

## Dialogue necessary on heels of protest

Monday's protest against the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity represented a starting point for examining attitudes within the greek system. But before the protesters go any further, they should reflect on a few things.

First, the protest was effective because it brought the issue of rape forcefully to the attention of the fraternity system. Clearly, the Phi Psi's realize there is anger over the rape charges. They also must know their actions will be scrutinized closely from this point on.

But now that the protesters have expressed their anger, they must channel their frustrations constructively. A protest serves only to heighten awareness but will accomplish nothing but by itself.

Those concerned must organize a dialogue within the greek system to rationally discuss the issue of rape. If there aren't enough seminars on rape for fraternity members, then argue for more. If traditional male attitudes are the problem, discuss these attitudes intelligently with fraternity members.

Protesters calling for Phi Psi members to come out of their house on Monday did not represent an attempt at dialogue. At that point, the most likely result would have been a fist-fight.

The only legitimate discussion of the evening was when a Greeks Against Rape member took the microphone to address the protesters' concern over inaction. She admitted to the crowd that "the greek system does condone rape in certain aspects." But the dialogue ended there. Before she had a chance to put her statement into context, the crowd derided her.

If the protesters are serious about improving conditions, they should work with Greeks Against Rape. Although the protesters didn't appreciate Greeks Against Rape's input on Monday, the group is trying to enlighten the system from within. It believes the problem is not the fraternity system itself but ignorance among certain members.

The protesters should also avoid convicting the entire fraternity system for the actions of a few. All rapists in society are not fraternity members. And all fraternity members are not rapists. There are men with violent attitudes throughout America, and, as much as some people would like, greeks cannot shoulder all the blame.

The leader of the protest, Rondine "Niki" Rauch, filed a rape complaint with the administration against a Phi Psi pledge. It is important to note, however, that the alleged rape did not take place at the fraternity. According to Gerry Mosely, vice provost for academic support and student services, Rauch claimed she was raped at her apartment by a man she met at a party that was hosted at the home of another man who was affiliated with the fraternity. Phi Kappa Psi's connection to the alleged rape is tenuous at best.

For example, if the men were affiliated with the marching band, would it be fair to demand the marching band be disbanded? Should the music school be closed?

This isn't to say rape is not a problem within the greek system. But Monday's protest looked more like a war zone than a discussion over greek attitudes. If rape is the problem, rape should be addressed. Now that protesters have made their point, they should use the momentum to move toward a more constructive outlet.



## LETTERS

### OSPIRG works

In response to Paul Budlong's letter (ODE, Nov. 23): It is a shame that he only walked by the EMU on Tuesday evening, Nov. 17., and no other time all term; nor has he read the newspaper or watched the news.

He would have been fully aware of how OSPIRG's hunger and homelessness group retrieved more than 2 tons of food for Food for Lane County.

He also must have missed that we took more than 100 pounds of food and clothing to the 28 houseless people camped out across the river from Armitage, where we also took time to change out of our Birkenstocks (and Wing-Tips) to deal with the mud that covers their campsites to listen to their stories and to their solutions.

Did he not notice the five days of tabling where 500 students and faculty donated 30 huge bags of clothes and 450 pounds of canned goods? Perhaps if these events were held in front of the new, multi-million dollar Chiles business center, he would have noticed.

I would like to ask Paul, if "most people are painfully aware of the plight of the homeless," then why are there more than 3,000 houseless families in Lane County, with shelter space for only 700 individuals?

For those people, like Paul, who are interested in working with us on solutions and have new ideas, our meetings are on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in Cedar Room C.

**Jim Treloar**  
Chapter Chairman, OSPIRG

### Be constructive

Greeks Against Rape was founded last winter in a response to problems in the greek system. We believed that we could use a core group of people from each chapter to reach out and educate ourselves and others on rape and sexual assault.

We admit that there is a problem. When I stated, "The greek system does condone rape in certain aspects," (ODE, Nov. 24), my point was that an envi-

ronment is provided where drinking and rooms are available.

We do not condone rape. My words were taken out of context. My explanation was lost in the night, and I want to make it now.

Greeks Against Rape is working hard, along with the fraternities, to stop underage drinking and upstairs access during functions. Most of all, we are and have been, holding rape and sexual assault presentations for the greek chapters.

The first step is education. Education is what will change attitudes about the treatment of women. During winter term, seminars will be mandatory for all chapters.

All that I have worked for seems undermined and lost. The march should have included us, not alienated us. Both parties were fighting for the same side, yet the point of the march was lost amid the powerful feelings and undercurrents.

I was not properly informed of what my role was Monday night. I was told it was a march against the greek system, and that was whom I was there to defend. I feel used and taken advantage of.

**Jodi Stemach**  
Co-founder/director,  
Greeks Against Rape

### Untouchable

Having been homeless almost three years before entering UO, I'd like to comment on the subject.

Of itself, living outdoors is no great hardship. Ample food and clothing are freely available. While it is not pleasant when wet and cold, winter's sting is easily blunted by plastic sheeting, newspapers for insulation and institutions with long hours, like the Knight Library.

What really stings about being homeless is the common factor in the following incidents.

I rented a Community Gardens plot from the Parks Dept. A volunteer security program was in operation to deter theft.

I volunteered and was told the program had been discontinued. I persuaded a gardener who lived indoors to apply. He was accepted.

Those three years, I regularly patronized Delbert's Cafe, often engaging in small talk with the staff and the owner's son. Recently I encountered him in a local supermarket and said, "Hi." He gave me a horrified look, turned and fled to the checkout. Would his humanity finally triumph over his prejudice? Sadly, no.

While the pampered morally outraged among you squabble over whether OSPIRG or Habitat for Humanity is more virtuous, I tell you plainly that neither institution addresses the real hardship of homelessness.

This hardship is the psychic rejection, the shunning of the homeless as a class. Forget what you have been told. In reality we are a caste society, like India. The homeless are America's untouchables.

**Graham Lawrence**  
Biology

### Analogy

I congratulate Men Against Rape for furthering my education with its ad in the Monday, Nov. 23 edition of the *Emerald*. I, as a male, have felt for the first time the sting of overt, destructive sexism. I am enraged.

The ad extolled in menacing bold print: Every man is a potential rapist. And then: ... to a woman, it's the safest thing to assume.

To show you the prejudice in the words, I ask you to imagine another hypothetical ad placed in the *Emerald* on the same day: Every black man is a potential armed robber (or crack dealer, or unwed father) ... to a white person, it's the safest thing to assume.

Racist? Prejudicial? You bet. Now, how about the Men Against Rape members taking a closer look at their own ad.

**Joe Huston**  
Chemistry

# Emerald

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