses.

Provisions for possible circumvention are included in the bill. The interlock device requires a special breathing pattern before it will start the car.

According to Donald Meador, the Linn County traffic safety coordinator, the pattern is difficult to master, even when the driver is sober. This helps prevent the driver from getting someone else to use the breath-test device.

The bill also makes it illegal to help someone with an interlock device drive a vehicle. This includes blowing into the device for the driver or loaning the driver another car.

Under the current system, drivers with occupational licenses are subject to spot checks at least once a month. The breath-test devices also will undergo monthly inspections to determine if they have been tampered with and to prevent malfunctions.

This bill presents an effective idea for preventing convicted drunk drivers from starting a car while intoxicated. In turn, this likely will reduce the drunk-driving rate.

Granted, the system is not foolproof. Anyone determined enough to drive drunk will probably find a way. But the breath-test device warns drivers if they have had too much to drink, and it sets up safeguards to prevent drunk drivers from starting a car.

The bill is a preventive measure to a crime on the rise. It is by no means a cure to the drunk-driving problem, but it reduces the problem without infringing on the driver's rights.

## Emerald apologizes

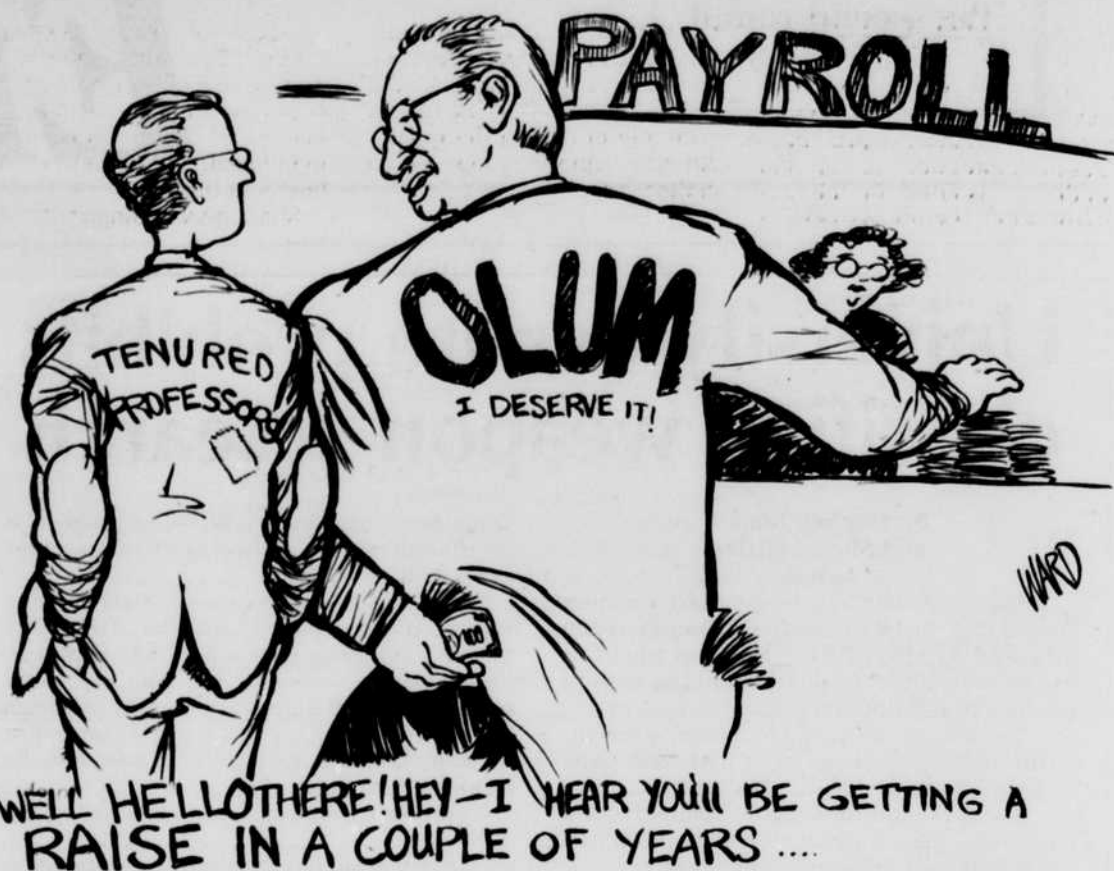
The Oregon Daily Emerald has made a serious mistake. Last Thursday, the Emerald published a story about a student, John Stephen Fisher, who committed suicide on Feb. 25. Under the headline "Friend says classroom pressure caused suicide of older student," the story quoted a friend of Fisher's as saying Fisher killed himself because he was having trouble in a math class.

Besides police, the friend was the only source in the story. Using only the friend's comments was irresponsible.

We do not know why Fisher killed himself. But by printing the friend's statements, we put our stamp of credibility on them.

Fisher's death was tragic. We should not have compounded that tragedy by laying blame to a single class or instructor.

We sincerely apologize to that instructor. We have done this person a terrible injustice.



## Letters

### Wet T-shirt

The wonders of our sexist, misogynist society never cease to amaze me. Friday's ad for Beta Theta Pi's "First Annual Wet T-Shirt Contest" is the newest affront.

Not that wet T-shirt contests are new, or are not harmful to women all on their own. It's just that I can't recall ever seeing one "for charity." What charity, I wonder, will the fraternity be so graciously donating this money to, this money gained by exploiting women's bodies?

Womenspace, or Rape Crisis Network, perhaps, both dedicated to ending the physical manifestations (battering, rape, child-sexual assault) of the painfully misogynist attitudes that wet T-shirt contests reflect?

In anticipation of the fraternal cries, "But we don't force the women to do it!" I pose this question: Why is Beta Theta Pi not having a bake sale to raise money for charity, or some other equally innocuous fundraiser?

Perhaps because in our society baked goods don't bring in the bucks. Breasts do. Girls and women are taught by society

that their bodies are what is valuable, and one sure-fire way to gain recognition in our male-dominated world is to display our bodies for approval.

I don't want wet jock-strap contests. I want respect for myself and my sisters.

Cassandra Van Buren  
Eugene

### Bad prose

In my last letter (Feb. 11), I attempted to highlight the contempt for the English language reflected in your prose. You responded with a letter which demonstrated that you STILL don't understand the relationships between the words in your sentences.

People reading your letters must constantly choose between clear grammatical reference and your intended meaning. Alas, with your meaning hidden amongst poorly applied colloquialisms, inverted word order, and cryptic quotations from Bible-thumpers, readers are seldom able to decipher your message before the sun sets.

While writing my last letter, it occurred to me that to focus on your consistently inappropriate word choice and your difficulty with syntax would be petty. As an alternative, I advanced several questions, hoping that you might attempt an explanation.

In response you suggested, "If you care to debate a point, you must first not ask what it means." This last quote explains both your willingness to debate scientific theories you don't understand and your commitment to the vacuous arguments associated with your position.

Although you make a fairly convincing case to the contrary, religion and reason are NOT mutually exclusive — nor does the average "scientist" contend that they should be. To believe in something beyond empirical examination is NOT unreasonable. It is, however,

unreasonable to ask people to agree with the distortions of "science" you espouse along your voyage to intellectual suicide. Have a nice day.

Alex Gardner  
Graduate student, biology

### Head sickness

Bob Baldwin: Your letter about Ron Munion is a perfect example of why I loathe your branch of the SPA. Your letter shows that you have no code of honor and know only how to destroy your opponents by innuendo (ODE, March 4).

Get this straight, jerk. This is not a liberal-conservative face-off. I want you to know in no uncertain terms that I think you are sick in the head for using filth in order to gain political advantage when your side is losing.

Ms. Cameron, ASUO vice president, is a person of manners compared to you. Why don't you learn some tact from her before you are screwed to the wall by people who are tired of your self-righteous nonsense?

Andrew Beckwith  
Graduate student, physics

### So predictable

As I sit here in the EMU, I have just picked up my Oregon Daily Emerald hoping to find an unbiased Associated Press article on President Reagan's speech last week, which I watched with great interest.

But as I flip through the pages, I cannot find one.

All I see is basically what I've come to expect from the Emerald editorial page: biased, liberal nonsense based on left-wing opinion.

What's wrong, Emerald? Are you afraid to run an AP article? Why won't you print the facts and let the people decide for themselves? Oh, I see. Only real newspapers do that.

Rick Bergesen  
Senior

Thursday, March 12, 1987

## 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: Wayne Michael Lottinville  
Classified Advertising: Alyson Simmons  
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

**Advertising Sales:** Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager  
Teresa Acosta, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Catherine Lilja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Peter Miller, Joan Wildermuth

**News and Editorial** 686-5511  
**Display Advertising and Business** 686-3712  
**Classified Advertising** 686-4343  
**Letter Perfect Graphics** 686-5511  
**Production** 686-4381  
**Circulation** 686-5511

**Editor**  
Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Spectrum Editor  
Spectrum Assistant Editor  
Editorial Page Editors

**Sports Editor**  
Photo Editor  
Spectrum Photo Editor  
Graphics Editor  
Night Editor

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

**Reporters:** Sean Axmaker, Mary Courtis, Gary Henley, Janet Paulson

**Photographers:** Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, Dan Wheeler

**Production:** Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator  
Kelly Alexandre, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Samantha Barbita, Sandra Bevans, Sara Briscoe, Shu-Shing Chen, Janet Emery, Judith Gatz, Lisa Haggerty, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Steve Lundgren, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angela Muniz, Julie Paul, Ingrid White, Serena Williams, X. Kang Xie

Michelle Brence  
Lucinda Dillon  
Michael Rivers  
Stephen Maher  
Stanley Nelson  
Michael Drummond  
Angie Muniz  
Capi Lynn  
Michael Wilhelm  
John Giustina  
Lorraine Rath  
Michelle Brence

Jolayne Houtz  
Nick Reed  
Chris Norred  
B.J. Thomsen  
Carolyn Lamberson  
Sarah Kitchen  
Karen Creighton  
Dennis Fernandes  
Scott Maben