

First step taken in air traffic problem

In an attempt to make flying safer, the Federal Aviation Administration has designed a computer system that can map airplanes flying throughout the nation on a single screen.

This new system is only a first step, however, in solving the safety problems caused by congested skies.

The FAA hopes the computer system will alleviate traffic problems and relieve overburdened air traffic controllers. These both are major factors in many airplane accidents.

The Civil Aeronautics Board used to regulate who could enter the business and what fares and routes could be set. When it was dismantled in 1978, the door was opened to new air companies and price wars. As a result more people began to fly.

The air traffic controllers' strike in 1981 exaggerated the problems created by the increased number of planes in the air. Since that time, only a limited number of qualified controllers have remained while the air business continues to boom.

A new computer system is only a simple answer to these tensions. Granted, if air traffic controllers are able to see all planes in the air over a long-range flight plan, then potential accidents and delays can be prevented.

But other regulations and restrictions need to be established. The FAA realizes heavy summer traffic will have to subside before traffic controllers can become comfortable to the system. It also is developing more advanced programs for the system.

However, the FAA should not rely solely on these new computers. It has acknowledged a problem and is working to solve it. With more time and effort the FAA can develop a program for safer and less crowded skies.

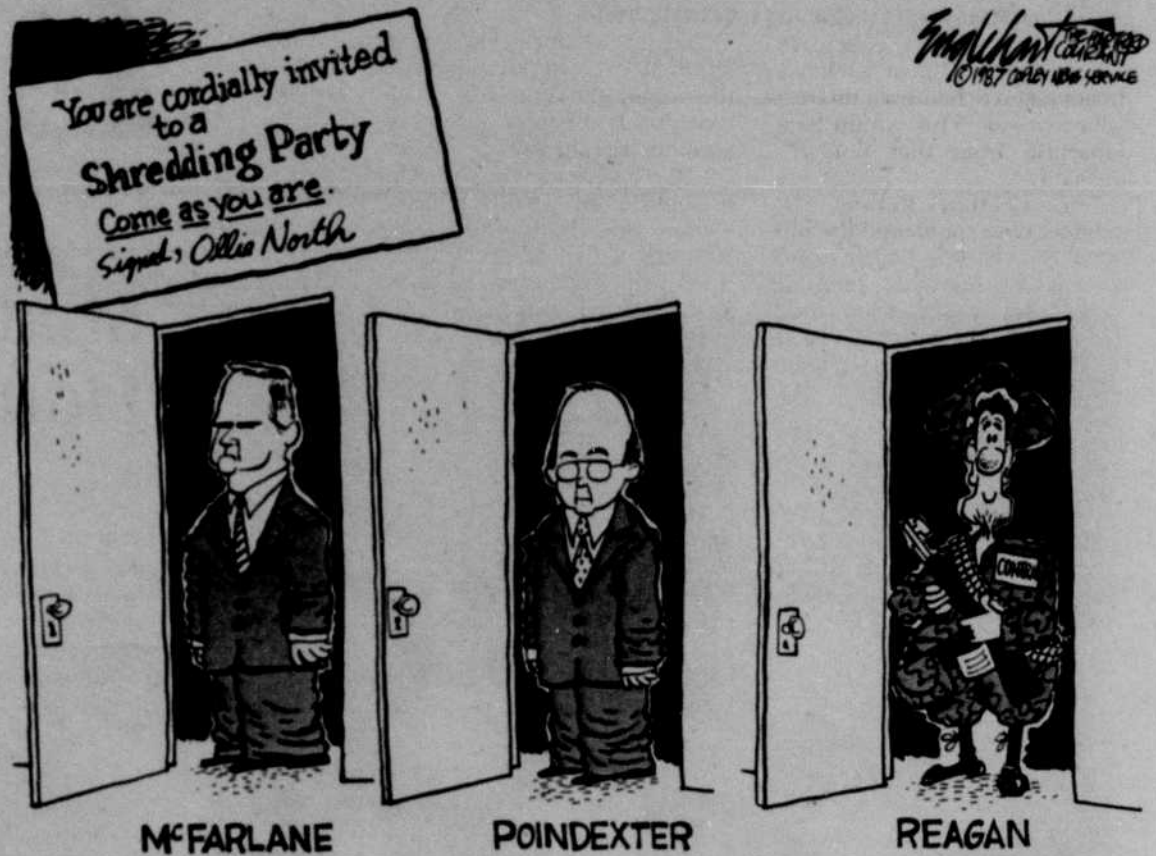
Sexual harassment forum opens door to solutions

There will be a long overdue forum dealing with the University's sexual harassment policies today. The forum will cover the issues of sexual harassment and what actions can be taken to file complaints.

This forum should prove to be very beneficial for all those who participate. Organizers hope to encourage public input by holding the forum, accepting letters and meeting with people in the community. The forum will address problems in the University's harassment policy and suggest solutions.

But despite the benefits of the forum, the University should not have waited so long to face these issues. Sexual harassment has been a problem at the University and in the community for some time. Forums such as this bring problems to the surface. By delaying discussion, we are avoiding the subject.

We encourage people to attend the forum and to recognize the problem of sexual harassment. The system can only be changed if people are willing to act.



Letters

Rape cases

It seems that whenever people discuss abortion as a solution to an unwanted pregnancy, the question "What if the woman was raped?" comes up.

Even those who feel abortion is wrong seem to stumble over the issue when rape is the cause of the pregnancy; after the emotional trauma of being raped, wouldn't quickly ending the pregnancy help in the woman's healing process? Wouldn't an abortion make things easier for her?

Not necessarily. Jackie Bakker was raped and was one of the very few women who consequently became pregnant (less than one percent of rapes result in pregnancy). She chose abortion under pressure from her family who thought it would alleviate her problems. It instead created more problems.

"Contrary to what everyone had told me, the abortion was much harder to deal with than the rape... The damage done is much more severe than people realize. Physically of course, a little child is ripped away from its mother's womb. But emotionally, I'm convinced there is already a bonding between

mother and child, and it's as if part of your own soul is torn away."

Kay Zibolsky also was raped, and also became pregnant. While abortion appeared to be a convenient way out, she chose adoption for her baby and now says, "... I'm at peace knowing I chose what was best for her — not necessarily what was easiest for me." (Both cases from the summer 1986 issue of *Americans Against Abortion Magazine*.)

Tranquility versus turmoil: In cases of rape, abortion does not always lessen the trauma incurred, it can produce more. And if abortion is not a painless solution for rape victims, is it for women in less extreme circumstances? Is it really an answer at all?

Holly Halverson
Vida, Ore.

Born gay

I have a hard time believing some people are "born" homosexual. Let me explain why.

To be born homosexual, a biological determinant would naturally be present. This would likely be identifiable by scientists. To date, no hormonal difference has been identified. In other words, no study has ever been replicated to show homosexuality was due to hormones.

Genetics doesn't play any factor either. If it did, the gene(s) responsible for homosexuality would have disappeared long ago thanks to natural selection.

A fundamental law of nature is that any trait which interferes with reproduction is lethal to those who share that trait. If genes had anything to do with homosexual orientation then all possessing that gene would have had so few children that the trait wouldn't have lasted long.

People who have come out to homosexuality are the living proof that biology isn't a crucial

factor. One can change from a homosexual orientation to be heterosexual but biological characteristics will remain the same.

As long as the debate over homosexuality, the law and public health continues, let's not cloud the issues by speaking as if anyone is born homosexual — in the same way one is born white or female.

This is a social issue and not an issue of innate predispositions.

Brenda Robison
Springfield

Epidemics

Mr. Paulson (ODE, May 6), I thought you should know that Thomas Jefferson did not support homosexual rights. Jefferson didn't want homosexuals engaging in sodomy executed... just castrated. (Family Research Inst. news letter, April, 1987).

Private actions that hurt the whole society must be dealt with. The AIDS epidemic is proof that what two or more guys do in private can hurt us all.

If our society lets diseases run rampant, and our collective biological health deteriorates, we will all suffer one way or another.

AIDS will kill more Americans by the year 2000 than we've lost in every war. The economic cost may bankrupt our society.

If being a society that allows disease-spreading activities to continue is worth that price, then maybe our demise may be deserved.

Personally, I'll give my backing to solutions that will benefit my children and preserve my nation. That's why I'm against the practices that are contributing to the problem, and not the solution.

Gina Norens
Eugene

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