

Joe's campus car lot gives off bad fumes

A student is currently charged with misusing personal property because someone stapled some not-so-sensitive fliers to a display case. So if that's misusing University property, what do you call it when Joe Romania uses the EMU south parking lot to sell cars?

Apparently attempting to make a political statement is "not proper use" of the University but selling cars is.

Now, that's an education.

Is there such an abundance of parking on campus that the University is renting it to someone whose goal is to sell more cars to students?

All this occurs at a time when the University is encouraging students and faculty to find alternative means of getting to campus.

This includes giving refunds to anyone who turns in their campus parking permit, opting for the bus or a bicycle.

Joe Romania has two car lots just a short walk from campus. If graduating students want to check out Joe's latest selection of shiny convertibles and sensible family cars, they can easily walk over there and do it.

Many causes, such as blood mobiles and "theme weeks" have legitimate reasons for taking up campus space. In such cases, the groups can better justify their use of campus, for example, by providing a service that is not readily available.

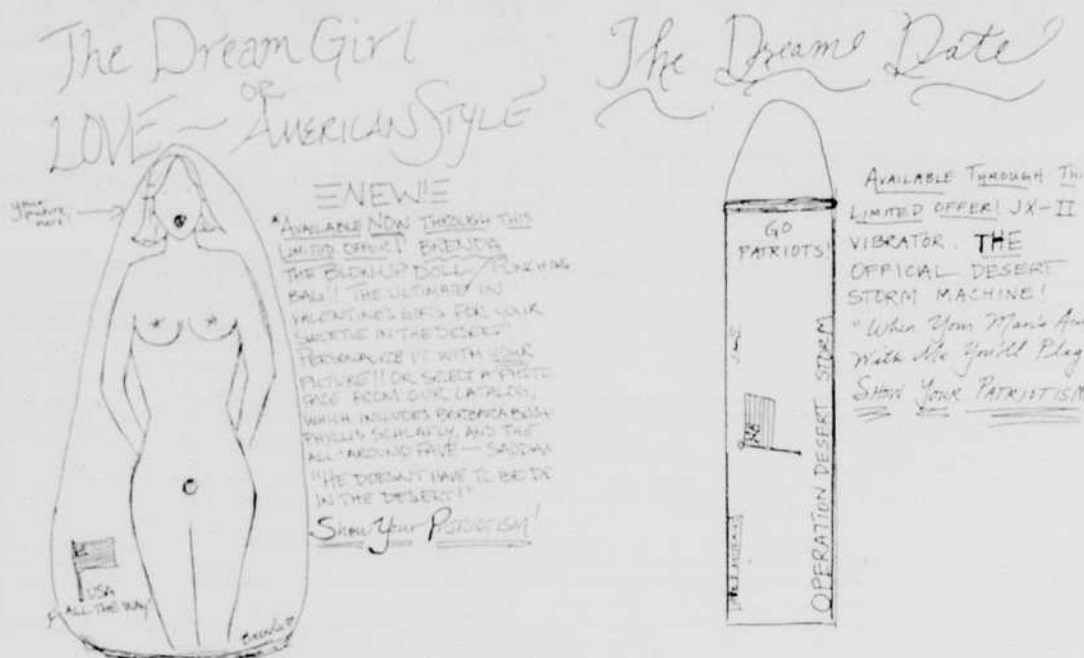
The current Street Faire and this weekend's non-profit Willamette Valley Folk Festival are ventures that serve the whole community. The small vendors of the Street Faire are mostly handcraft merchants who have no permanent residence for their businesses. Besides trekking to Saturday Market once a week, students would not have access to these vendors. Joe Romania is open every day of the week.

Joe Romania can use campus billboards, publications and any other form of creative advertising, but students and other campus guests should not have to give up parking spaces and an educational atmosphere in order to save a short walk for some people who want to shop for cars.

This is no big controversy. You won't see any protests or flag burnings, and no one is going to be punished under the Student Conduct Code for it. But the University campus shouldn't come with Car Lot Included.

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Hate fliers or political expression?



These are copies of the fliers allegedly posted by a student now facing prosecution under the Student Conduct Code. The Emerald does not endorse the ideas expressed. We simply choose to print them so community members can judge the fliers based on first-hand knowledge, rather than second-hand accounts. The College Republicans is not responsible for the fliers.

FORUM

'Hate crime' case teaches lesson

By Marlene Drescher

Many people apparently misread the recent newspaper article on so-called "hate fliers" at the University. There were two unrelated sets of fliers.

Commentary

The first set depicted people of color (who were described as homosexuals) with targets superimposed on their heads. These fliers had hateful, threatening language on them, and they were placed under the door of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance and distributed in a way to directly intimidate minority students and gays. Unfortunately, there was insufficient evidence to lead to the perpetrator of these hate fliers.

A second, unrelated set of fliers was intended to convey an anti-war message in a satirical manner that linked militarism to misogyny. The attempt was clearly amateurish, considered unpatriotic by some, and ineptly drawn.

One of these fliers showed a Patriot missile in the shape of a vibrator. Many people thought these fliers were sexist, rather than perceiving their intended purpose of criticizing sexism and militarism.

It was this second set of fliers that was intensely

investigated in an unprecedented manner by the University. Some people believe the investigation was pursued so zealously because of a "clue" that the maker of the fliers was a lesbian.

An easily identifiable lesbian minority community at the University was heavily investigated and disrupted; three women were wrongly accused and severely traumatized. The woman who is being defended by the Office of Student Advocacy is not charged with a hate crime or with harassment, but with violating the Student Conduct Code by "misusing personal property" for taping the flier to a glass case and for satirically stating "order forms available at the College Republican office" on the flier. More than 200 hours of campus security staff time were devoted to finding the alleged maker of these fliers.

Many lessons can be learned from this unhappy set of circumstances. One lesson has to do with the tension between the First Amendment and offensive or misinterpreted speech. Another lesson has to do with the mistakes of well-intentioned people, including the maker and the investigators of the fliers.

Yet another lesson is how the least-protected members of society are the first to get hurt when authority figures become overzealous.

Marlene Drescher is the director of the Office of Student Advocacy at the University.

LETTERS

Stupid idea

It seems "cultural diversity" has become the phrase that pays on the University campus. But isn't "cultural diversity" just a sneaky way of saying affirmative action?

You know, affirmative action, the idea that we as a society can overcome centuries of cultural and economic oppression of minority groups by promoting a token number of minority group members to positions for which they are less qualified than whites or Asians. The end result being we, as a society, will achieve racial harmony, economic quality and perhaps even world peace.

It's a fine and wonderful idea, except it's stupid.

Anthony Stumbo
Sociology

Healthy blast

I read, with interest, Lisa Milligan's story on the lack of interest in the open house on the \$27.4 million makeover of the Knight Library.

I am a longtime advocate of libraries. I am usually happy to hear about plans a community may have for keeping libraries functional for their community members.

I am also a longtime advocate for healthy living environments and green spaces (which include oxygen and shade providers in the form of trees — two "things" I appreciate as deeply as a good book or great building). After several hours

of study in a closed facility, I not only like a nice walk through the trees, but I have found that I need that healthy blast of fresh oxygen.

It is obviously too late to alter the architectural design of the library to incorporate those trees which must have taken at least 70 years to mature. However, I would like to thank the designers for attempting to correct this horrendous mistake by planting new trees in their place.

Perhaps the new trees will reach the height of our recently felled trees by the time some of our grandchildren are attending the University.

Theresa Scott
Graduate
Counseling Psychology
Thursday, May 16, 1991

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