

April Fools thrive in University community

While the rest of the world uses April 1 as a day to celebrate silliness, joke playing and general goofiness, we would like to point out the unique situation here in Eugene and, more specifically, at the University.

Here, every day is April Fools' day.

A quick, but by no means thorough, investigation of this past year's *Emeralds* supports this fact. For example:

- The University spent \$95,000 for covered bicycle racks so students' learning abilities would not be impeded by wet butts caused by sitting on wet bicycle seats.

- Eugene Mayor Ruth Bascom peppered her inauguration speech with goofy limericks, raising suspicions that she was actually the Lucky Charms' leprechaun in disguise.

In the same magically delicious speech, Bascom suggested University freshman and sophomores not be allowed to own cars.

- A little more than a year after suffering a highly publicized rash of burglaries, another University fraternity is burglarized after leaving its doors unlocked. A fraternity member rationalized leaving the doors unlocked, saying, "If they're locked, people know people aren't there." Uh huh.

- University students are the victims of an ongoing joke being perpetrated by the Incidental Fee Committee, a great bastion of April Fools. IFC Chairman Steve Masat said in November, "... the committee was elected to hold incidental fees down. ... we'll have to reduce funding to many groups." Ha! April Fools! Joke's on us!

- The University spent \$43,000 on a traffic booth that will actually cause traffic problems.

Perhaps the best evidence of Eugene's and the University's perpetual April Foolishness can be found in the *Emerald's* own police "beat" section. For example:

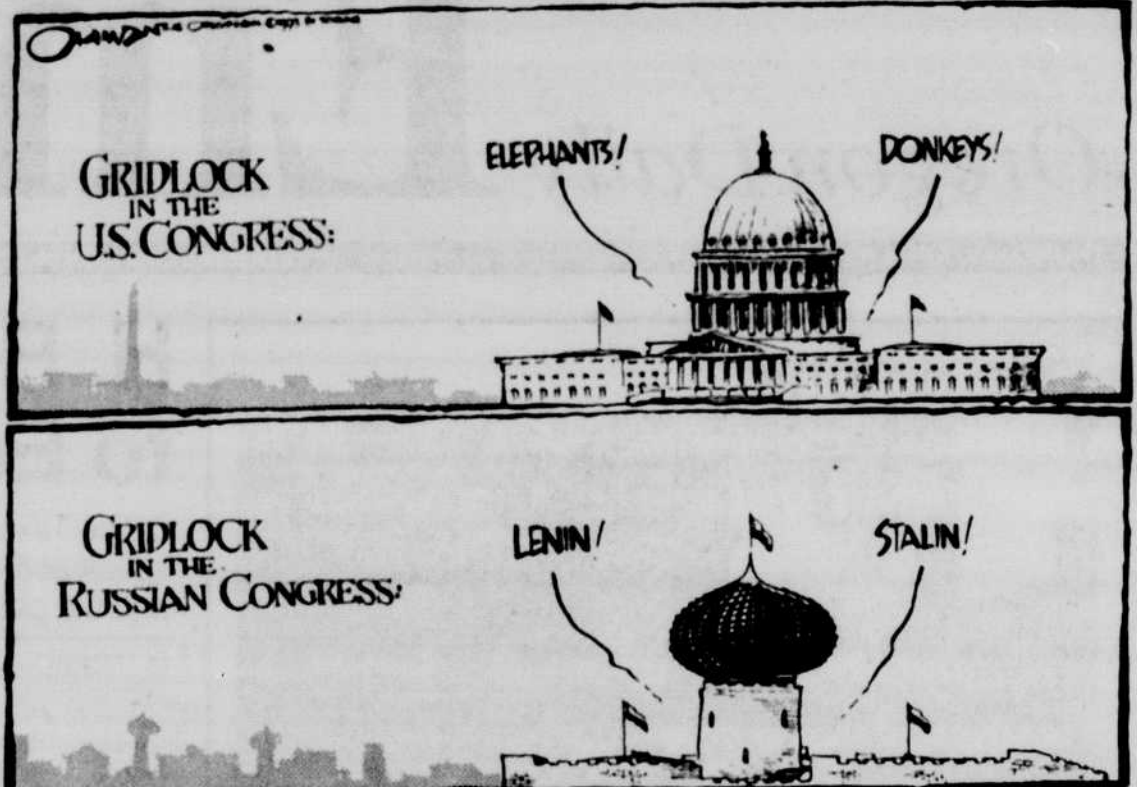
- A University student was found masturbating next to an EMU "art" exhibit. A new twist on the old "starving artist" bit?

- A man went drinking with a friend at Taylors' College Side Inn. That night, the friend stole 12 frisbees from the man's home and broke into his car, stealing his radio. The man found his friend the next day. The friend said he sold the items. So they went out drinking again.

- A Eugene police officer attempted to stop a student on a bicycle. The student rode by the officer, saying, "I'll be back in a minute." Nice try.

- A Boynton Hall resident got punched after asking a female resident to turn her stereo down, saying, "We don't care if you go in your room and masturbate." Perhaps the victim should have suggested going to the EMU "art" exhibit.

- And finally, the *Emerald* received a letter saying a car was loaded with dynamite that would explode if anyone tried to steal it (the car). The ending of that letter serves as a suitable ending to this editorial: "This is not a prank. Neither was it written by a crazy, wankle, crank."



LETTERS

Participate

The ASUO Elections Committee has extended the deadline to get on the ballot for the upcoming ASUO elections. Why? Not enough participation.

Administering student fees and representing students to the higher education superstructure and empowering students are not only essential for an accessible and enjoyable college experience for every student at the University, but these duties also provide excellent opportunities to hone your skills for any job market.

Defeat apathy on a personal level. Become active in student affairs by registering as a candidate for executive positions, EMU Board, IFC and the glorious Student Senate.

Michael Omogrosso
ASUO Senator
Journalism

Two standards

In the state House of Representatives, a bill (HB2806) was introduced to give domestic partners (homosexual or heterosexual) insurance benefits. The bill has the sponsorship of OPEU General Council. This body governs the union that represents many employees, including most classified personnel here at the University.

I am a steward for this union, and I am outraged our leadership would undertake such a sponsorship without consulting the membership. We have been asked to respect the diversity of our fellow employees' sexual choices, and the majority of us do.

I fully believe we should not discriminate against homosexuals in terms of employment or their right to express their views. However, I do believe that as a society we have to have boundaries. We can give credit to many sources for the laws and standards we live by, whether it's God (whom I believe), the law, Allah or any other standard. We, as a society, have set these standards.

As a Christian who has studied both biblical and secular history, it is clear that when societies begin to abandon their laws and standards, societies are

destroyed.
I think it is time to finally say to the gay community that we will accept you; we will honor your right to live and work in our society. We will not honor your demand to call your choice of lifestyle as normal and deserving of each and every benefit that society as a whole has received.

Gordon Melby
University Housing

Offended

I am writing in response to Jake Berg's article on *Playboy* coming to town to "recruit" models for the magazine (*ODE*, March 30). I am amazed by the fact that the story never referred to the reason why *Playboy* is objected to by some women's organizations and feminist women — because violence against women and pornography are connected.

It is the exploitation of women for male entertainment that offends us so. I find it ironic that the most important facts you focused on were how much you can get paid and how regrettable it is they have not recruited here since 1985.

What about the links between violent crime and the sex industry? How about the economic trap that forces women into servicing men and selling themselves to pornographers? What about the dehumanization of female sexuality and the making of commodities of the female body and sexual expression?

It would not take you long to find facts to support the fact that there is a high correlation between sex offenders and perpetrators of other crimes and pornography or that pornography is on a continuum of violence against women. This could have been a much more informative article.

Shoshanah Oppenheim
Volunteer Coordinator
Project Saferide

Logic battle

Before Greg Jacobs makes another attempt to communicate with me at "eighth grade level," he might wish to return to the eighth grade for further instruction. His letter (*ODE*, March 11) features a "logical truth" intended to evict me from the politically correct purgatory in which I currently languish.

His eighth grade axiom "All men are created equal" was indeed penned by some illustrious examples of "WHPAAMism." Still, anyone knows that the men who produced the Declaration of Independence practiced affirmative action. They hired only African-Americans for the highly esteemed job of slave.

Jacobs' argument stems from his statement that because people are created equal, prejudice should not be a problem. Even my infantile comprehension of Jacobs' prized logic tells me that equal "creation" does not ensure equal opportunity.

An example? I assume that he and I were created with equal brains, yet his indoctrination into a unique and mystical brand of logic allows him to cudgel me with rhetorical truncheons that, according to my inferior "normal" logic, are gibberish. One of us grew up stupid.

Secondly, even an illogical doofus like me knows that "should" has no place in a logical proof. Jacobs should stop burdening us with letters to the editor. Don't bet on it.

Finally, regarding acronyms: perhaps Jacobs' guilty conscience caused him to read filthy innuendoes into my letter. I, however, refuse to perform similar prejudicial acts upon his acronym. Until clarified, both the H in WHPAAM and Jacobs are free to be either homosexual or heterosexual.

Steve Close
English

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