

EDITORIAL

Officer on foot patrol good for community

The Westgate/University business district now has its own Eugene police officer.

Under a program funded by the University, the University Small Business Association and the Eugene Police Dept., Officer Ken Saxon will patrol the area between E. 11th and E. 15th. avenues, and Kincaid and Patterson streets, on foot.

The idea is a great one.

Every community should be patrolled by visible police officers. All too often they are considered the enemy, an unseen force hidden behind shades and steering wheels.

The aim of the program is to "discourage antisocial and criminal behaviors" by having a visible officer patrolling the neighborhood.

Business owners complain about street people blocking the doors to their businesses. Students complain about the panhandlers. Everybody complains about party revelers.

From a public relations standpoint, the police department needs to interact with everyday citizens. People can stop and ask police officers questions about policies and procedures, and it's always helpful to have a police officer around in a emergency situation.

The next time an out-of-control party happens in the University area, one friendly and recognizable policeman can do more than a battalion of SWAT teams to alleviate the situation.

It's easier for riot-gearred police with hidden faces to overreact. A police officer will deal with a tense situation differently if he or she has to come back to the area and patrol the next day.

Ideally, police officers should live in the neighborhoods they patrol. It's more comfortable interacting with people we know. The same applies to the police. It's good to know the names of officers patrolling the streets.

Incidents of harassment should decrease just by the presence of an officer. Some people feel more comfortable walking the University area knowing a patrol officer is near.

The main job of the officer should be interacting with people. As long as the officer has the right attitude, people will respond accordingly. An officer on a power trip wouldn't last very long.

The patrols started on Sept. 20 and so far seem to be beneficial. Officer Saxon is taking a commendable low-key approach. Patrol officers have to have the right attitude.

Ron Babine
Eugene

Not trusted

Last Wednesday, the first three pages of the *Emerald*

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were filled with the news that the ODE board fired Jean Ownbey.

As a former *Emerald* staff member, I want to tell you why you should care.

The board is the University students' trustee for the campus newspaper, and it has demonstrated that it cannot be trusted. Last spring, the board assured the *Emerald's* news staff that Ms. Ownbey's job was safe.

Her 14 years of experience at the *Emerald* appeared to be respected. Yet she was fired abruptly on Oct. 1, and the board's chairwoman wouldn't even make a statement to the newspaper explaining the action.

This inconsistency brings up other concerns. The board has also stated that a student staff will always retain control over the paper's news content.

But what if the board changes its mind and decides the newsroom should be supervised and operated by non-stu-

dents? Chances are the student body wouldn't read about it on the front of the *Emerald*.

After witnessing the board's dishonesty, I am convinced that it cannot be a reliable trustee of the students' paper. If students care about keeping control of the *Emerald*, we must work to restructure the board and change how decisions are made for the paper.

Please fight for your paper by contacting the *Emerald*, its board of directors and the ASUO.

The *Emerald* is supposed to be our paper; let's keep it that way.

Denise Clifton
Journalism

Outraged

I am outraged that the *Emerald* board of directors has fired Jean Ownbey.

For 14 years she was a loyal employee who defended a press controlled by students. Last spring the board insisted

that a planned corporate restructure would not affect Ownbey's job. Today, her office is empty. By rescinding on its word with no explanation, the board demonstrated that it cannot be trusted.

As a former staff member, I feel the board has betrayed *Emerald* journalists and, ultimately, everyone who pays incidental fees that fund the paper.

Only five of the 10 board members are students, and the appetite for profit has taken on dehumanizing proportions.

What was once produced by students, for students, has moved a sad step closer to being produced by dollars, for dollars. Reject this trend.

Write to the *Emerald*, write to the ASUO, write to the board.

To ensure that the *Emerald* functions in the interest of students, we must have a stronger student presence on the board of directors.

Hon Walker
Journalism

Slanted

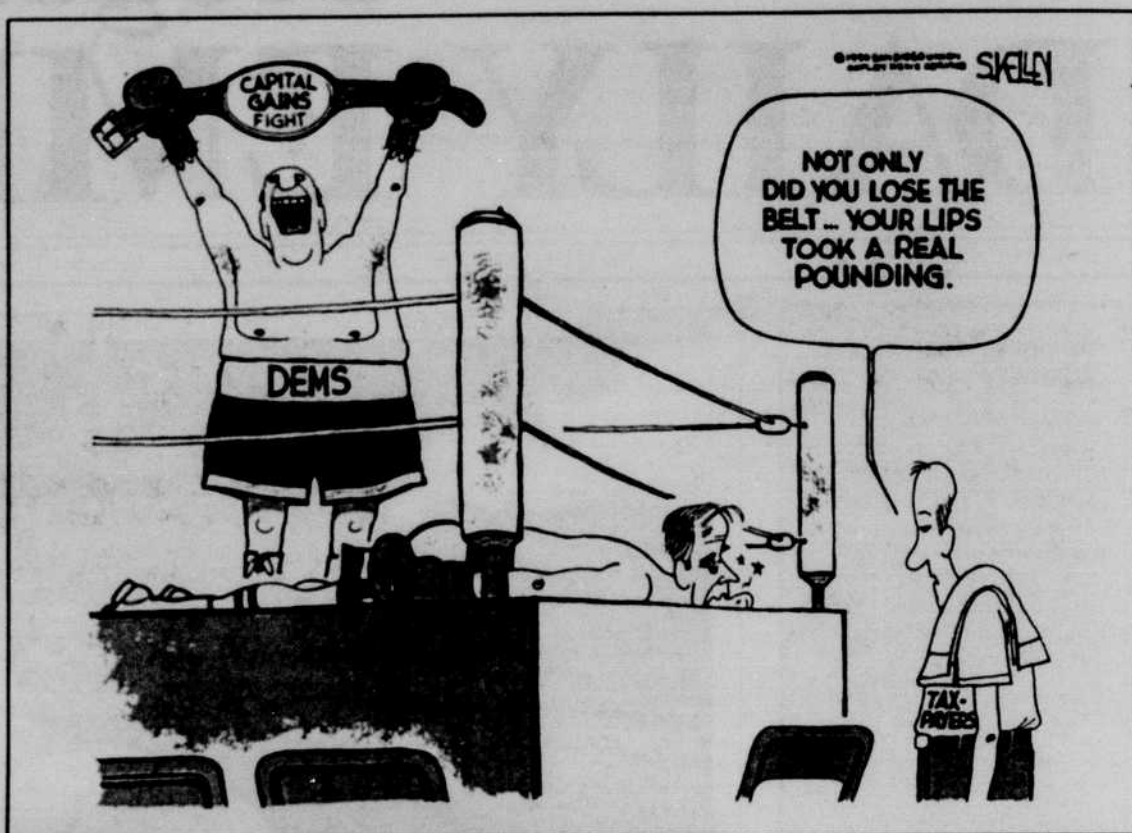
With so many women and men working in our community to create a rape free environment, including this week's "Take Back the Night" walk/run, I find the *Emerald's* coverage of the trial of an accused rapist particularly appalling.

The articles have been severely slanted toward the defendant. Not only have they dealt primarily with the defendant's perspective but they seem to suggest justification of this horrendous crime.

Even if I were able to accept the *Emerald's* coverage at face value, the amount of alcohol a woman consumes or her manner of dance have absolutely no bearing on whether she wants to have intercourse. Sexual assault against a woman is never justified.

Erika Jostad
Eugene

Tuesday, October 9, 1990



Economic influences spur recycling move

With National Recycling Awareness week upon us, it's time to notice some trends that have begun to develop in the world of recycling.

Although there is still a lot that needs to be done concerning education of the public, big business has begun to realize that the recycling industry — as it can now be called — is a new way to make money.

Instilling the profit motive in corporate America is one of the most important steps that needs to be taken to guarantee that the recycling trend does not turn out to be a fad inspired by Earthweek.

Public demand for recycled paper has left some companies such as Weyerhaeuser, Boise Cascade and Daishowa American Inc. scrambling to expand or build new plants that can satisfy the recycled paper demand.

Recycling has now become economically viable.

With the chances of more old-growth logging being closed down, the cost of the wood chips necessary for paper production inevitably will be rising. Recycled paper is no longer just environmentally correct, it is economically necessary. Profit-motivated

companies would be making this switch regardless of whether there was public demand for it. But with the added pressure and marketplace of a public that wants to protect the planet, the economic and political forces have worked together to make recycling a real alternative.

The construction of recycled paper plants should also slightly ease the number of jobs lost in the old-growth logging shutdown. It is ironic that the answer to some of these lost jobs — the only remaining obstacle that the timber industry has in its fight to save its old-growth operations — is being created by profit motive and not politicians or environmentalists.

The move toward recycled paper will neither put an end to, nor close, current paper-making facilities. There will always be a need for new paper. Paper can only be recycled so many times before it begins to lose its integrity.

Concerns raised by some that a switch to recycled paper will put people out of work are just not true.

Now that recycling is seen as a money-maker, it is here to stay.

LETTERS