

## Guilt by association cannot be justified

It was wrong when Sen. Joseph McCarthy did it in the 1950s, and it is still wrong today. Guilt by association has begun to re-emerge in recent months, very visibly so at the University.

When McCarthy held his hearings on communism, he attempted to eviscerate everybody who may have ever come into contact with a communist. If they had, or if they refused to answer, they were implicitly labeled as "red" or a "pinko" and were societally blacklisted.

And Americans thought it was justified. It was "politically correct."

At the University, three recent incidents have given a new life to this very ancient evil, two of which involve fraternities and one involving the Incidental Fee Committee.

In November, a Phi Kappa Psi fraternity was singled out as a bastion of rape and sexual abuse after a pledge allegedly raped a University student. The day after the protest, we acknowledged the need for discussion and awareness surrounding the issues of rape and abuse in the greek system. But labeling the Phi Psi membership, and through extrapolation, the entire greek system as advocates of rape, is wrong.

Last week, members of the IFC attempted to prevent nominee Ed Carson from being confirmed by the Student Senate because of his affiliation with the *Oregon Commentator*.

Because the *Commentator* is conservative, Carson was portrayed as being homophobic and racist. Never mind that they could give no evidence to support their claim. Carson was conservative, all conservatives are homophobic and racists, therefore Carson is too. The ludicrous nature of this twisted logic deserves little analysis other than to say — it's wrong.

Wednesday, the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance had a press conference concerning the alleged assault of a bisexual man and his heterosexual friend.

The LGBA, along with others at the press conference, made it known that the alleged attacker is a pledge at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, as if there is some correlation between the fraternity and the suspect's alleged actions.

Further, they demanded the student be de-pledged by the house and that he be expelled from the University.

Even more troubling is the accusation that the SAE fraternity and its members are somehow responsible for the actions of all individuals associated with it.

If the arrested student lived in a dorm, would the LGBA blame the dorm residents? If he lived in an apartment, would the LGBA hold the apartment complex's residents responsible? Of course not. So what makes fraternities such an acceptable target for this type of overt discrimination?

Yes, discrimination. The LGBA, as well as the Phi Psi protesters, are acting on perceived stereotypes of fraternities and their members. As much as the LGBA dislikes the stereotyping of homosexuals as dysfunctional, sexual predatory perverts, so do the fraternities dislike the similar labeling of their members. It's not justified, even if it is "politically correct."



## LETTERS

### Ideological error

This letter is in response to the Feb. 10 editorial in the *Emerald* concerning the California Supreme Court decision last week about student funding of "ideological" organizations.

The editorial assumed OSPIRG would have been affected if this decision was made in Oregon, but this isn't true. CALPIRG was not mentioned in the California decision at all. If this battle came to Oregon, OSPIRG would also not be affected by it — simply because we are not an ideological organization.

The editorial also mentioned the PIRGs in conjunction with "using student fees for a partisan organization," which is blatantly false. OSPIRG is a 501 C3 corporation, which means we cannot endorse candidates for any office and we cannot work on ballot measures.

The use of the NYPIRG case in this argument was also unwarranted. Legal counsel looked into the NYPIRG decision and came to the conclusion that the case does not apply to OSPIRG — the case didn't even threaten NYPIRG. Its PIRG chapters are still as active, healthy and legal as ever.

It is critical that we receive the correct information. We, as students, have a right to fund organizations in the public interest. Let us not get hung up on these debates; let us continue to create and endorse organizations like the IFC and OSPIRG to empower the student body.

Shannon Varney  
Vice Chairwoman  
OSPIRG

The right of a fetus to develop, or the right of a woman to control her own body and her own life?

Is it more wrong to think of a fetus as a non-human when it comes to the fetus' rights, or to force women to bear children when they don't want to? Easy access to abortion has been a necessary part of all effective population control programs in the world to date. What is the higher good, to give fetuses the right to develop, or to have effective population control so the people of the world can avoid the consequences of overpopulation — war, famine, disease and a ruined environment?

Ben Iglauer  
Eugene

### Dog at large

One day I was walking my dog when I felt I was being followed. I glanced behind me and recognized what I thought was one of Eugene's finest jogging toward me. I glanced around looking for a crime in progress but didn't see any bikers riding on the wrong side of the street.

I was initially confused at why he was following me when it became clear he was actually a Lane County Animal Control Officer. After some small talk, I learned that officer Berry was eager to inquire about my knowledge of leash laws. I was touched. He wandered all the way over here to save the neighborhood from my unbridled pooch.

To preserve the moment, he took out a piece of pretty, pink paper and scribbled on it while asking me some questions. He then gave me the paper and I noticed the infraction stated, "dog at large."

I immediately realized the seriousness of what just happened and scolded my dog for forgetting her leash. Then I turned to officer Berry and thanked him. I'll never forget the warm feeling in my heart when I waved to him as he chugged back to his vehicle.

I think of officer Berry often and look forward to seeing him in court when I arrive to pay for the infraction. I want to thank

him again for protecting society. I also want to offer him my apologies. After all, it probably isn't his fault he couldn't be a real police officer.

Scott Klemp  
English

### Carson man

Judging from some of the letters I have read in the *Emerald* recently, Ed Carson is racist, sexist and homophobic. This is because he is the managing editor of the *Oregon Commentator*, which has printed racist, sexist and homophobic pieces.

The implication is that if Carson were a truly enlightened person, he would have prevented the publication of such trash. Wait a minute, isn't that censorship? It would seem that the First Amendment is a double-edged sword and not subject to the whims of the "politically correct." I could go on but I feel a sudden urge to listen to "Cop Killer."

Andrew Haldane  
Political Science

### IFC thanks

On behalf of everyone associated with the 1993 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, we would like to thank the Incidental Fee Committee for its more than generous donation to this year's conference.

We would like the IFC to know that its support has ensured this year's conference will be the best ever, and that our very special indigenous guests, who are the centerpiece of this year's conference, will all be able to come and share their knowledge and vision.

Again, we want to thank the IFC for its generous support. The conference, the law school, the University, and most of all us, the students, are the true beneficiaries.

David Evans  
Kari Grabowski  
Co-directors  
1993 Public Interest  
Environmental Law  
Conference

### Decisions

The question of whether a fetus should be treated legally and morally as a human being is not a scientific question but a question of values.

Although a fetus does have a complete set of human DNA, it lacks many other characteristics, particularly before the second trimester, that we would think of as essential to a human being — such as self awareness and the ability to interact with others. It has not even developed many of the physical aspects of a human.

There are good reasons not to treat a fetus like a human being, but in order to make the ethical decision, people will need to consider the values at stake here. What is more important to us:

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

## Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor: Pat Malach  
News Editor: Jake Berg  
Editorial Editor: Martin Fisher  
Graphics Editor: Jeff Paslay  
Entertainment Editor: Freya Horn  
Freelance Editor: Hope Neelson  
Editorial Editor: Rivers Janssen  
Sports Editor: Dave Charbonneau  
Supplements Editor: Calley Anderson  
Night Editor: Pat Malach

Associate Editors: Tammy Baley, Student Government/Activities; Daralyn Trappe, Community; Colleen Pohlig, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Scott Andre, Chester Allen, Matt Bender, Justin Brown, Sarah Clark, Dylan Coulter, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Amanda Ferris, Teresa Huntsinger, Lisa Kneifel, Lisa Mauri, Damian McLean, Rebecca Merritt, Steve Mims, Tiffini Mueller, Trista Noel, Matthew Schuster, Ellen Shaw, Michael Shindler, Erick Studenicka, Marion Sutor, Michele Thompson-Aguilar, Amy Van Tuyl, Todd Williams

General Manager: Judy Riedl  
Production Manager: Michele Ross  
Advertising: Tom Leach, Sharon Vaz, Sales Managers: Shawn Berven, Office Manager: Jane Irola, Teresa Isabelle, Philip Johnson II, Chris Kanoff, Jeremy Mason, Van V. O'Byran II, Gillian Oh, Rachael Trull, Angie Windheim, Brian Windheim

Classified: Peggy McGinn, Manager: Barry Logan, Sharon Sauve  
Distribution: Rebecca Brooks, Kristi Van Gorder, Anthony Wynn

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor: Judy Connolly  
Production: Ingrid White, Production Coordinator: Kristine Granger, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith, Anne Stephenson

Newsroom: 348-5511  
Business Office: 348-5512  
Display Advertising: 348-3712  
Classified Advertising: 348-4343