

# LETTERS

## Here's the story

The purpose of this letter is to make clear the historical context in which the University Office of Public Safety conducted the recent investigation into the posters alleged to be hate crimes.

At the time that the posters first began to appear on campus, there were complaints that the posters represented hate crimes directed against people of color and women. When the posters were brought to President Brand's attention, he convened a group to review the posters and decide what to do about them.

The group convened by the president consisted of the executive assistant to the president, the ASUO president and vice-president, the director of student advocacy, myself as director of affirmative action and equal opportunity, and the director of public safety.

The group looked at four posters, including the poster currently under debate, and decided that in our collective opinion the posters might rise to the level of hate crimes directed toward minorities and women.

It was on this basis that the director of public safety was charged with conducting a thorough investigation and identifying the person responsible.

**Diane Wong**  
Director, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

## Class role

I am writing to clarify my role and the role of my class, Women's Studies 399, in the investigation of the now infamous "satirical/hate" fliers. It is true that a student mentioned in class that the posters, then assumed to include those with targets superimposed on faces, were made by a lesbian.

Participants in the class were concerned. However, I do not know how this information got to OPS as I and other class members agreed to keep confidential what is discussed in class. The reason the OPS officers came to my class was to talk with students about a series of harassments that many of them had suffered and which were already under investigation.

These were entirely unrelated to the issue of the fliers. I want to state emphatically that it is of the utmost importance to me that my class be a place of safety, especially as it deals with sensitive and painful issues of harassment, assault and abuse.

**Nadia Telsey**  
Women's Studies

## Name game

The *Emerald's* policy on labeling the factions in the de-

bate over the right to abortion "pro-abortion" and "anti-abortion" should be changed. Were the debate to be over funding art that some may call obscene, would the *Emerald* label them "pro-obscenity" and "anti-obscenity?" I don't think they would, so their failure to accurately label the factions in this case makes them appear inconsistent. They should recognize that the right to a thing isn't the thing itself.

The debate is over the right to choose an abortion, and the labels should reflect this. Sure, "pro-right-to-abortion" is clumsy, but "pro-abortion" is inaccurate and does a disservice to those it tries to label. Perhaps the *Emerald* should use pro-choice and anti-choice instead.

**Scott Settlemier**  
Eugene

## Be happy

To those who took part in the protest against military recruitment at the University on May 15: Protesting is one thing, but burning an American flag is going too far. I don't know if it ever occurred to you people, but nobody is keeping you prisoner here in America. If you don't like it here, then go ahead and leave. You definitely won't be missed.

Just take a minute to think of all the fun places you could go to. You could go to the Soviet Union and stand in line for hours in order to buy rotten food. Or you could go to South Africa and deal with apartheid. And best of all, you could jet on over to Iraq and maybe even kill some babies with Saddam Hussein.

Hey, the United States doesn't seem so bad after all, does it? There are so many people in the world who would kill to come to America and have the freedoms that you take for granted every day. I will admit that the United States isn't perfect, but no other country comes close to it.

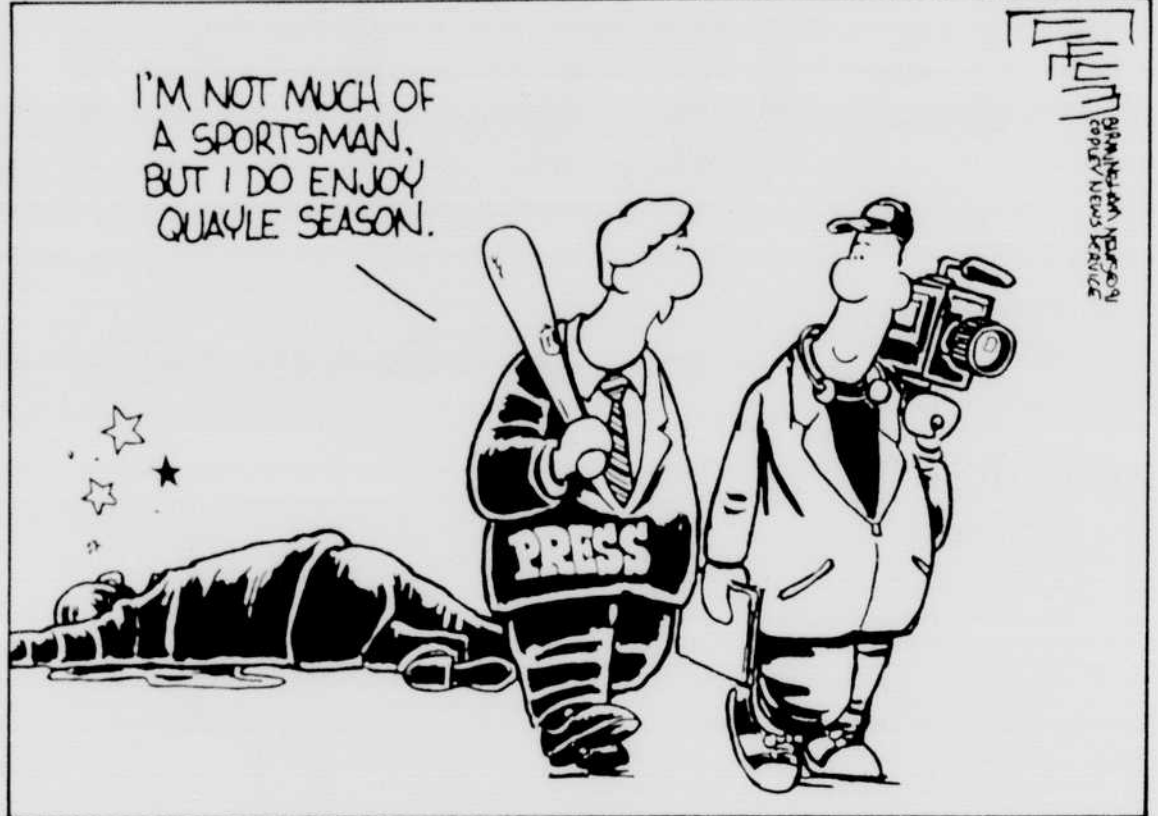
I would like to encourage those of you who are constantly protesting to take some time out from your incessant whining and be thankful for the freedoms and liberties that you have in the United States.

**Scott Eshleman**  
Student

## Gratitude

It is my intention to express my gratitude toward the ASUO Childcare Administration and respective staff. Without the services of this group, I don't think I would be able to complete my education. Both the childcare subsidy program and the quality of care my two little girls have received have made my life and academic pursuits much easier. I truly appreciate this program.

It has been a great service to me as a parent/student. The ad-



ministration has always been helpful regarding my childcare needs. My children have a head start on their education as a result.

Thank you ASUO Childcare.

**Tim Moran**  
History

## Last temptation

On Friday, April 5, Jane De Gidio, dean of students, called together a group of administrators to discuss the University's response to offensive, but not illegal, behavior. Alison Baker, coordinator; Shirley Wilson, director of Counseling Center; Carey Drayton, director of the Office of Public Safety; Jane and I were present.

At that meeting I unequivocally stated that the distribution of fliers depicting a patriot missile/vibrator and blow-up doll/punching bag did not constitute a violation of the Conduct Code. I related that it would be a shame for the ACLU to come in and dismantle our Conduct Code in response to such a prosecution.

Since that time, I have been tempted to do the dismantling myself.

**Marlene Drescher**  
Director  
Office of Student Advocacy

## PCP reaction

To be a politically correct person (PCP), you must be impervious to boredom and frustration. The enemies the PCP picks, you see, are the least challenging intellectually and the least likely to change, no matter how long and hard you whip them.

As their anger mounts and their capacity for reason sags, PCPs stumble closer and closer to a final solution to the red-neck problem — whoops! Hel-

lo, we're in the middle of a holocaust. Dang!

The reasons I seldom punish jocks and hillbillies anymore and am growing weary of the correctness debate are, yes, frustration and boredom. It's like arguing with dumb dogs. I will never be able to convince them of the flaws in their canine value system, much less convert them to mine. We don't even speak the same language. Plus, the brain begins to physically shrivel after a while.

Steve Perry is right. (*ODE*, May 10.) The active mind moves on to other things after the novelty wears off. PCPs inevitably get into trouble 20 years down the road. They find themselves in middle age without a way to live. They find that they have been spending so much time hating their enemies and trying to determine the correctness factors of their emotions and behavior that they have lost the capacity for pleasure.

Years of intellectual neglect prevent them from picking up the pieces of their shattered value "system" and beginning life. They inevitably become winos or Christians or commit suicide.

**Todd Bishop**  
Music

## Unpatriotic

After reading your letter, "Et tu, Brute" (*ODE* May 17), I was hoping that I had misread your letter and simply missed that

this was ment to be satire or a joke. Upon rereading your letter several times, I was still unable to find the joke.

I am not in any of the groups you singled out in your letter, however, I am still offended by your degrading description of those who fall in those categories which you so kindly laid out for us.

In my understanding, the word patriotic (which you used in your letter), is an adjective meaning "one who is loyal to and loves his/her country." Caring about those in the country and not wanting them to be killed or maimed is patriotic then. You claimed that these people are your "avowed enemies," and that seems very unpatriotic to me.

I feel very sorry for those greeks whom you criticized, because they will probably be labeled as "bigoted" and "closed-minded" along with you, though they do care about the rest of world. I mostly feel sorry for you though, because you will miss out on getting to know some very special people.

I only had to read about your views for five minutes; you have to live with them 24 hours a day — that's punishment enough.

I was noticing that your major is international relations and I think you'd be a great ambassador to another country.

**Barbara Wedling**  
Student

## LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

