

## EDITORIAL

### Jury comprehends freedom issues

Some good news from Cincinnati should partly restore our faith in the open-mindedness of the average American.

A jury, described as being made up of mostly church-going suburbanites, acquitted the art director of a controversial Cincinnati art gallery. The director had faced obscenity charges for displaying homoerotic photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe.

In a time when the president of the country doesn't have a clear grasp of the First Amendment or the Bill of Rights, it is good to see that average citizens still understand the difference between morality and censorship.

Many of the jurors said they did find some of the photos in the Mapplethorpe exhibit "gross" and offensive but also understood their legitimacy as art. For a jury to find that something is obscene they must establish that the art in question meets three standards.

First it must appeal to the prurient interest in sex. Second, it must be patently offensive. And third, it must have no artistic value. While many of the jury members, using their personal standards of morality and values, decided that the exhibit did appeal to the prurient interest and was patently offensive, they also realized that Mapplethorpe's photos are an artistic endeavor.

The jury of citizens was able to understand what many of the country's leaders have not, that the system is based on the freedom of choice and expression. No one group has the right to decide what individuals may or may not view.

The system is designed to respect the intellect of individuals and their ability to make their own decisions.

The most ironic aspect of the controversy is that these conservative groups that wish to censor materials they deem to be obscene have never learned the most important lesson: the louder they cry obscenity, the more popular the obscene material becomes. In Cincinnati the exhibit set a new attendance record of 81,000 visitors for the seven weeks it was in town. The Mapplethorpe exhibit is closing its run in Boston this week where 103,000 tickets have been sold.

If it wasn't for the free advertising generated by the people who don't want anyone to view the exhibit, Mapplethorpe probably wouldn't be the household name that it seems to be now.



### Blame government shutdown on House

The U.S. government lost its authority to spend money Friday at midnight because the president and Congress can't agree on a budget.

President Bush vetoed an emergency stop-gap measure on Saturday that would have provided money until tomorrow.

Since most government services close during the weekend, and because today is Columbus Day observed, a federal holiday, Congress has until tonight to come up with a satisfactory budget proposal to submit to the president before any real damage can be done.

Senior citizens are in an uproar because of proposed cuts in Medicare. Some lawmakers want to spend a proposed 10-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax increase on road and bridge improvements, while others want to use half of the increase toward reducing the federal deficit.

The real problem is the House of Representatives. Since it is an even-numbered year, all 435 members of the House are up for re-election.

Representatives are more concerned with what's best for their re-election campaign, than their country. Airports are in danger of closing, as are museums, zoos, and federal parks.

Programs for the needy could be curtailed. It is people on welfare and food stamps that would suffer if services are halted at those offices. No-one should go hungry just because Congress can't do its job.

Congress knows its budget time-lines. It knows the deficit is there. Our representatives have a job to do but it seems they're too afraid to do it.

Bush said, "Sorry if people are inconvenienced." So are the people. Most of us would be fired if we performed at Congress' level.

But if the federal government has to shut down because of partisan bickering, the people have a chance to rectify the situation by voting on Nov. 6.

It's time for some Washington politicians to be "inconvenienced" by looking for a new line of work.

## LETTERS

### Shameless

I am totally infuriated by the Oregon Daily Emerald board's shameless firing of its 14-year employee Jean Ownbey.

As a former ODE employee, I must state that I feel betrayed, cheated and used. Last year when the board had its eyes on hiring a general manager, it assured staff members that Ownbey's job would not be affected by this \$30,000\* increase in annual expenditure. Yet, months later, the board broke its own word without offering any explanations.

Ownbey has dedicated the last 14 years of her life to the ODE. She has asked for little in return and given selflessly to those around her.

Over the last three years, I have witnessed firsthand the manipulative ways of the board. It is clear that the board is not concerned if students benefit from working at the ODE as long as it benefits from student labor. It is obvious that student interest is not a concern of the board as long as those green bills accumulate in some bank vault under the ODE account. It is clear that the

board cares not for people but only for corporate ideals.

But is the ODE part of corporate America? No; it's supposed to be a non-profit organization. It is supposed to be a training ground for student journalists. But I suppose the board has forgotten this too.

All I can say is shame on you, ODE board, shame on you! I'll remember this well.

Kelvin Wee  
History

### Priests

I am writing in response to Catherine Desmond's letter on celibacy.

Celibacy actually had its origins in the Bible. In First Corinthians chapter seven, St. Paul writes that a married man is concerned with matters of the world while the unmarried man is concerned with pleasing God.

The Catholic Church has changed its stance on celibacy. The Catholic Church does currently allow married men to become deacons and priests in Easter-rite congregations such as the Maronites and the Ukrainian Catholic Rite.

These men, however, do not have as much work to do and have time for their families. For over ten years there have been many married Episcopalian and Lutheran priests who have become Catholics and have, by church law, been allowed to be reordained as Catholic priests while remaining married.

These types of priests, however, are never assigned to heavy jobs such as pastors of parishes.

I believe the solution to the scandals is to ordain men who are older, more mature, and have made a permanent commitment to be celibate.

I do not believe that the Catholic Church is ready for married priests. I would want to have a man who is "concerned with pleasing God," and not tied to extra commitments to be my pastor.

Kent Hori  
Student

### Reflect ideals

We are entering another year of student information. It will be interesting to note how biased the Emerald is in the areas of abortion and homosexual

rights.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Emerald could reflect the ideals of journalism purportedly taught through the journalism school?

Perhaps you can make that one of your goals for this year.

Deborah Martin  
Student

### Autonomy

We would just like to thank Derek Horton (ODE Oct. 3) for reminding us, as young ladies who frequently attend parties, about alcohol consumption and responsibility.

Growing up in the politically enlightened late 20th Century permitted us to entertain some strange notions.

We thought we were free to

do as we please (even become intoxicated) without having some male retaliate against us for overstepping outdated codes of behavior.

However, after reading Horton's defense against his charge of first-degree sexual abuse, we see just how ignorant we've been. Drinking means we give up rights to our bodies.

We have plans to throw a party at our home this Saturday. Surely all the attending males will take comfort in this insurance policy against a rape conviction. They can say the woman was intoxicated as part of their defense.

Sexual autonomy? What's that, anyway?

Kristin Walkup  
Pandora Suderman  
Kasey Church  
Students

### LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily 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.