

'Sex' sells; library not buying

University students' right to have *Sex* in the library has been unjustly abridged.

A University librarian made the decision not to buy *Sex*, but did so arbitrarily and with no real expertise in the subject matter — photography.

If you haven't figured it out by now, the subject here is Madonna's book *Sex*, and the issue is whether it should be purchased by the Knight Library.

When the library makes a purchase decision, it first seeks the advice of experts in the subject area. If the book is about economics, University professors of economics are asked to evaluate its merit; if it's about rocks, geology professors take a gander, and so on.

In the case of *Sex*, the appropriate experts would have been photographers and experts in popular culture. But no expert was ever consulted.

Rather, Assistant Librarian Cheryl Kern-Simirenko saw the book on display in a bookstore in Palo Alto, Calif., thumbed through it and decided it lacked artistic merit.

Good enough for government work.

Kern-Simirenko said the photography was "pedestrian, at best." The question is not whether Madonna's book has artistic merit — that's for the experts, who were not consulted, to decide. (The *Emerald* contacted several University photographers and art faculty, but none had seen the book and could not comment.)

The question is: How many other books have been kept off library shelves because one person didn't like them?

University Librarian George Shipman was not informed of the decision until contacted by the *Emerald*. Shipman said, "Madonna represents something of our era that people want to study ... but we don't see the need to purchase the book, apparently."

Apparently.

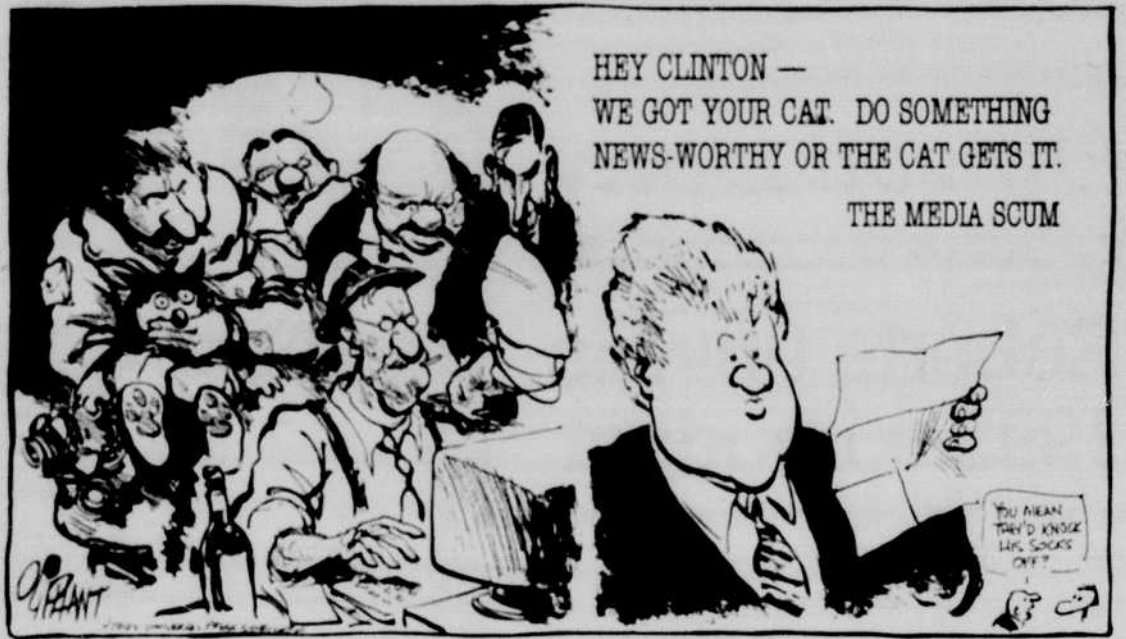
Sex is a spiral-bound book and, if purchased by the library, would need to be rebound. Kern-Simirenko said the quality of the photos doesn't justify the expenditure of getting the book bound. And just exactly how much is that expense? Well, Kern-Simirenko doesn't actually know, but she's sure it would be *too* much.

The book itself costs between \$35 and \$50, depending where you look. Considering the number of books in the library that have never even been opened, much less checked out, spending perhaps \$100 on a book people will open seems to be a good investment.

The library carries other sexually explicit material, most notably *Playboy* magazine and books by the late, and still controversial, photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (all of which are checked out or missing), and the IMC carries a video titled *Radical Sex Styles*, so the issue of library-sponsored censorship doesn't seem to exist.

Kern-Simirenko justified her lone review by pointing out there have been no specific requests for the book, and therefore a formal review was not required.

However, at an institution of supposedly higher education, the main library should not need to wait for requests to purchase books but rather should be aware of the needs and wants of the University community.



LETTERS

The truth

Every man is not a potential rapist. Trying to protect the safety of the individual, whether it be a woman or a man, is a truly noble cause. However, all such efforts are fruitless unless they are based on one thing — the truth.

Kerry Pasche
Eugene

Doctor trouble

I am writing on behalf of a fellow student concerning her deplorable treatment at the Student Health Center. A few weeks ago, she was struck on the head by a bottle thrown across the room at a party.

She awoke the next morning dizzy and nauseous, with blurry vision and a headache. A friend, realizing this woman had a concussion, brought her to the health center in case any treatment besides rest was necessary.

The doctor, informed of the symptoms and their cause, asked the student when her last period had been, insinuating her dizziness and nausea were caused by an unknown pregnancy. He then proceeded to question the student in an interrogating fashion, suggesting her problem was caused by coke, pot or simply too much beer. He brought up the possibility of her symptoms being psychosomatic, suggesting if she disagreed, they could proceed to Sacred Heart for \$700 worth of examinations.

This kind of treatment is an outrage. Had the doctor known the symptoms only, his questions may have been legitimate. However, the doctor's questions and attitude were both insensitive and demeaning. The student left feeling victimized — angry at the doctor's treatment, angry at the health center for employing such a doctor and angry with herself for putting up with such disrespect.

She is not alone. I have heard of other students receiving similar treatment, and I urge all who have to step forward. A systematic approach of disrespect should not be tolerated.

Aaron Silverman
Undeclared

Prevent

Every 23 minutes a person in the United States dies as a result of an alcohol-related acci-

dent. Last year, more than 75 percent of all traffic crashes on New Year's Eve/Day were alcohol related. This is a preventable tragedy.

Together we can make a difference. Take the pledge to not drink and drive during the holidays. Being a student myself, I know better than to ask you to give money; I only ask for your support.

Please take a minute to sign a pledge card and drop it in a collection box at one of the following locations: Hamilton or Carson dining halls, near the EMU Fishbowl, by the indoor library entrance and in Oregon Hall. For each pledge made, a red ribbon will be added to a tree near the Hult Center.

Drinking responsibly could save you a lot of money (DUIs are very expensive) and time (holidays should be spent with family, not in jail). Most importantly, it could save lives. And it doesn't cost you a dime. Please sign a pledge card today.

Anna Marie Dick
Project Eugene

Tragic lesson

We are all members of the same human family and thus deserving of the same measure of dignity and respect — including the two people whose bodies now lay in the Klamath Hall physiology lab and the young woman who apparently committed suicide Monday, Nov. 16. Perhaps she had lost all sense of connection to the human family and with that all sense of purpose.

The two people decided to give the gift of their own bodies to students they could never know, probably with the hope that human welfare might be advanced. They had names, although their names are not known to us. They loved. They were loved. And they are profoundly deserving of dignity and respect.

I hope the instructors and students in the physiology lab — if the *Emerald* story was accurate — will accord the bodies entrusted them with the profound dignity and reverence they deserve. To do less debases the gift these two fellow human beings have given, and to make one life cheap is the start of devaluing all life.

In my view, our campus newspaper has participated in a terrible cheapening of human life. I felt an assault upon my

own humanity, and I was deeply saddened at the gross disregard for the dignity of three human beings that was demonstrated by the placement of the articles, the tone of the stories and the photographs shown in the Nov. 17 *Emerald*.

I hope there is something to be learned from this tragedy as well.

Brent Mallinckrodt
Associate Professor
Counseling Psychology

Cry wolf again

Humans are once again trying to play God in one of the last remaining wild places in the United States. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game on Nov. 17 decided to resume a barbaric and illogical practice of shooting hundreds of Alaskan gray wolves in order to upset the predator-prey balance in favor of moose and caribou.

The plan is a five-year program designed to eradicate wolves in a 43,000-square-mile area between Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Many biologists have deemed this proposal a "very dumb mistake." Dr. Gordon Haber, a wildlife expert on wolves said, "The decision is bad biology all around, almost insulting from a scientific standpoint." Other biologists have pointed to historical disasters, such as in Yellowstone, where these very same misguided "management" tactics have destroyed entire ecosystems.

The premise of this program appears grossly illogical because intact ecosystem relationships are what keep herds healthy, not artificial intervention schemes.

Anyone who ever plans to travel to Alaska has the right to see and hear a wolf in the wild; it is an unimaginably wonderful experience, one that has touched my soul. The 7,000 remaining wolves in Alaska are fleeting symbols of our lost wildness. Killing these animals so mercilessly would be a tragedy and a crime.

People who wish to express themselves about this issue should write, call or FAX the governor of Alaska, Walter Hickel, (907) 465-3500 (ask for the governor), FAX: (907) 463-3454, or write to: P.O. Box A, Juneau, AK 99811.

Andrew Fischer
Environmental Studies

Oregon Daily Emerald

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