

Personal responses curtail open debate

The *Emerald* editorial staff was recently contacted by someone from the Office of Student Advocacy concerning our policy of not publishing anonymous letters to the editor.

The OSA representative, acting on behalf of a potential student author, asked for an exception to the rule for safety reasons. The letter writer had previously submitted a signed letter commenting on the issue of *Playboy* and *Penthouse* being sold in the University Bookstore. After publication of the letter she received a personal written reply at home. Afraid of further harassment, the author requested that the *Emerald* provide the option of anonymous letters.

This case is not the first of its kind on campus. Our editorial staff is aware of similar incidents where a letter writer has received replies at home, both written and verbal.

This, of course, often threatens and distresses those receiving the personal responses, not to mention infringing on others' right to fair comment. Our staff strongly urges those people responding to letters to do so via the same medium in which the letter at hand appeared.

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Responding to a letter by writing or calling the author at home shows little class and respect for others' right to express their ideas without feeling threatened. These kinds of personal responses serve to stifle the open debate that should be encouraged in a university community.

Though our editorial staff will remain open to discussion of our policy, we recently decided through a consensus vote to keep our policy of not publishing anonymous letters. This is done in an effort to preserve the integrity of our editorial page via accountability by authors.

Having a name run beneath letters to the editor not only lends more credibility to the ideas being expressed, it also makes the author more responsible for the content of the letter they are publicly associated with.

Every American has the right of expression, and that right should not be curtailed in any fashion. But just as a person or group must get a license to peacefully assemble for a march or parade, to use the space provided on the letters page of this newspaper, people must agree to have their names printed.

Because there is inherent risk involved when letter writers sign their names to letters, we believe the warning about this risk must be voiced by our staff, along with the strong reminder to those wanting to respond to do so via the letters to the editor section.



LETTERS

Big "C"

Bryan Westby, since you're so concerned about ending rape, I have a solution even better than your brilliant martial arts plan: Castration.

That's right, I'm talking about the big "C." Now before you reject this brilliant plan, let's look at the benefits:

- 1) It puts the responsibility of rape with the rapist where it belongs, not on the victim/survivor.
- 2) It's a lot more cost effective that three years of martial arts and less time consuming.
- 3) It's absolutely guaranteed to prevent repeat offenses, unlike martial arts that can be overcome by a weapon or multiple attackers.

So, you see, it's really a perfect solution. In some countries, people caught stealing have their hands chopped off. This is just the next logical step.

Then again, maybe people like Westby can learn compassion for human beings other than themselves.

Maybe men can take responsibility for a predominantly male crime instead of telling women how to avoid it and blaming us if we don't.

Maybe they can make a commitment to not engage in sexist behaviors that contribute to the rape culture.

Maybe they can treat women as human beings with a right to be safe instead of second-class citizens or objects.

That would be great. Then we wouldn't have to think up drastic solutions to problems that shouldn't exist. But if people like Westby won't listen to reason, there's always Towanda.

Krona Adair Student

decent serving of gravy around here? Apparently not. Out of the 32 dining institutions in the University area that I have tried, I have yet to find one to satisfy my driving need for gravy.

Why, at Burger King only yesterday, I was forced to return a cheeseburger because of its lack of gravy. And as I very politely explained my grievance to the guy behind the counter, he just shook his head and looked at me as though I were nuts!

Granted, one can get copious servings of gravy at Gary's Gravy Palace, but who can afford his exorbitant prices?

Don't these businesses know of the 12 pleasure centers in the human body that can only be stimulated by gravy and its life-giving essence? These days, one has to go as far as Roseburg before one can find a hotel that still offers gravy-bathing.

So, come on. Mark like gravy. Mark need gravy. Please, give Mark gravy.

Mark Anthony Russell Student

Tuck it in

In comment to Jake Berg's article (*ODE*, Feb. 17), yes, it is nice to see the towel boys get involved in the spirit of the basketball game. Shaking the basket that perhaps cost USC a few points, and if the referees had seen, would have cost the Ducks a technical foul.

As for Johnnie Reece, he should feel free to wear his socks any way he wants to. According to NCAA rules, players are required to tuck their shirt in, not pull their socks down. No one tells Antoine Stoudamire to pull his shorts up.

By the way, did you attend the UCLA game? If you did, you probably noticed that Don MacLean of the Bruins posi-

tioned himself at the free throw line the same way Jeff Potter does.

I think the Ducks have had a hard enough season without people telling them how to brush their teeth also. By the way, how about three cheers for the people who put the towels on the benches for the players?

Tami Bare Student

USA #1

I just want to make a few comments on the Olympic games as seen from American eyes. There are some interesting observations to note, and this being a time of international cooperation in the name of sports, why not vault my two cents worth?

The U.S. Winter Olympic Team has made a great showing this time around, yet I'm left with media gas once again. The gas really gets going when I watch the downhill skiing events. Our U.S. women have been "kicking butt" in the skiing events, yet will we see any big endorsements or post-Olympic hype? I don't think so.

It seems that George Bush's America and its media maniacs still see only the male skiers as worthy of any extended hype. Is it that unless we win the men's downhill, or have a Phil and Steve Mahre standing on the winner's podium, that our national ski team is less of a success?

I, for one, am standing up in honor of the U.S. Women's Ski Team and all their efforts. They have been near the top in every event, and they even have some heavy metal necklaces to wear home. Killer dude, just killer.

Steve Stanford Political Science

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Pour it on

Excuse me, but could I get a