

Letters

Thanks Nye

Now that my campaign for the Incidental Fee Committee (2 year seat) is over, I would just like to thank all the 879 students who voted for me. I think they shared my concern that some of the students' needs on this campus are not being addressed. I was disappointed to lose but felt a sense of accomplishment that I received as many votes as I did while not being affiliated with any group or receiving any endorsements, except for the Nye Sherwood endorsement. Thanks Nye.

I believe I informed the voters that I spoke to and helped double the voter turnout compared to last year by actively discussing the issues and encouraging students to vote. I learned many things during my campaign for the IFC and I think I handled myself very honestly and professionally.

I would hope that next year's Incidental Fee Committee would look for new ideas and new ways to help improve the campus and show the dedication and professionalism needed to serve all the students. I would also like to congratulate the Clark/Wyckoff ticket on being elected to the ASUO Executive and I know that the students voted for the Executive ticket that will best represent this University.

Dave Heironimus
Finance

Babes and owls

The recent barrage of pro-choice letters shows the typical contradictory arguments they put forth. They would rather save a miserable spotted owl than a healthy human baby.

I used to be pro-choice, with all the usual arguments. But now I see the hypocrisy. Let's say I go out into the old growth, pilfer a couple of spotted owl eggs from an old snag and poach them for breakfast. Would I be prosecuted for such an offense?

"Of course," these liberals reply, "because you've killed two baby owls." To the environmentalist, there is no question concerning the living bird in-

side the spotted owl egg. Yet they hedge on this same issue regarding unborn humans, humans who kick Mom at five months and survive in an incubator to become a normal adult.

There must be one of two reasons why this is: 1. Spotted owls are worth more than humans, or 2. Enviro-feminists don't like the responsibility for self-gratifying sexual acts. I suspect number two, for number one is ridiculous.

I long for the overturning of Roe vs. Wade as the abolitionists fought for black freedom. This right is even more fundamental than freedom — the right to life. The solution is not to make children pay with their lives for the mistakes of their parents, but for conception not to have occurred. If they still insist on freedom to kill, there's nothing wrong with my poached eggs.

Brandon Shepard
Eugene

Anti-choice

The groups which oppose a woman's right to legal abortion may claim some success in the Emerald editor who is responsible for the editorial that appeared April 26 ("Court should hold to past in abortions"). These groups have succeeded in manipulating the editors into describing them with their self-appointed and deceptive label "pro-lifers."

Thus the editorial described the conflict as being between "pro-choicers" and "pro-lifers." Yet the editors clearly support a woman's right to choose whether she gives birth.

I would suggest that the positions instead be described as pro-choice and anti-choice. The Emerald editors should oppose perversion of language and image by Christian zealots whose real goal is to get people to stop having sex except for ordained procreation. It is the anti-choice reactionaries that also oppose free and accessible birth control.

As a person who supports women's freedom to choose the fate of their bodies I am pro-life; women's lives should not be endangered by lack of personal liberty. I am anti-abor-

tion; I don't like it when women get abortions and I know none that enjoy it. Nobody is really for abortion.

Further, as is done by the Cuban government, I believe that our own government should provide free contraceptives to every citizen. That would go a long way in preventing unwanted pregnancies and abortions.

Kevin Hornbuckle
Eugene

More danger

We appreciate Lindy Holt's concern (ODE, April 25) for the safety of women on campus. However, accusing women who choose to walk alone at night of being selfish and "not smart" is misplacing the responsibility for the safety problems on campus.

If women adhered to a curfew, as Holt proposes, and otherwise censored their behavior in the interest of safety, violence against women would not vanish. The unfortunate truth is that women are more in danger of being raped in their own homes than when walking alone late at night.

Women have the freedom and the right to choose to walk alone anywhere and at any time. Using resources such as Saferide and walking with friends are only two of many important options that women have to increase our safety. (Call the Rape Crisis network for help with brainstorming.)

The most important thing we can do for ourselves as women is to acknowledge and understand the threats that exist and, with this awareness, make our choices and live as we see fit.

In addition, we want to emphasize that this burden does not lie solely on the shoulders of women. It's time men took more responsibility for women's (as well as their own) safety, since men are usually the ones putting others at risk. Violence against women will not stop until everyone takes responsibility for ending it.

Lucy Bernard
Wendy Hodson
Neuroscience

Care Continued from Page 2

who do not have young children or do not call attention to family responsibilities.

Thus, not only is the lack of child care affecting women's status, but the very topic seems to carry a risk for those who broach it. More than once I have been identified as "the child care person."

The bitter irony is that, even ignoring social equity for women and children, there is still good reason to provide quality child care. Its very lack undercuts our nation's economic health. It interferes with the availability and productivity of a large part of the workforce.

Other industrialized nations spread the child care costs among government, employer and working parents to avoid the immediate and long-term costs of inadequate child care. Numerous studies have shown that, even without much government support, employer-sponsored child care improves staff productivity, reduces absenteeism, increases hiring opportunities, decreases staff de-

partures and is thus economically advantageous.

Universities and colleges should be leaders in overcoming the child care crisis. If your institution does not have adequate child care for its employees, consider initiating or helping an effort to develop a child care facility.

Universities and colleges, with their size, resources and educational mission, have the social responsibility to respond to the child care problem. In behaving responsibly, the institutions will do themselves a favor by improving the status of women, which will affect job productivity, absenteeism and the ability to retain and recruit faculty and staff.

With proper safeguards and parental approval, a child care facility may even be valuable to researchers studying children, a bonus for institutions with relevant research interests. If planned well, on-site, quality child care will be accessible to faculty and staff at all pay scales, thereby contributing to

the goal of equal opportunity for women.

Jennifer Freyd is an associate psychology professor and a member of the University Child Care Study Committee.

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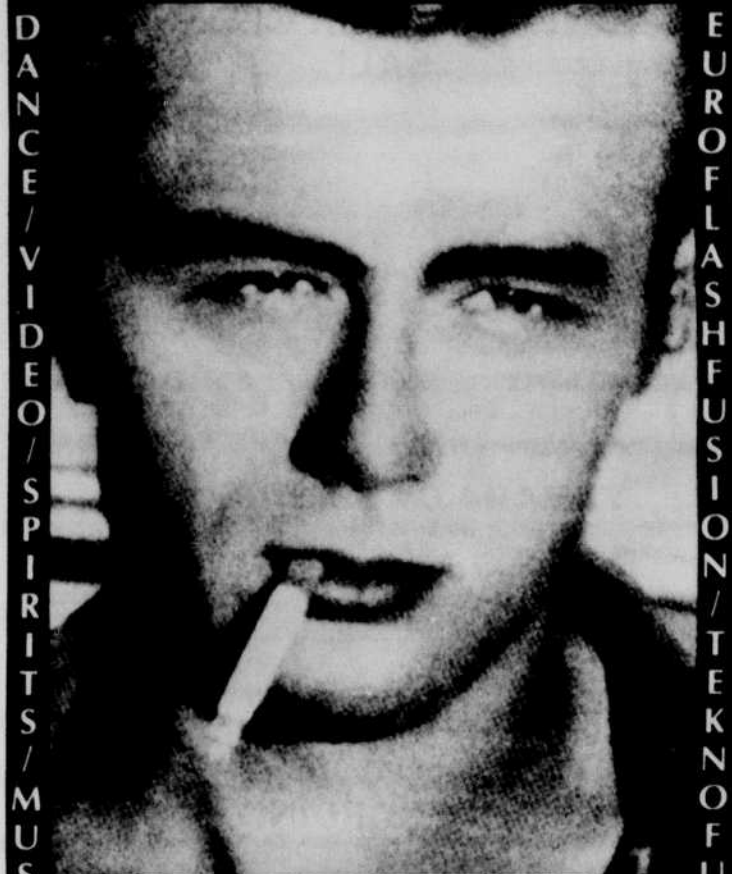
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