

LETTERS

Excuse me

Excuse me, I'm in charge here, you can't park your bike there. I shall have to write you a ticket. I'm in charge here.

You don't have a University registration sticker, another \$5 fine. You're breaking campus rules. You're also riding in a "No Riding Zone." I don't care if there are no pedestrians. I'm giving you a ticket because I'm in charge here.

I'm campus security, that's who I am. I overlook stereo thefts and sexist remarks, but by God, if you ride your bike through the EMU Breezeway or park your bike in a building I shall come down and smite you with a severe fine.

God forbid, if you refuse to show your student ID card, we'll slap you with another \$5 penalty. I'm in charge here. Hey wait, come back... you're breaking serious rules here... you can't ignore me, I'm giving you these tickets because... I'm supposed to be in charge here.

Ronando Long
Eugene

Oddly, I find

Oddly, I find myself in agreement with some of Earl Dill's recent comments about AIDS.

Humanity does indeed "ignore, deny, transfer, and defer costs and penalties" whenever possible. These psychological defenses exacerbate the problems we face in handling AIDS, and "every human on this planet is increasingly at risk."

However, I must object to some "line items" in Dill's global budget. Homophobia is the "aberration;" it is homophobia which is "accepted and extolled." Because of homophobia, AIDS funding and research were delayed for years after the epidemic began. After all, it was primarily gay men who originally constituted the majority of AIDS deaths, and who cares if just a few thousand queers kick the bucket, right?

Because of homophobia, AIDS is still considered a gay disease; only fags get it, so why should anyone else worry? Homophobia forces everyone into a closet about their sexual practices. No one is willing to

understand that it is you who are at risk for AIDS. This all means that safer-sex education for everyone is still not a priority in our country.

It is time for us to stop labeling groups of people as "high-risk" and "low-risk" (euphemisms for abnormal and normal); time to stop calling some people with AIDS "innocent" and not others; it is time to face our aberration and acknowledge our homophobia, for we are dealing with two diseases — one physical and one psychological.

Until we cure homophobia, we will never find a cure for AIDS.

Marina Wolf
Russian

Last Monday

Last Monday night on 13th Avenue there was a fight between two intoxicated transient-type men. Two police cars promptly arrived at the scene, causing the men to stop fighting. The officers, two females, got out of their cars and spoke calmly to the men as they walked over to them. In just a few moments the atmosphere calmed down and the crowd began to disperse.

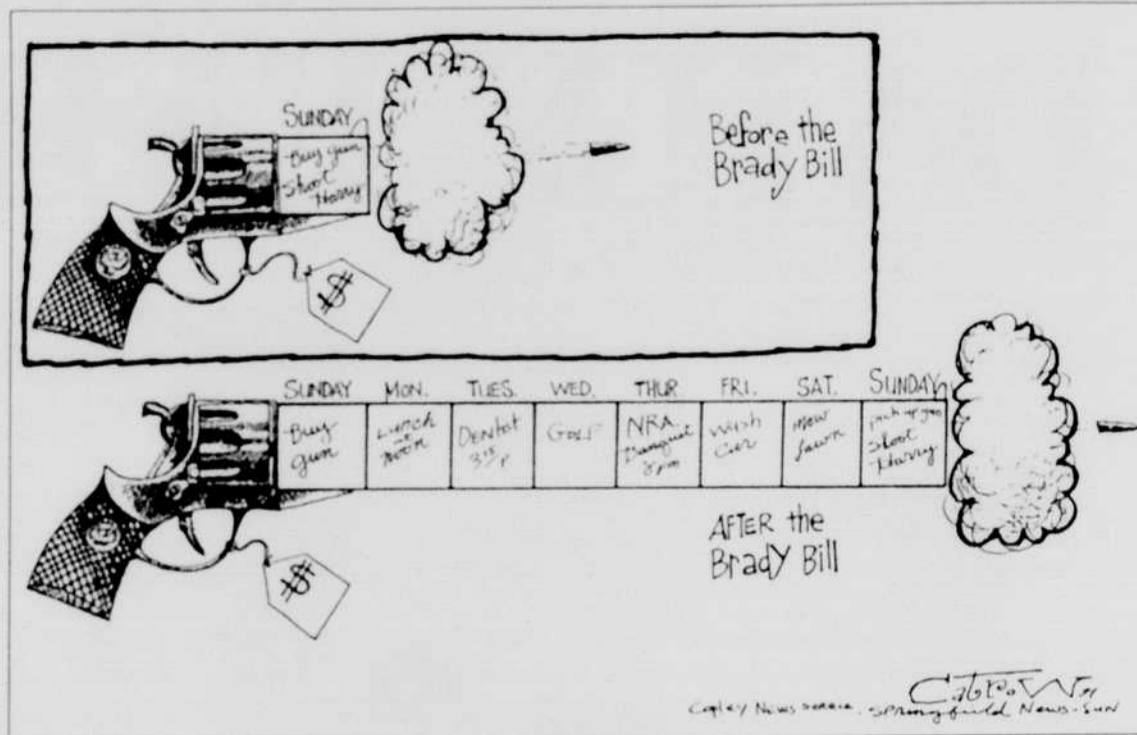
All of the sudden, a third police car pulled up and skidded to a stop. Out jumped a male officer aggressively holding his night stick and flexing his muscles. His powerful presence seemed to send a rush of adrenaline through everybody there. If he had been the first officer to the scene, things probably would have ended very differently. There may be a number of specific variables that caused each individual officer to act as they did, but in general, I feel their actions represent a key difference in gender — namely, kindness.

If we are going to be a kinder, gentler nation, the kinder and gentler gender needs to be at the forefront of the establishment and implementation of national policies.

Andy Norris
Student

Panhellenic Prez

As the president of Panhel-



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lenic, I would like to say that with approximately 3,000 members in our greek system you will find a variety of opinions on many issues. Steven J. Weidman, "fraternity member" (ODE, May 17), happens to hold a point of view that I do not agree with. I believe in fighting racism, sexism, heterosexism and homophobia — obviously not what Weidman thinks is important for the greek system. Weidman, in my opinion, is a poor representative of a body that is striving to diversify and educate its members on these topics.

On May 15, Jacquie Gibson of the University's Mediation Program, Debora Landforce of the University Counseling Center and I put together A Greek, Gay and Lesbian Roundtable. Representatives from each of the 12 sororities and 17 fraternities, the Panhellenic Executive Council, and open gays and lesbians met together to break down stereotypes between the greek and gay community.

After our meeting, people said they came in feeling very uncomfortable, but they were leaving with a more positive attitude. There were even calls to continue educational programs on gays, lesbians, heterosexism, homophobia and foster

a more supportive environment within the greek system.

I want the rest of the campus and the members of the greek system who are feeling embarrassed by having Weidman representing our system, to know the greek system has many different people with many differing views. The Panhellenic Council is working to create programs to educate its members so that they can form educated opinions on current social situations.

Knowing we have people like Weidman, I better get started on my next roundtable.

Anita L. Stacey
Panhellenic President

I thank you

I thank you for printing my letter on May 3, but was printing Shaley Howard's (ODE, May 14) response a mistake? I understand that mistakes can happen, like when you spelled my name "Brain."

Also, there was the not-as-flattering bold print in the editorial cartoon place (ODE, May 8) which called State Rep. Bob Pickard a rabid dog, referring to May 6, instead of May 7, the date his letter was kindly printed. Or, possibly, you felt Howard's letter was a refreshing shower of trite cliches in a world so sandy dry with creativity.

I don't have only two definitions of sexuality, the confusion exists because there are several. I sought comprehension with stating two types of sexuality, mainly using one definition. This definition of sexuality is close to what Howard describes as "sexual expression." In other words, don't say "I am homosexual" or "I am heterosexual," but say "I am romantic" or "I am anti-sexual." I agree wholeheartedly that labelling factions pro-abortion or anti-abortion clears up much confusion. That is the means of simplification I employ here.

I do not believe all forms of heterosexual expression are romantic, but the world is romantic. Existence itself is sexual. My view is not narrow. I do not own the guidelines of the world, these are what I'm trying to find. And, I'm not homophobic. If Howard thinks she has the fear market cornered, allow me to offer a suggestion: One should either fear nothing, or God, depending on

religion. Anti-sexuals fear sex, not romantics.

Finally, Howard suggested that I get an education. What? At a University? And, how many times have I read that other students should change their majors? Would anything be helped if I asked Howard to change her hair? Actually I could change to French ... or maybe philosophy.

Bryan Westby
English

So tree hugger

So tree hugger Steve Perry can't stand the heat? (ODE, May 10). That's to be expected. He and his band should be punished like criminals.

Perry's name will never again be uttered without a sneer thanks to his contempt for the "Master debaters..." headline. He would probably prefer to read such lameness as "Is your aid shrinking?" or "Soviet milk drive raises questions."

No, the Emerald must gnaw on its yellow roots. Speculation and outright falsehood should replace "real" stories. "Dan Williams busted in drug fracas, sources say" or "Feminists assault greeks with forced enemas; 'It was hell' says survivor" would be good to start with. "Law professors suck; I'm the one who should be teaching" says student."

The letters section should become an open forum for extended free-form rants, and the students encouraged to slander each other freely. Staffers should get drunk on beer and fabricate their own letters when there aren't enough to fill several pages.

The personals section should be transformed into a steamy free-sex melee.

I guarantee that every student will be a fanatical reader, and that the editor will become rich from the advertising money. Anyone lucky enough to miss a day will weep tears of blood.

Anyway when the kick-butt revolutionaries finally coax the government into imposing martial law, the confident grins on the faces of Perry and his decadent hepcat friends will crumple into despair. They will beg for us to do something, weeping pathetically. Then the helicopters will come.

Todd Bishop
Music

