

Florida gun laws need further revision

The Florida state legislature voted to ban public display of guns in most settings last week in a response to public concerns about the open wearing of firearms. This is the first step in redefining a law that currently overrides old gun control laws and allows people to carry concealed weapons, unless they have a criminal record.

Although it is our constitutional right to bear arms, some restrictions must be applied in terms of licensing and restricting concealed weapons for the public's safety.

By allowing everyone to carry a gun, publicly or hidden, it becomes difficult to distinguish the 'good guys' from the 'bad guys.'

This can cause unnecessary stress for police officers who already have to make potential life-threatening decisions in weapons-related situations.

The old Florida law provided the opportunity for violence with a deadly weapon. It needed revision and should be further restrictive. It does not allow people with a criminal record to possess a weapon.

But on the same note, it is impossible to check on a person's mental health history because those records are confidential. This tempts fate and increases the risk of accidents without any controlled mechanism to prevent abuse.

In a country that idolizes 'Rambo' and a war mentality, the Florida law comes as no surprise. However, it should not be overlooked or accepted.

It is ironic to note that guns can be publicly displayed in Florida, but in California, plastic toy guns are banned because police officers may mistake them for real weapons. The differences between these two laws only emphasize the dangers of carrying a weapon and the importance of changing the Florida law.

Lane County gun control achieves needed balance

While Florida gun control laws have been opened to allow people to carry concealed weapons, Lane County gun control laws maintain a balance between constitutional rights and public safety.

Even though it is legal for a person to carry a weapon in plain sight with some limited restrictions, it becomes illegal when the weapon is hidden from view, said Lieutenant Woodworth of the Lane County Sheriff's Department.

Woodworth issues gun permits and maintains a strict policy of screening applications. Woodworth receives approximately 30 applications a week for permits, and reviews the people for past criminal records and traffic violations.

In Lane County it is illegal to carry a concealed weapon without a permit. There are exceptions, however — in schools, hospitals and courtrooms to maintain the overall safety of the people in these institutions.

Although allowing the open display of a weapon — with or without a license — can cause problems, Woodworth says that even in situations without weapons it is difficult to judge whether the outcome will be life threatening.

Nonetheless, Lane County has taken appropriate precautions in gun licensing. Restricting gun use is a touchy subject. Regardless, some constraints must be applied.



Letters

Outside view

Well, it has started again. I picked up the Oct. 7 edition of the Oregon Daily Emerald and the anti-Greeks had turned in another bias letter full of hearsay.

One might ask, "Why didn't those Phi Delt boys rush to the girl's aid?" Because we are barbaric and selfish! We joined the Greek system because we enjoy shouting taunts and jeers when we see people "bleeding profusely."

At the time of the accident our membership was busy planning the evening's activities: a terrorist act on Saferide, the bombing of PLC, and to top it off, rallying the entire sexist, racist, gang-fighting Greek System into a collective mob — turning them loose on the city of Eugene.

Just as Tim was impressed by our gallant and speedy action, I too am impressed by his. Impressed that he can ridicule a system of which he's not a member.

Thanks for trying to save us by abolishing the infamous Greek system, but no thanks. We prefer to suffer from within. You can sit and view the

system from the outside, mocking us, perhaps landing a job with the National Enquirer. Who knows? Maybe this Saturday there will be a car accident and you can watch as we throw rocks at the injured.

Michael J. Flannigan
Political science

Specify penalties

Education has as a basic premise the clear specification of objectives. It also should clearly specify the consequences of violation of the rules that guide us toward these objectives.

Today, I saw three bikes impounded outside Allen Hall. They were fastened to a handrail under a sign that read, "No bicycle parking. Violators will be impounded."

The objective of the sign was clear; the consequences were not. No where did it say that impounding entailed a \$30 fine. That is a large sum of money to many students.

How many people have violated a "keep off the grass" sign, or pushed a "pull" sign on a grocery store door? If you knew your transgression would have cost you \$30, you would think twice about your actions.

Thirty dollars is too much for parking your bike in the wrong place. If the University thinks it is not too much, then at least a sign should clearly state precise penalties for our misdeeds.

Pat Darold
Graduate

Not guilty

This is in response to the Wednesday, Oct. 7 issue in which Tim Chauran, a journalism student, suggests that Greeks should be abolished. He targeted his criticism on the basis of a bicycle wreck in front of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

However, at the time of the accident, all but two Phi Deltos were still at the football game cheering for the Ducks. These two witnessed the whole accident.

In actuality, the girl biker crashed into the male friend at her side. This man, (presumably the infamous Tim Chauran), then aided the girl to the curb, where they both started laughing hysterically as if intoxicated. Then they hugged each other, untangled the bikes and walked away.

There was absolutely no "taunting" or "jeering" of the young girl by anyone.

Yet another example of the facts being twisted is the issue of "gangfights." Obviously another misconceived impression set on degrading the Greek system.

The whole story was blown out of proportion using lies and dramatic words like "bleeding profusely" simply to get the reader's attention. Clearly, this is merely a case of Tim Chauran misusing his journalism talents for the simple purpose of slandering Greeks.

Stuart Sandor
Phi Delta Theta

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