

No code sanctions for rioting arrestees

That awful "morning after" feeling for the three University students arrested for rioting at an off-campus party last Friday must still be on their minds.

Not only will Shelley Marie Hannah, Dainard Jon Paulson and Edwin C. Bradberry have to face a grand jury, they may also face official University conduct code sanctions, up to and including expulsion. The University is empowered to levy such sanctions; we believe it shouldn't pursue them.

University officials do not feel in any way responsible for what occurred at the 14th Avenue and Ferry Street parties because the incident did not occur at a University-sponsored event.

If the University has no interest in the matter, it shouldn't sanction students for their off-campus activities. That would extend a scary precedent for the University to step in where it has no right to do so.

But that's not the case. The University does have some interest in maintaining its public image, and the safety and well-being of its students. Monitoring student parties is part of that interest. Because the University is currently pursuing policies that have, in fact, hurt their ability to monitor parties, there is every reason to believe that the University does bear some responsibility for the riot.

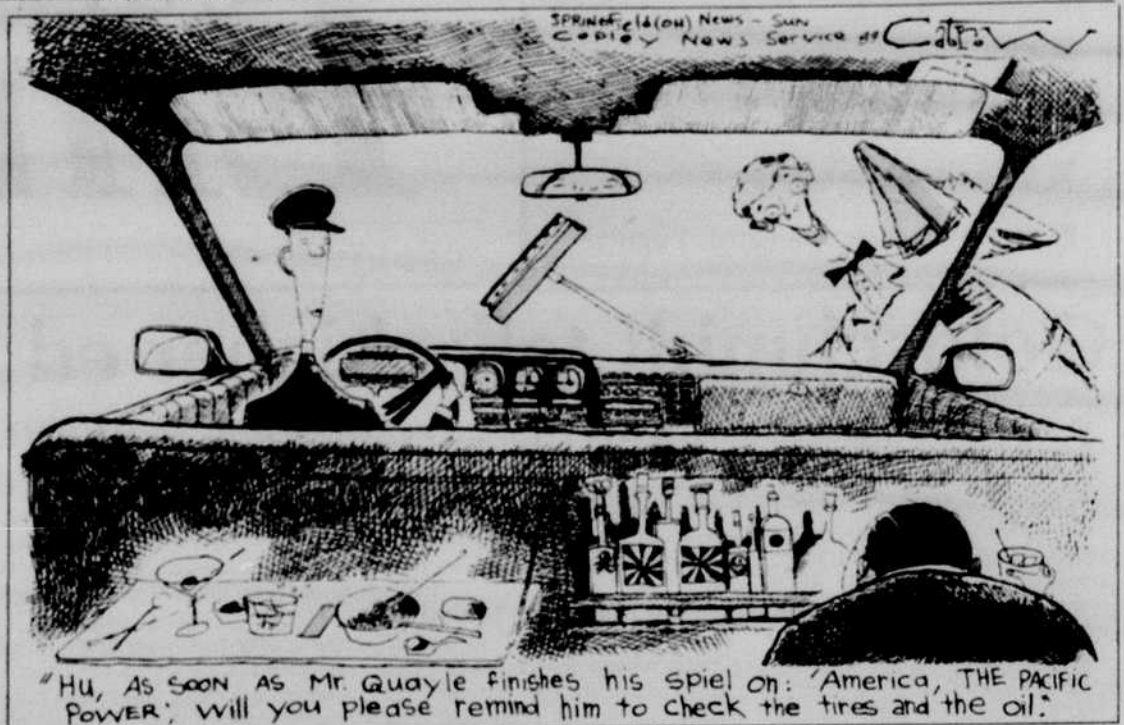
We're talking about the keg ban the University imposed on fraternities last year. The end of controlled Greek parties meant that beer is no longer served in kegs, but it didn't mean the end of parties. They have moved off-campus, further away from the University and further away from the controls of the Interfraternity Council. The parties have gotten larger, noisier, and the substance abuse has gotten worse. The University's ban must be re-examined.

The Greeks are not the only ones partying off campus. But their migration to the outer West University neighborhoods does add to the parties already occurring out there.

If the University does accept its responsibility, conduct code sanctions against the three students still are not merited. If the purpose of sanctions is to punish these students, their crimes are against the city and police, and it's up to those agencies to seek restitution.

If the purpose of sanctions is to make an example of these three to show students this is unacceptable behavior, the example would be lost.

These students knew that throwing bottles at cops is simply a stupid idea. Their shortcoming was getting caught up in the mob-like atmosphere. In situations where reason comes up short, the well-intended moral lesson is also going to be ineffective.



Shelter need isn't a temporary situation

What began as temporary shelter for homeless mothers and their children last winter may be just that — temporary — if the Lane County Commissioners' tentative approval to ax the Opportunity Shelter is approved by Eugene and Springfield.

Last Thanksgiving, as the weather began to chill, the Opportunity Shelter opened its doors to homeless families to give them a place to go to get out of the cold weather. And now that the weather has warmed, they are being turned out. After all, isn't Eugene known for its warm, sunny climate?

Further inane logic to closing the Opportunity Shelter is that low-rent housing is easier to find in the spring and summer because the college student population diminishes, and houses are available for rent.

Given the seriousness of the current housing crunch, the idea is ridiculous. Students also are having a difficult time finding housing. Many use this time of year to secure housing for fall, while others resort to sub-letting current residences for the summer to insure housing once school rolls around again.

And, as demonstrated by a current Opportunity Shelter resident, who has been rejected dozens of times in the last five months for rental housing, dwellings for these families are difficult to come by.

At a recent community forum on homelessness, City Councilor Shawn Boles said he supported closing the Opportunity Shelter because he thought it wasn't a decent way for people to live.

However, funds and alternatives are lacking to replace the shelter at this time.

Fifty-eight families with 99 children have received help from the shelter since its opening. Of the families served, 12 left for independent living situations, 14 left without giving a reason and 11 more left with no plans whatsoever.

It took the families who did find someplace to go approximately 30 days to find alternative living arrangements.

While the Opportunity Shelter was never meant to be a permanent solution to what the city termed an emergency situation during the winter, the homeless situation itself can be considered an emergency situation no matter what the weather.

This is true even now considering the housing crunch. After all, it will be no easy task for these families to find a place to live — as has been demonstrated by the current need for the Opportunity Shelter. It is now time for the county and the city governments to take a hard look at the homeless situation, and do something permanent about it.

Letters

Women's issue

After reading the endless amount of letters recently, it is obvious that the abortion issue is extremely controversial and that men, such as Michael Cross (ODE, May 1), will continue putting their noses where they do not belong.

First: The issue of when life begins is a moot point. Cross believes life begins at conception while others do not. It is impossible for Cross to express his opinions as fact and expect others to be converted to his way of thinking.

Second: The truth of the matter is that abortion is a woman's issue. Ideally the father should be involved in the decision-making process, but often men are indifferent to the birth process and women are left with the burden. When it comes down to it, a woman will make the final decision. Therefore, men (such as Cross) have no right to oppress women's rights and no place in the anti-choice movement. Men who are active as pro-choicers are important, as they support

women and their right to choose.

Last: Michael Cross refers to women who say that adoption would not be a "fair option" for them. If these women are women of color or pregnant with severely deformed children, adoption is literally not an option. Childless couples want white, healthy babies.

I suggest that Cross think more effectively about his opinions, label them as such, and keep his nose out of women's issues.

Pamela Blumenthal
Student

Rat's worth

Hitler's crimes against humanity were only possible because of his failure to make an ethical distinction between people and animals: He treated those people unlike himself as if they were insects. Everybody must work to prevent future Holocausts.

People such as myself who condemn cruelty to animals

must especially condemn those who threaten violence (e.g., bomb scares) in the name of animal rights. Those against cruelty toward animals (including humans) must support medical and scientific research that can benefit humans when it is done without cruelty or unnecessary suffering. To object to properly conducted research is to tell the AIDS patient, the diabetic, the cataract sufferer that they are worth no more than a rat. Hitler might have agreed with that, but I can't.

Bruce Martin
Eugene

Never know

In response to Bert Tryba's commentary on religion and philosophy, I would like to point out that, contrary to what he might believe (and it is a matter of belief), it is impossible to "prove" or disprove the existence of God. The logical skepticism of an Ockham or a Russell holds no more water than the Gospels or the Quran.

How do you know what you

cannot? Tryba himself agrees "Man is the measure of all things," so how can he hope to even conceive of an entity that, by definition, is other than man? You cannot sit down and write a treatise that irrefutably disproves the existence of divinity ... you can't even think of divinity. One will never really know one way or the other.

As for Tryba's comments on the religious studies program: Is it his contention that by eliminating the study of theology and comparative religion, this campus will be a better environment for the study of "the measure of man?" Religion and philosophy have been, and most likely always will be, inseparable.

Even if you don't accept this, you cannot deny religion has been one of the most influential and dominating forces behind the intellectual evolution of the human race. Every culture the world over has some conception of the cosmic order that includes aspects of divinity. You wish to ignore this? Your attitude is far more dangerous to intellectual freedom than the fundamentalist students you

have such a fear of.

Nicholas Starin
History

Correction

In the May 3 Emerald article "GM giving away tuition awards" and the May 11 letter to the editor "Car lot," it was incorrectly stated that the recent General Motors College Auto Expo, with its \$500 tuition giveaway, was approved by University President Paul Olum.

In fact, President Olum had no role in approving the GM exposition. The exposition proposal was reviewed by Barbara Edwards, associate vice president for University relations. Edwards says that the material she reviewed did not include the sales activity on 13th Avenue, and she was surprised and disappointed when she discovered it.

The Emerald regrets any confusion this may have caused.