

Op-ed

Are introverts or extroverts more perverted?

I perceive a problem, a big one. I will attempt to spell it out so that you can resolve it.

By Nickolas Facaros
Emerald Columnist

Like it or not, you are informed. At least somewhat. About community affairs in particular. You just picked up a community newspaper, started reading, opened it up and kept reading — like you usually do. Just

about every day.

And yet, assuming you are like nearly everyone else around here, you just as often share your views only with yourself and those close to you, removed infinitely far away from your community.

The daily circulation of the Emerald is 11,500. Some papers do not reach readers; others reach more than one. For all practical purposes, the Emerald disseminates the news of the University community.

Most unfortunately, the University community word is,

by and large, not spoken by the community.

On average, the Emerald receives five or six letters a day. Out of the more than 100 letters it receives in a month, 25 to 35 come from a small core of individuals.

Is the Emerald or nearly all its readers to blame? I am not sure, but the Emerald, to its credit, is giving us the opportunity to find out. A thoroughly unofficial survey follows. Please respond so that the Emerald can respond.

Historically, the Emerald seldom surveys its readers. However, Emerald editorial management meets with University administration on an informal basis. Next year it will extend its contact with student leaders in a fall symposium and

subsequent staff workshops.

Is it of interest to you what other members of the University community think and believe? (a) yes (b) no. Are the views presented on the letters page representative of the University community?

How often should the Emerald conduct surveys on topics of interest to the University community? (a) never (b) weekly (c) monthly (d) each term (e) yearly. Should the Emerald survey its readers to determine what subjects are of interest to the University community? (a) yes (b) no.

Turning to the letters page itself, presently, the Emerald, as a matter of official policy, "attempts to print all letters" that contain "factually accurate" comments "on topics of interest

to the University community" and that "refrain from personal attacks on the character of others."

For several reasons, this policy may deter readers from writing letters.

The Emerald could, but does not, print "all" such letters. The Emerald could only because so few people write. Once advertising space is accounted for, the Emerald's content is merely a matter of priorities.

Second, why, except out of principle or for the sake of exercise, write what may be censored? What the Emerald will censor is not self-evident. But what it should not may be.

If a factually accurate personal attack on someone's character is a topic of interest to the University community, the Emerald is arguably out of its journalistic gourd for not printing it. Libel law defines what the Emerald can print, and factual matter is within that limit. The paper must be responsive to University and community concerns.

The letters policy perhaps patronizes Emerald readers. Any socially well-adjusted person who lets the slurs of homophobics, racists or other twits faze him or her in the least needs to do some more adjusting. The spectre of an idiot-free world does not loom before us.

Should the Emerald devote more space to letters? (a) yes (b) no. Should the Emerald do away with the requirement that letters refrain from personal attacks? (a) yes (b) no.

Soon or without delay, drop this survey off at the front desk of the Emerald office on the EMU's third floor or send it to: Oregon Daily Emerald, P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Ore. 97403.

Feel free to supplement your response with a letter.

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