

Editorial

Solution to unrest starts at home

The recent surge of hostility between Palestinians and Israelis in the Middle East has spawned reaction from members of the University's Muslim Student Association and Jewish Student Union. But the reported violence some 7,000 miles from Eugene affords both student groups a timely opportunity to join forces and educate the campus community, and each other, about their respective concerns.

Two weeks have passed since more than a dozen members of the Muslim Student Association, sporting signs of protest, in the EMU Courtyard, spoke out against bloodshed resulting from clashes between Palestinians and the Israeli Army. Israeli soldiers are reported to have killed 38 in the swell of rioting in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the past two weeks seven letters to the editor from individuals and parties representing various viewpoints on the issue have appeared on the Oregon Daily Emerald's editorial pages. At last count, another seven await publishing, and more are bound to come. This exchange of opinions and ideas characterizes one healthy public forum available to both the Muslim and Jewish student organizations.

But the volume of letters addressing the issue, and certainly the disputes between the authors as to the precise history and nature of the unrest in the Middle East today, indicates the necessity for another kind of forum on the matter.

Although the Muslim Student Association has opted to voice its views through on-campus rallies, whereas the Jewish Student Union has chosen to operate an informational booth inside the EMU, both should consider co-hosting an open forum on campus at which representatives of each side could orderly discuss the ramifications of problems in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Both groups are versed in and vocal on the Palestinian-Israeli discord. Their knowledge of the issue, coupled with their passionate ties to their struggling counterparts on the other side of the globe, certainly will lead them to sit down together as a broad-minded gesture to find a path to peace.

Such action would surely set a refreshing example of how opposing peoples can communicate and start to negotiate a political and humane solution to their differences.

Lottery schemes succeed at expense of average Joe

Oregon is awash in lottery fever, that is, if local newspapers' headlines reflect the sentiments of their readers.

As a form of entertainment or latent promotion, the Oregon lottery has been given extensive coverage, from the aggressive promotions of new games to the high jackpots at stake and the eventual lottery success of Eugene resident Robert Peterson.

Peterson recently won the largest jackpot in the three-year history of Oregon's lottery — \$7.5 million, amounting to a check for \$301,521 a year for 20 years. The story flashed throughout the front pages of newspapers across the state.

But for every lucky winner who defies seemingly insurmountable odds, countless unnamed losers — many of whom are low-income individuals seeking instant financial success — feed the lottery coffers, which in turn feed jackpot prizes and state economic development projects. This year alone, the lottery is expected to generate nearly \$50 million, which somehow legitimizes or justifies a state-sponsored, revenue-producing lottery.

Despite the economic benefits to the state, the instant-wealth-without-effort attitude reported in lottery articles merely helps foster a short-term, often irresponsible economic decision to use the lottery to retire debt instead of as a form of entertainment.

Also contributing to the lottery hype is the premiere of the scratch-off ticket game entitled The Money Game, which allows contestants a chance to win a \$50,000 prize in a televised program.

In addition, Oregon's lottery hype will be expanded further with its entry into "Lotto America," which links the state with five others and the District of Columbia into a national game with a minimum \$2 million prize and a jackpot possibility of up to \$40 million.

Oregon lotteries are profit-making ventures and should be treated by the media as such.



Letters

Disturbed

This letter is in response to the various attacks on the dorm "Safe Sex Dance" held Jan. 14. I don't live in the dorms, and I did not attend the dance. However, I absolutely support the idea, and I am shocked and disturbed about the ignorant response to this event.

There are two methods of defending my position that I have available to me. One is to be an adult and present my position using facts and my opinions on the subject. The other is to be childish about the whole thing. I choose both.

First the adult position: Karen Engels is mistaken to think that a dance advertising free condoms with price of admission is "in bad taste and the policy should be changed." Death is in very bad taste, Karen, and that policy should definitely be changed!

As for our parents, I think mine would prefer that I attend a safe sex dance with the living rather than go to a bar or some other cruising establishment and risk my life.

The issue here, Craig (Harris, commentary author) and Karen,

is not the "STDs, unwanted pregnancies, and emotional trauma often related to premarital sex," although I seriously believe the former two are valid issues. No, the issue here is your life. This is not a game and whether you like it or not, Bobby and Suzie or Sally and Suzie or Bobby and Rick in dormland are going to make it, so let's at least allow them to experience "emotional trauma" while they are living.

Now for the childish part: Those of you who were against the dance — couldn't you get dates for it? Isn't that what this is all about? Why don't you look each other up? You could discuss unsafe sex together or something. Sorry...

Scott Shoup
GALA

Roy's not our toy

A few comments concerning Andy Cripe's front-page photo of myself (ODE Tuesday, Jan. 19), oddly-titled "Conspicuous Consumption":

1) My life as lead singer for the Soulsations is hard enough without having my photo used

as the liner for hundreds of Eugeneans' kitty litter boxes and bird cages.

2) It's not so much that I need the publicity for myself, seeing that everybody knows who Teddy Boy Roy is (or, at least they should), but, where's the rest of my band?, where's the article?

3) Little did I know when sitting down in front of the Espresso Roma cafe that I would be joined by thousands of uninformed breakfast guests scrutinizing my tongue licking my soul lips in anxious anticipation of the day's first soothing sip of mocha...

Having knocked myself out for hundreds of money-paying music fans on the stage of the Peacock Tavern in Corvallis on Friday and Saturday night, and then sleeping for 15 hours, I was psychologically unprepared for the magnification of my already fishbowl-like existence to the extent of splashing my image across fully one-fourth of the front page... At least I remembered to shave.

Yours in SOUL,
Teddy "Honey Boy" Roy
Definitely not a student

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