

ODE wants readers to pick new comic

Because the *Oregon Daily Emerald* is a student newspaper, we aren't afraid to look to our professional brethren for ideas and inspirations on how we might do our job better. When we see something we like in another publication and think it might work in ours, we'll leap at the chance to emulate, copy or downright steal that idea.

Last spring, *The Oregonian* polled its readers to find out what they liked on the comics page. The paper collected and tallied the results, published them, and then re-designed the page to reflect what the readers wanted.

That's a good example of a paper being responsible to its audience, and we want to do the same thing.

As most folks are aware, Berke Breathed's Pulitzer Prize-winning strip *Bloom County* ends publication Aug. 19. As Breathed's new strip *Outland* will run on Sundays only, the *Emerald* will have room for another daily (We will continue to run Garry Trudeau's *Doonesbury* and Gary Larson's *The Far Side*).

So, we want to hear from our readers what strip they want to see. Our staff has expressed an early interest in carrying Bill Watterson's *Calvin and Hobbes*, but nothing has been decided yet, and if our readers express an overwhelming outcry for something else, then we will examine meeting their wishes.

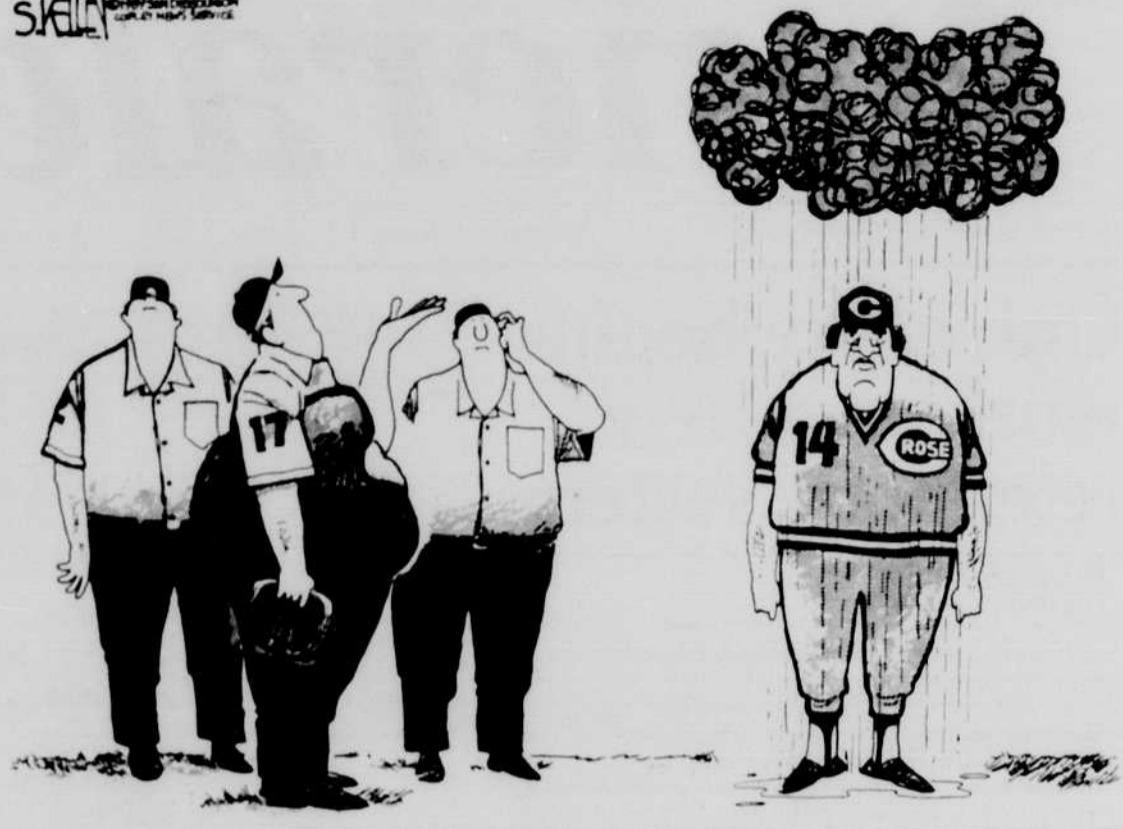
Sadly, we offer no guarantees that we can abide by the results of a survey. There are cost and size considerations; for example the *Emerald* has passed before on Matt Groening's hilarious *Life in Hell* strip because of its price tag and weekly publication schedule. There are aesthetic matters too; we cringe at the thought of running *Mark Trail* or some such strip if this survey takes an unexpected turn.

But we do want to hear from you. Please send a postcard stating what strips you do and do not want to see to: Comic Survey, *Oregon Daily Emerald*, P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403. The deadline is July 21.

Finally, there is always the question on this matter as to whether we would consider a strip done by a local student. The answer is yes, we would. After all, Trudeau got his start at his college paper, and we wouldn't mind being the ones to find the next *Doonesbury*. But any student-run strip would have to be damn funny for us to take it. With that caveat, we'll accept submissions.

We'll report the results of the survey, and our decision, at a later time in the Editorial section.

SKELLY
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Giamatti should send Rose to showers

Baseball's All-Star Break has been the traditional time to look back and reflect on the season's pennant races so far. This year however, all the statistical prognostication is overshadowed by one contest: Will Pete Rose beat the gambling charges hounding him?

Although this ordeal has already lasted four months and is certain to go on throughout the dog days of summer, the consensus forming is that Rose is going to be tagged out. If the accusations against him of betting on baseball are found to be true, he faces suspension for one year. If he is found to have bet on the Cincinnati Reds, the team he manages, he faces life suspension from the sport.

Rose denies the charges, but the mounting evidence scoffs at this. It seems clear that Charlie Hustle has been hustling on baseball. Lately, Rose has taken his desperate defense in court.

Last month, Rose was granted a temporary injunction by a Cincinnati judge under the complaint that baseball commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti has pre-judged Rose and it will be impossible for him to get a fair hearing. The fair hearing ruling was a farce, coming from a judge facing re-election next

year who found his hometown's most popular citizen in his courtroom. Baseball's lawyers have asked that the matter be moved to a federal court, and it appears they will succeed.

Once the legal maneuvers are over, what happens then? As it appears that Rose is guilty of the charges, is the lifetime suspension merited? A chorus of voices across America say that it is not. Those voices are wrong.

Baseball's aversion to gambling dates back to the infamous 1919 Black Sox scandal. Once the vice of low men, 70 years later there is now a wide public acceptance of gambling. Folks ask what is wrong with Rose betting on his own team — as long as he has bet them to win, which Rose appears to have done.

What is wrong is that Rose appears to have a serious gambling problem, not a occasional wager excursion for fun. His debt tallies have run up in the six-figure marks before. Addicted gamblers are desperate people; what's to prevent Rose from throwing one game in a 162-game season to recoup his losses? The fact that Rose began betting on baseball three years ago, when he knew the penalties he would face, shows that his judgment was already clouded.

Letters

Big trees

Since our retirement in 1979, my wife and I have made three trips to the Pacific Northwest, each time leaving \$2-3,000 out there in travel expenses plus plane fare.

More than any single thing your big trees draw us. We don't have them here. We can buy pretty good fresh salmon here but we must travel to receive the serenity, majesty and peace your big trees provide. Please preserve them. We would never travel to see big stumps — but big trees, yes!

Graham R. Hodges
Liverpool, NY

Smoke-stained

Far be it from me to criticize the Legislature, but it does occur to me that perhaps the order of business got reversed with regard to SB425 regulating field burning and the bill to change the color of Oregon's li-

cense plates.

The license plate bill should have waited until after the House voted down the field burning bill. Then the license plates could not only have been re-colored, but redesigned. I have in mind a heraldic emblem embodying symbols that truly represent reality for ordinary Oregonians: Smoke-stained greenbacks on a field of burning grass.

Mary-Louise Pasutti
Eugene

Smoldering

This issue about flag burning has me quite concerned. After all, I thought the 27th Amendment was going to be equal rights, but I guess the issue is

one of what is "hot" compared to "cold," and rather than clarifying whether or not women are created equal, the issue is a government ploy of chasing smoke (a Washington pastime).

I personally would not burn a flag or in any other way deface one; however, for those people who are in tune with the state of the union, they probably realize that burning a flag is more of last year's style. That is, with the smoldering issue of how the federal forests are toasted, it would've been a more timely mode of protest.

This year I recommend a means of protest that should leave all concerned parties content: protestors should take their flags and dip them in their favorite bay, sound, navigable river or scenic waterway.

This will satisfy protestors' desire for feeling that they have properly defaced the flag, and it will obviate the need to create new legislation, as it would now be up to the Environmen-

tal Protection Agency's regulations to determine the flags' disposal.

Glen Smith
Eugene

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified.

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