

Born free

Freedom is an interesting concept, freedom means that a person is allowed to do what they feel is right, so long as it does not violate the rights of another person.

Living in a free and open society, each of us is entitled to do what we feel to be right and not to have our rights denied us because they conflict with what others think is right and proper.

For people like Michael Cross to say that something should be illegal because they don't agree with it, strikes me as rather ironic. I am sure that Mr. Cross would be the first person to protest South Africa or U.S. involvement in Central America, yet he is most insistent upon denying some of his fellow Americans their own civil rights.

I wish that people like Mr. Cross could or would understand that what two or more consenting adults do in private is their own business and nobody else's. As Thomas Jefferson said over 200 years ago, "That they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

As Mr. Jefferson knew 200 years ago, denying one person his or her inalienable right to be happy and free is something that can only be considered intolerable by all freedom-loving people.

Pieter Paulson
Eugene

Time lag

The time has come to take a serious look at the Emerald's letters policy and decide whether in present application it is truly serving the University community as well as it might.

In recent months the editorial page has been dominated by numerous letters from persons giving far-flung, off campus addresses, and whose current connection with the University, if any, is far from obvious.

I refer to the letters of the self-appointed "prophet of God" from San Diego, and more recently the bigoted epistles of Mr. and Ms. De Paepe of Alvadore, Ore., among others.

Surely this campus boasts enough representatives of various extreme and fringe causes that it is not necessary to cover the countryside in search of additional ravings.

More to the point, it would seem that letters from off-campus writers are displacing those of students, faculty, and staff, judging by the considerable time lag between the appearance of inflammatory letters and your publication of responses.

Papers such as the Register-Guard and The Oregonian open their editorial pages to everyone, yet maintain a priority for local comments on local issues. The Emerald needs to remember that its first responsibility is the University community which pays its bills.

Hiawatha
Graduate, music

Oregon Daily Emerald

Sad comment

It is a sad comment on our times that the Women's Symposium was canceled due to feelings of exclusion from the planning process by women of color and charges of racism.

The symposium is far too important, not only to the University, but to the community at

large to risk its loss. The symposium is a needed event for

both the rich environment of information sharing and its value as a model of social/political concerns and caring for all women and all people.

It is a further sad comment when the Oregon Daily Emerald prints the name of a woman who apparently illustrated a point of contention between the two groups without soliciting a response from her.

I have been a student of Norma Cordell's and feel she is a

person of the highest integrity. She has not, in my experiences with her, spoken as or for Native American people.

She holds her experiences with Native American tradition in the highest regard, but teaches earth reverence simply and with honor as a woman from white culture.

Lon Laughlin
Eugene

Letters Policy

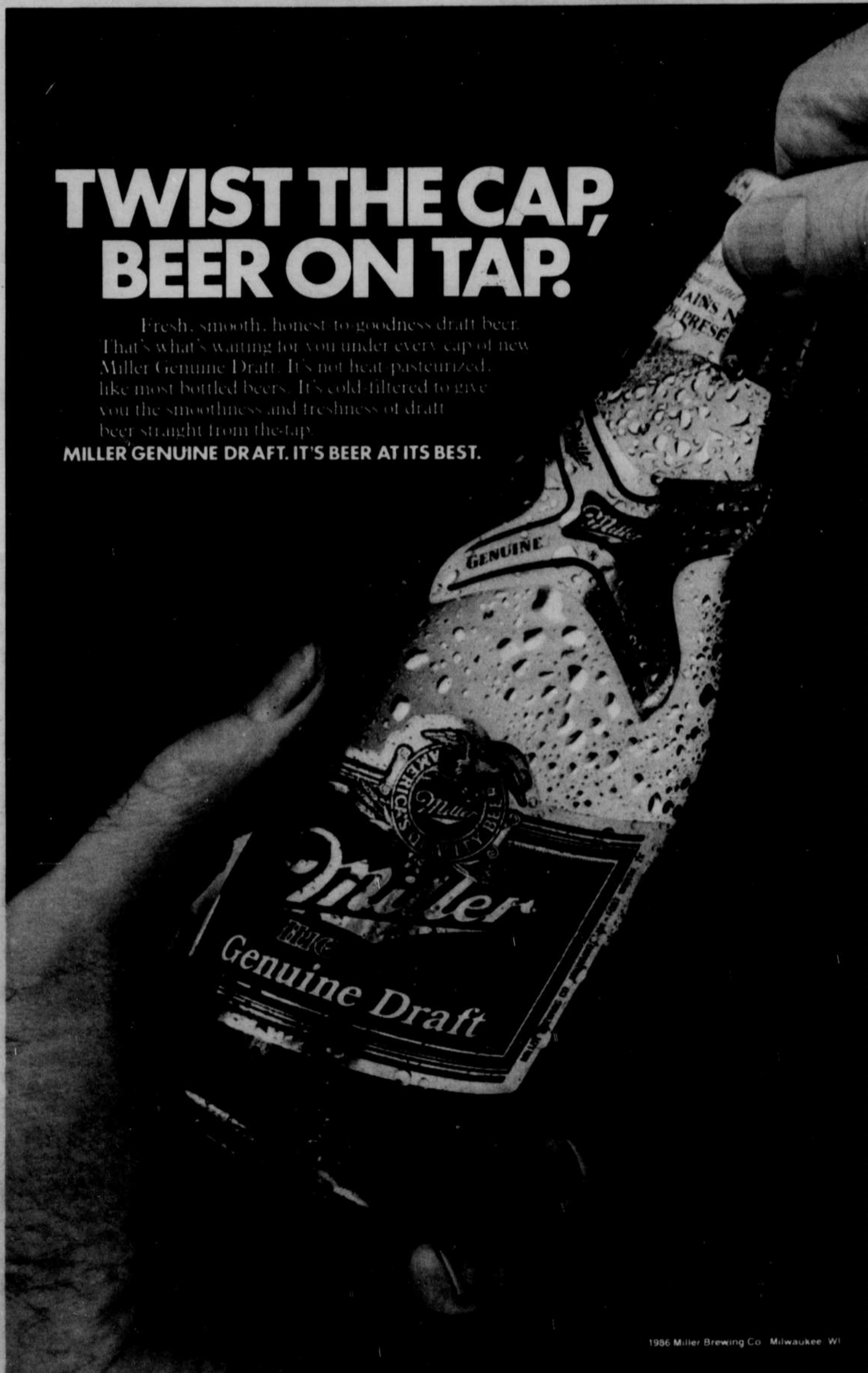
The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

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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