

LETTERS

No frat bash

In response to Stephen Brady's challenge to research the problems on this campus regarding rape and the greek system. (ODE, May 8.)

According to Julie Ehrhart, a staff associate, and Bernie Sandler, director of the Project on the Status and Education of Women, nearly all reported gang rape incidents have involved fraternities.

According to Andrew Merton, of the University of New Hampshire, "If the fraternities of this nation were gathered and constituted one state, it would be approximately half the size of Vermont (where there are more cows than people). If in a state of that population there were 50 reported gang rapes in a two year period — impartial outside observers would question the individuals who make up that state."

This number is slight compared to those gang rapes that go unreported, and those sexual assault instances that don't fall into this category.

This is not to say that all fraternities are rape centers; nor is it to say that University fraternities are like others around the country. The point is simply that we must address problems that exist on campus or in our society; to ignore problems solves nothing, but encourages their continued presence.

The Anti-Rape march was not a frat bash — but an attempt by the women who participated to Take Back the Night — to empower themselves, in an attempt to make our campus and our society safe for all women and men, whether they are greek or otherwise.

Melissa Wheelcock
Phil Simon
Lorax Manner residents

Power politics

Regarding Ted Ferguson's letter (ODE, May 3).

Ferguson argues the lesbian/gay/bisexual rights movement is not a legitimate political struggle. Instead, queers have an acceptable sexual

drive.

Following his logic, the political movements of people of color aren't legitimate either. After all, why create a political issue out of mere skin color?

The reason, of course, is that people of color are systematically oppressed because of skin color. Take some time to listen to lesbians, gay men and bisexuals and here how we are treated differently because of who we are. You will come to understand why we are and must be a powerful political movement.

Sarah J. Satre
Faculty
Bureau of Governmental
Research and Service

Information

In response to Jennifer Kulle's letter (ODE, May 14):

I would like to elaborate briefly on my statement to the Emerald regarding the IFC and the ASUO investigation.

The new IFC members have not had access to nor have they witnessed the information provided throughout the whole investigation as Anne Feig, Freddy Vilches and I have. The only information the new members have is what has been provided by the media. I have reservations about asking the new members on an issue that I do not feel they are adequately prepared to address.

It is essential that the new members base their decisions on the preponderance of evidence, not on the information provided by the media. Therefore, I will be requesting that they review the material provided by the ASUO investigation, Constitution Court and Michael Colson. When they have done so and feel that they are informed, then a motion can be entertained.

Lydia Lerma
IFC member elect

Allow me

I sympathize deeply with Ron Wixman and the other professors who are suffering relatively low pay. The University

should not be keeping these worthy intellectuals at a status lower than that of their peers in other institutions. They are right to consider leaving.

I don't know what I would do if I only made \$40,000 a year like Wixman. I suppose I would spend something less than \$10,000 of it for college costs, food and shelter. After I paid taxes, if I didn't find a way out of that, I might by a car, or even two cars. Perhaps I would travel the world in style, or buy a yacht, or even a house. Or put it in a high-yield investment and watch myself grow rich, rich, rich. But not as rich as my high-brow colleagues at those better paying schools. How ashamed and left out I would feel.

Since certainly our faculty are dedicated to knowledge for its own sake, I am troubled by this gross injustice. These people deserve better. I would suggest an additional \$200 surcharge next year to help cover salary increases for professors.

Dan Pulju
Student

Generalizations

Ignorant statements about Asians, as in Anthony Stumbo's letter (ODE, May 16), are exactly the reason why the University needs a course specifically about Asian-Americans.

Such wide-sweeping generalizations about all Asians are based on stereotypes and supposition. They fail to consider a larger perspective about Asian-Americans and to ask such questions as: What is the condition of life for Pacific Islanders living in U.S. territories and for

recent immigrants? Why is such a large and diverse group of peoples placed into one category?

I am actually delighted that Stumbo would make such a statement at the same time the Asian-Pacific American Student Union is lobbying the University to have an Asian-American studies course taught on a regular basis.

Asian-Americans are not the same people as the Japanese businessmen that seem to be buying all of America. But this group of Americans is continually looked upon with contempt and racism because of such social illiteracy.

The sociology and history of Asians in America are worthy topics for research and education. However, the University has thus far neglected Asian-Americans in its curriculum, and the Oregon Daily Emerald has failed to provide adequate coverage on this issue.

Gary Hoh
Journalism

Deprivation

In recent letters, Ron Williams wanted concrete examples of discrimination. (ODE, May 1.) Ted Ferguson expressed his inability to comprehend same-sex attraction and wondered why we try to "force" our political legitimacy. (ODE, May 3.) Jill Rutan and Angie Tait wondered about embracing offensive language; fag, dyke and queer. (ODE, May 6.)

I see reflected here an encouraging degree of receptivity and a desire to reach some common understandings.

First, in regards to Williams': Two women are currently battling for the privilege of student housing benefits. For heterosexual partners with the option of the civil contract called marriage, this is no concern. A young man on the panel discussion about the military policies barring homosexuals spoke of systematic humiliation tactics and destruction of his hopes for his future when he was booted out of the navy.

He was denied opportunities and benefits while our country was denied his talents and potential. President Brand's Gay and Lesbian Task Force discusses "silencing" — that pressure to be invisible — to give up privileges straights take for granted just because they are straight.

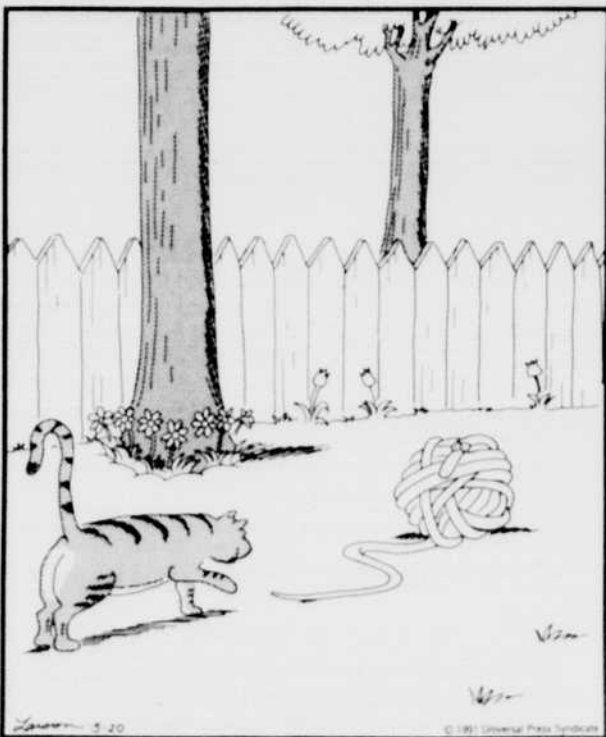
In regards to Ferguson: I am mystified by opposite-sex attraction. I'm clueless. But, "I guess it is acceptable — for you." We didn't choose to be apolitical movement, our efforts to gain equal privilege make it political.

In regards to Tait and Rutan: I also was offended by the fag, dyke, queer approach at first. I'm still unsure, yet while I handed out balloons at queer fest, those few sputtering fools who would resort to epithets were speechless. They had been deprived of their last ugly words.

Ronald Schlittler
Eugene

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



The urban catsnake and its prey

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