

How does it feel?

Oh, the leaves began to fallin'
And the seas began to part,
And the people that confronted him were many.
And he was told but these few words
Which opened up his heart,
"If ye cannot bring good news then don't bring any."

"The Wicked Messenger"
Bob Dylan

Advertising signs that con
You into thinking you're the one
That can do what's never been done
That can win what's never been
Meantime life outside goes on all around you.

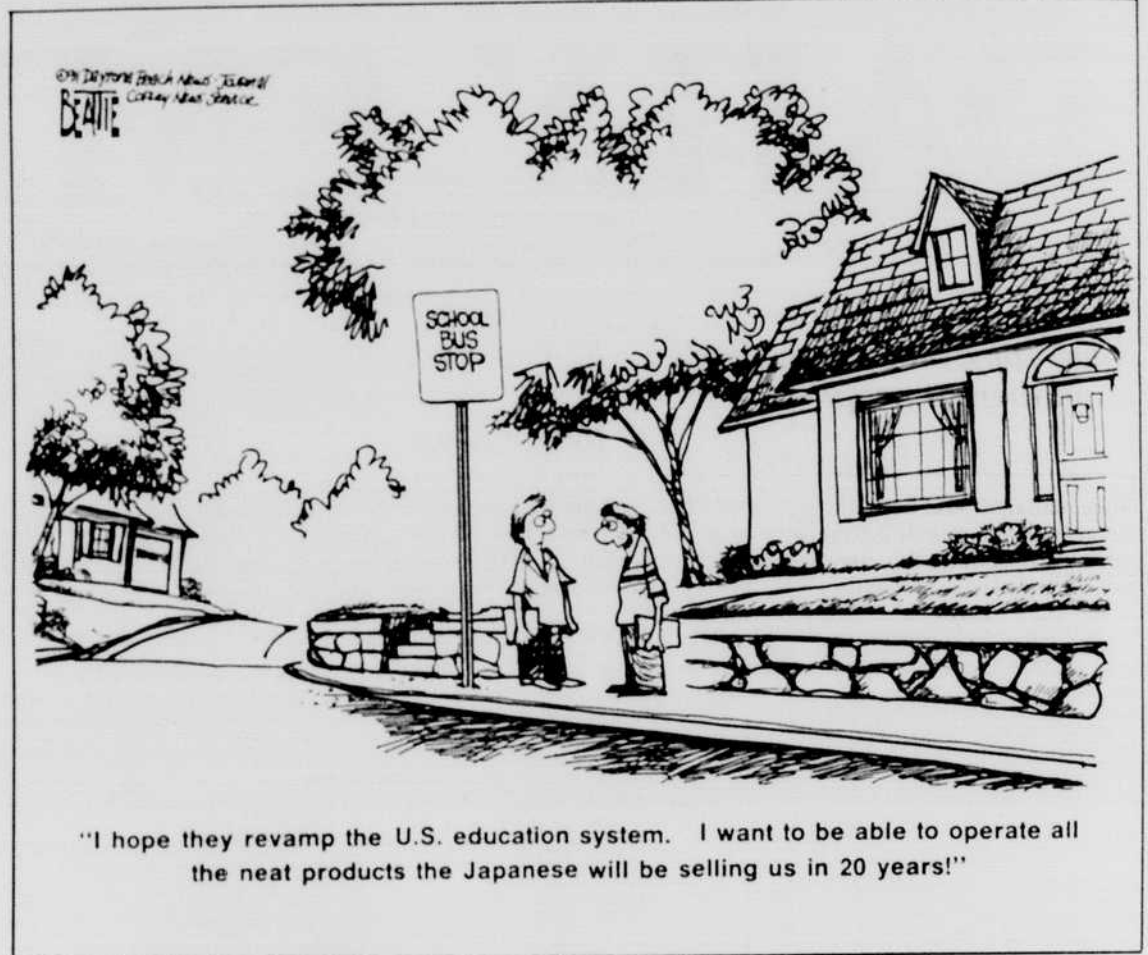
"It's Alright, Ma"
Bob Dylan

But when there's too much of nothing,
It just makes a fella mean.

"Too Much of Nothing"
Bob Dylan

Any day now, any day now,
I shall be released.

"I Shall be Released"
Bob Dylan



"I hope they revamp the U.S. education system. I want to be able to operate all the neat products the Japanese will be selling us in 20 years!"

'Harmless visual stimuli' not so harmless after all

By Carol Cheney

Skimpily-clad women cavort on tropical beaches in *Sports Illustrated*. *Playboy* "bunnies" romp around a lavish swimming pool in sunny Hollywood. Young women earn

Commentary

money for college tuition by dancing in topless bars. Prostitutes walk along a downtown street in very short miniskirts, hoping to get picked up. A woman is kidnapped and forced to have sex with a strange man in front of a rolling camera. This is the pornography/rape continuum.

It starts as seemingly harmless and even glamorous enter-

tainment, yet it sets the climate of desensitization that can end in brutal murder. All these women have something in common:

- They are participating in the the multi-billion dollar pornography industry, from which they receive little.
- They, as women, are members of a group that earns 60 cents for every dollar men make, giving them fewer options to be economically secure.
- They have little self-esteem.
- They are all victims of a situation that perpetuates these situations.

Pornography is based on the objectification and dehumanization of women. Why do you think *Playboy* calls them "bun-

ny?" (Also think of the connotations of rabbits and sex.) When human beings are dehumanized, it becomes easier to see them as inferior, to enslave them and kill them.

For instance, African-American slaves were seen as animals, thus justifying the brutal treatment they received from slaveholders. During World War II, Jews, seen by the Nazis as sub-human, were murdered by the millions. If one studies the propaganda of war, one finds that the military depicts the "enemy" as animals, monsters or other strange creatures. It is much easier to kill something that is not another human being. It is no coincidence that 75 percent of sex offenders use pornography. In pornography,

women are the "enemies." And they are dying.

Women who enter the sex industry are not stupid. All women in our society do not have the same employment options that men do. Women are socialized to gauge their value by their ability to please men, whether by standards of beauty or their service to men. This includes sexual services. Nearly 75 percent of women who enter the sex industry are incest survivors.

Pornography literally means "depiction of sexual slavery." It most often portrays the domination of women by men. Although pornography generally oppresses women, everyone loses. By depicting sexuality in such a shallow, one-sided way,

pornographers deny both women and men the celebration of sexuality in an equal, loving and sensitive way.

I urge both women and men to educate themselves about pornography and do some self-examination to understand why we glorify and take part in this shallow, shameful and dehumanizing industry that robs every one of us of our true sexuality and our freedom to be human.

For more information and statistics about pornography, please call the ASUO Women's Center, 346-4095.

Carol Cheney is the coordinator for the ASUO Women's Diversity Program.

Personality profile never intended to cover pom issue



The Fine Print

by
PAT MALACH

In case you didn't see it in last Thursday's *Emerald* there was a story on page four about a University student who has an unusual part-time job — she is a topless dancer at Jiggles Tavern.

The dancer featured in the story said she enjoys her job, and her dancing has even added to her self-confidence and esteem. This particular personality profile dealt with a woman who likes her job and has no complaints.

However, the feature on the dancer/student raised the ire of four members of the Women's Center who came up to the *Emerald* office to voice concern about glorifying a topless dancer. The women said they believed the article was one-sided and read like an advertisement for the night club. They said the article should have contained the viewpoint of a dancer who had not "enjoyed" her experience as an exotic dancer. The Women's Center representatives said there should have been an accompanying article discussing the abuse some dancers face and the amount of sexual abuse perpetrated by men who frequent such dancing establishments.

Page 2

Granted, if the goal of the story printed in the paper had been to delve into the world of hard-core pornography, snuff films or prostitution it would have fallen far short. But the article was not a story about pornography it was an interesting story about *one* University student.

The *Emerald* has printed stories in the past about students who have interesting hobbies, jobs or who have won awards. They are not investigative pieces written for their social relevance. The goal of the articles is simply to profile a person you may have class with, study next to in the library, or yell and scream with at rallies. Personality profiles are intended to humanize your fellow students.

The profile of the dancer asked and got answers to how she personally felt about her own safety and self-respect. It also brought to light her reasons for taking the job, and it discussed how she felt seeing classmates, and even teachers, at her place of work. The profile attempted to bring one individual person to life, and it accomplished that goal.

While the people from the Women's Center may have valid points to make about pornography and exploitation, they are not applicable to the profile printed last week.

Sidestepping the whole issue of whether pornography is the cause, or simply a result, of the objectification of women, the fair-coverage issue brought up by the Women's Center representatives

poses an interesting journalistic question: Should a newspaper be required to cover every possible angle of a story even if it is not of the hard news variety?

Earlier this term the *Emerald* ran a story about the opening of the New Taylor's. Under the journalism practices advocated by the dancer profile complainants, the story about the tavern should have included facts and statistics about alcoholism among college students.

In the Oct. 24 issue of the *Emerald*, there was a personality profile about a University student who won the rookie of the year prize on the American Racing Series circuit, but, taboo of taboos, the story mentioned nothing about this country's addiction to gas-powered vehicles. And the personality profile also overlooked any mention of how many youths are killed each year in auto accidents on and off the track.

When the *Emerald* ran a feature story about former Duck quarterback Bill Musgrave's success in the NFL draft there should have also been an accompanying article dealing with the number of college athletes who not only don't go pro, but who don't even graduate with a degree — shabby journalism again.

There are many large social problems in the world that need to be dealt with and discussed. And there are many people who have committed their lives to fixing those problems. But along the road to changing the big picture you can't lose sight of the individuals.

Pat Malach is an editorial editor for the *Emerald*.

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