

Emerald article misses mark, confuses subject

By Lyllye Parker

"Children support mother's efforts," an article published in

Commentary

the Feb. 2 Emerald, truly missed the mark! The article was written about me, and I am still asking myself, "Why?"

When contacted by the reporter to do this interview I was told the focus would be the NASP Award I received in December. Needless to say, the article didn't have this focus, nor did it support the headline "Children support mother's efforts." In my opinion, it was just a series of paragraphs put together haphazardly in order to fill space in the paper.

There are those who will read these words and think I am a very ungrateful person; after all, not every student gets space in the Emerald and certainly not many students of color. This may be true. However, as a student of color, as with any student, I want to be presented in a clear, clean manner. This article allowed its audience to know that I was a special admit student to the University under the five percent program, and then went on to say two paragraphs later that I qualified for the program because I was a first generation college student, a single parent, and because I was economically impoverished.

These qualifications will get you into the Educational Opportunity Program, which nominated me for the NASP award, but they would hardly open the door to admissions for anybody. Like any other student admitted under the five percent program, I had to petition for acceptance, and prove I would be a worthy student. I am proud of the fact that winter term my freshman year I made the Dean's List and qualified for Alpha Lambda Delta, the freshman honor society.

I take full credit for my academic standing here at the University; not one instructor gave me grades because I was a black woman, a single parent, a poor woman, or an older student. However, I do share my success with the Educational Opportunity Program and the rest of my support group. EOP supplied me with tutors my first two years in college, and tutors are still available to me as needed. This type of support was extremely important to me, since I had been out of the academic arena for twenty-two years. Tutoring is not the only support EOP offered me as a participant in the program; however, it is the one phase of the program I took most advantage of.

This is not meant to be an advertisement for EOP, even though I would strongly suggest that anyone who qualifies should take advantage of this

program. It is merely a statement that I took advantage of my opportunity to utilize this organization, and was successful in my efforts, and they deemed me worthy of nomination for this award. I take pride in being the only student from Oregon who was chosen to receive the NASP award, not only because it will look good on my resume, but because it gives much deserved recognition to EOP and the people who run it.

I am proud of my accomplishments here at the University, and hope that I can be a role model for other black students as well as other older students who are thinking about entering the academic setting after many years of absence. I have taken this stand of indignation against the Emerald because in my opinion the article about me lacked substance. In the words of the little old lady on the Burger King commercials a few years back, "Where's the beef?" This has to be one of your worst efforts at presenting the facts, and as the woman who granted the interview I am very disappointed. It must have been a bad night for your editor.

Editor's Note: The Emerald acknowledges the story on Lyllye Parker that ran Feb. 2 was inadequate in its explanation of her accomplishments, which are notable.

The editor has met with Parker, offered this forum for response and explained the story was by no means intended to damage Parker's reputation or stereotype her. The Emerald regrets any misunderstanding.



Letters

Freshmen

In response to the letter "Ice Idiots," by Mr. Yancey Fall, I would like to defend myself. I'm really sorry that your car was dented by a "mob" of snowball throwers.

Yes, it was unfair, uncalled for, and an extremely juvenile act; however, your attack on freshmen was unforgivable and certainly unwarranted. Of all the people residing in the dorms, not all are freshmen. Also, not all lack in intelligence (as you say). Your generalizations are rude and lack support; granted some freshmen were present and partici-

pated, but that does not mean every one there was a freshman or an "idiot."

"Freshmen idiots?" I think that is a highly unjust label for first year college students, like myself. I apologize for being a freshman (which obviously is equivalent to lacking intelligence ...), but we have to start somewhere. Not all freshmen are worthless; some are even more involved, concerned and conscientious than some upper classmen. I hope you can find it in your heart to apologize for your insulting generalizations and labeling.

Tanya Gass
Freshman

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The Oregon Daily Emerald welcomes commentaries from the public concerning topics of interest to the University community. Comments must refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

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Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

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The Emerald operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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Good Through March 8, 1989