

LETTERS

'Cosby' fan

During my freshman year I was introduced to the Allegory of the Cave in my humanities class.

The Allegory went something like this: Humanity is inside a cave, its members chained to the wall; they come to understand only the shadows on the wall created by a fire.

If one of these people were to go outside of the cave and into the light, they would at first be unable to function as their truth has only been the black and white shadows upon the wall.

If this person came back in to tell the others there was light, or "truth," beyond the cave shadows, this person would be thought of as crazy.

Think about TV in terms of the Allegory. You constantly watch the small screen, locked into it even during commercials. Until you are able to pull yourself away, you will never experience anything outside your house. An alarming thought when some say the national average for a person watching TV is something like eight hours per day.

You will never know anything different than that small screen, until you step outside the cave.

I challenge the community of the University to not watch TV for a week so each can see for themselves what TV does. Try exploring the world beyond that small screen.

Wyah Christman
English

Dead profits

Intercollegiate athletics are an important part of this University. At the same time, it's easy to find irony in the prospect of the state subsidizing the athletic department as academic programs decrease in number and quality, and students are forced to find more "mystery capital" in order to go to school.

Is the formation of the "PAC-8" (sans Ducks and Beavers) the only way to avoid hypocrisy? What about that great fund-raiser held at Autzen Stadium a couple of summers ago?

How many Grateful Dead concerts would it take to put the athletic department in the black? Those seven or eight people who wrote letters of complaint the last time could be given a paid vacation to Berkeley to see "The Game" if that will appease them. There'd still be hundreds of thousands of dollars left over, and it would help insure that Oregon athletics would not fade away.

Brook Muller
Architecture

Breakin' the law

In response to Ann Tattersall's "Misdemeanors" letter in the Nov. 21 *Emerald*: You have certainly made your point with your long and distinguished list of crime. It made me feel a whole lot better about the Jo Sonja Watson issue. I'm also very impressed with your ability to efficiently break the laws of this city. The next time I need someone bumped off, I'll give you a call.

Watson doesn't have anything to worry about with people like you in her corner.

Brian Hagen
Student

Footsteps

Debra Frye (*ODE*, Nov. 18) suggested the policies of Project Saferide are justifiable because they do hire male receptionists. All this does is move the type of reverse discrimination from the 1800s to the 1950s. Suppose you applied for a job and were told, "Because you are a woman all we will let you do here is answer the phone, type and make coffee." Sexism abounds in this example.

Rebekah Ledwith (*ODE*, Nov. 20) suggested that it is fine to fear men because women may be "attacked" at any time without warning. This shows the irrationality of discrimination as it is based on the same emotion that keeps homosexuals out of the armed services — unfounded fear.

It is also the emotion behind racist "justifications" for following blacks around department stores more closely than whites. Ledwith is also apparently ignorant of a recent study which reported that almost all cases of assault involve people who know each other.

To assume that a man will attack you purely because he is a man and you are a woman is just as sexist and absurd as a man thinking women mean "yes" when they say "no!" Common sense tells us to be cautious at night (or any other time), but giving into fear stereotypes the other person and that comes dangerously close to being a hate crime. Once you begin to fear, hate is only a step away. Once you begin to hate, a hate crime is only a step away.

Jordan C. Lund
English

Measure 5 buffer

As a reminder, the staff of the Office of Business Affairs would like to inform our student customers wherever possible that they will be mailed their registration/billing statement shortly.

This statement will include address information, academic status information, class schedule, past due accounts receivable, tuition and special fees, and financial aid that is scheduled to be disbursed at the start of winter term.

It will also include their sticker to affix to their University identification card, and a return envelope. Tuition loan option is also included as a part of the statement.

It is our goal to remove the need for almost all students to see either a cashier or someone from whom to get their stickers.

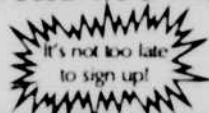
To avoid standing in long lines, we strongly urge students to either return check payment via the U.S. mail, or use the drop box in front of Oregon Hall.

To encourage students to do this, we are announcing the prize of two \$500 scholarships to be awarded from those who mail in or use the drop box for payment of their tuition by Dec. 27. To be eligible, the student must pay the amount of the bill, be a regularly admitted student, and enrolled full-time.

Larry Tergesen
Associate Director
Business Affairs

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



John Denver on the comeback trail