

Not dorms

In response to Jay Johnson's May 22 letter, I would like to propose that the most popular living accommodations on campus be referred to as "dormitories," not dorms.

A "dorm" is often stereotyped as a large facility for the imprisonment of new, immature, unsophisticated students who spend most of their time sleeping, eating pizza, playing pranks and destroying themselves as well as their surroundings.

A "dormitory," however, is a spacious environment for students to come together in a warm, bonding, family-type organization that promotes more intense, high-powered studying conditions.

While we are on the subject, why shorten birth names when that only connotes youth and immaturity? Why have slang when it involves such choppy, uneducated-sounding terms that are not at all proper in Webster's? We could go on pondering forever ... um ... what was your name again?

Cari Croghan
Physical Therapy

Good images

I am interested to know how Valerie Ebner decides what is and what is not exploitation (ODE, May 18). Are all nude pictures of women exploitive? If so, what about the ones which appeared on the walls of the EMU in a recent photo exhibit? And what about all of the nude women in classic art? Did

DaVinci have exploitation in mind when he sculpted the Venus De Milo?

Ebner may argue the representations in exhibits are art and the pictures in *Playboy* are pornography, but what criteria could she possibly use to decide this?

Besides, exploitation and objectification go both ways. Walk down the floors of some of our female dorms and one will see plenty of pictures of nude male chests and buttocks pinned to the doors.

Ebner objects that *Playboy* and *Penthouse* "... can lead to a woman's inability to be taken seriously by men in their careers, classes, relationships and other aspects of life." The problem is much more complex than this, and making the purchaser walk a few more blocks for his magazine is not going to change a thing.

Women will continue to be taken more seriously in this society regardless of the availability of nude publications. The Whoopie Goldbergs, Molly Yards and Tracy Chapmans are living testimony.

Ebner's cause would be much better served and respected if she promoted what she feels are good images of women and didn't advocate censorship of the ones she dislikes.

Timothy Webber
TCF

Letters

Poverty

Poverty is partly reflective, partly subjective. Some say poverty will always be with us. The government should assist the poor across the nation by providing funds and passing laws that guarantee every suitable dwelling, new and old alike, be provided with electricity, plumbing and clean water.

There are places in America where families live in shabby huts with no bathroom. The business of the government should be to help those people.

Pete Fena
Graduate student

More scripture

"And he went up from thence unto Beth-el: and he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up thou bald head.

"And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them." (II Kings, 2:23-24)

Scott Bishop
Eugene

Letters Policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Until finally being replaced by its more popular and deadly cousin, the Bowie spoon was often used to settle disputes in the Old West.

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