

Campus safety calls for improved lighting

Bumbling around a poorly-lit campus at night probably is not an issue to most students. In fact, we've been doing it for so long that it has become almost second nature to see in the dark.

But that doesn't make it right — or safe.

Fortunately, the ASUO has decided to do something about it.

Last night, the ASUO (and in particular, University Affairs Coordinator Mark Button) sponsored "Walk a night," in order to address the need for increased lighting on campus in areas that could be considered dangerously dark. Following a planned route, students and administrators combed the too-dark campus and discussed issues of campus safety.

While it's difficult to hold the administrators at fault for the poorly lit campus — after all, they usually leave campus grounds at 5 p.m. while the students stay here well into the night to study and attend night classes — they shouldn't be excused from providing a safer, better-lit University.

University administrators also should be aware that the University could be held liable in the event of an attack or rape on University grounds.

Similarly, a school district in Portland was held liable when a student was raped in a dark, bushy area of the grounds. The student claimed the school failed to warn and protect her in light of a previous attack on a newspaper carrier. Although the student settled out of court, the case gained importance both nationally and state-wide and has led many University administrators to be more aware of campus safety.

Fortunately, the University fares well in this area, having recognized the need of safety in providing such programs as Saferide and the University Office of Public Safety.

Administrators also should note the rash of campus-area robberies that occurred, at gun-point, last weekend. As if walking around an overtly dark campus at night isn't bad enough, now there's some gun-wielding man in a baseball cap out there somewhere in the campus vicinity.

Given the fact that there were two reported rapes on campus last year (one of them at Hayward Field), administrators should definitely answer the call for increased campus lighting. Even those two rapes were two too many, particularly if the administration can do something to help prevent attacks.

We hope University administrators have not only recognized the need for better campus lighting, but will now take definitive action toward making the University a safer campus.

But for now, congratulations go out to the ASUO for making the first step in a more brightly lit direction.

Common sense, planning keys to safety, prevention

Brightly-lit campus or no, students still need to be aware of the dangers that lurk in and out of the bushes. Given this, the Office of Public Safety and the Emerald has put together a mini survival/common sense guide to making your way around — anywhere.

- When you're out walking, alone or in a group, know where you're walking to. If you find you need to escape from an attacker, have a place in mind to run to (is there an open building or gas station nearby?).
- Always have a backup plan. Plan A might not always work.
- Carry a "weapon." Lit cigarettes or keys between your fingers work very well (aim for the assailant's face), as do mace and whistles. Screaming and yelling also tend to scare off attackers and could bring people to your aid.
- Take a self-defense course offered by the University.



WEST GERMAN TECHNICAL ADVISERS PREPARE TO OPEN GADHAFI'S NEW LOLLIPOP FACTORY

Letters

Zionism

To those of the Jewish Student Union:

Your letter reflects lots of dishonesty by ambiguously quoting a pamphlet without showing the identity of its writer (former British singer, Cat Stevens), thus giving the false impression that it was written by the MSA.

A second dishonesty is that of quoting Cat Stevens out of context, thus misleading the readers into a false understanding of Cat's opinion. This attitude is not new of those of the JSU. They are experts in fabricating the facts.

I will describe in short what Cat Stevens saw as an eye witness in Gaza and the Westbank.

He was welcomed by the Jews by being shot at in the Westbank (Israeli hospitality!). He saw soldiers breaking into houses at night, taking youths, beating them up while their families helplessly looked on. Besides using tear gas, nerve gas is now being used which results in convulsions, hallucinations and symptoms of suffocation for weeks.

The youth are arrested and tortured into drinking urine and are put in severely overcrowded prisons. There are also prisons for children (talk about child abuse!). He saw lots of destroyed churches and mosques; soldiers smoking hashish under the roofs of the Holy sanctuary.

I wonder, can there be any more disrespect of God, His religion and His creations as that portrayed by the Jews in Israel? How true was Israel Shahak, the Chairman of the Israeli

League for Civil Rights when he said "You can't have humane Zionism, it is a contradiction in terms."

It is time to stop the inhumane Israeli holocaust against the Palestinians!

Amr Mohsen
Muslim Student Association

Slandering

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Michael Dawson and his letter entitled "Racist Climate" (ODE, Dec. 5).

As a GTF in the sociology department, you must certainly be aware of problems that arise when studying a certain population. Great care must be taken in choosing a sample that is representative of the entire population if you are going to make broad generalizations.

The letter stated that the young men making the racist remarks were "on the premises of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house." Unless you are absolutely certain that they were members of the SAE fraternity, and not just "on the premises," your comments are unfair slandering of their house. If indeed they were members of the house, I doubt their shallow views are the views held by the entire fraternity.

But by extending your comments to include not just the two individuals, but to all the fraternities, and later, apply them to the whole greek system, shows that you are both unprofessional and irresponsible.

Unprofessional in the sense that you are taking a sample (that is assuming they were actually Greek) that represents one one-hundredth of one percent (.001 percent) of Greeks on campus, and drawing absurd conclusions about the entire system! And by irresponsible I mean that your letter's good point (educating the public about racism) could have been made without incorrectly labeling the whole Greek system as bigots. People like yourself who create stereotypes are contributing to the problem, not helping with the solution.

Pete Derouin
President
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Gay dangers

Deltra Coonrod-Ferguson (ODE, Dec. 9) questioned my statement that "gay" sexual behavior harms the participants.

Permit me to expand. But be forewarned — it isn't pretty.

"Gay" activities inflict a monumental assault on the body. They submit to physical pain and bodily destruction that results from abnormal sexual acts. Herpes, gonorrhea of the throat, parasitic infections, colitis, rectal lesions, hepatitis, and AIDS — these ugly maladies are widely prevalent among homosexuals who choose unnatural, unhealthy, unsanitary practices that their body was never intended to withstand.

Their colon wall tissues are subject to inevitable tearing or bruising followed by introduction of foreign saliva, feces, whatever the foreign penis has on it, and seminal fluids (which contain virtually every germ carried in the "donor's" blood) — all gaining direct access to the recipient's blood stream. It doesn't require a great deal of discernment to realize the catastrophic health implications of these acts.

Their acts have societal implications as well. Grossly unsanitary behavior (seminal/blood exchange, fecal and urine exchange, rectal trauma) combined with a high incidence of person-to-person contact inevitably creates disastrous health effects on a global scale.

Just because the recipient may be "consenting," the bodily damage is no less real, the disease transmission is no less deadly, the nation's health care costs no less expensive, and the anguish of destroyed innocent lives no less tragic. "Private consensual" sexual acts can and do cost society a great deal of money and grief. Without question, homosexual behavior harms the participants and endangers all humanity.

Jon Wollander
Eugene

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