

IFC no-shows shirk elected obligation

The Incidental Fee Committee has taken a lot of heat on this page during the past few months. And it will continue to get heat until it cleans up its act.

Last Thursday, the IFC canceled its second budget hearing of the week because only three members showed. The committee — which after Zoe Pargot's resignation has only six members — is supposed to have at least four representatives present at a hearing to qualify as a legal quorum.

The committee's latest cancellation is ridiculous. The missing members — Lydia Lerma, Jose Balderas and Efreem Mehretab — know when to show up. Committee meetings have been scheduled for every Monday and Thursday since January. Presumably the members also know how to use a phone to make sure other members will be there in case of an emergency. Committee member Anne Wagoner justifiably showed her frustration at the other members when she said, "If they're not here, they should be held responsible."

The problem with missing meetings is that the IFC is not the only organization affected. IFC screw-ups affect everybody who has yet to appear before the committee. On Thursday, the EMU budget was due for scrutiny. EMU Director Dusty Miller and his staff were inexcusably left waiting at the IFC altar for the third time this year.

This means once again the IFC must reschedule the EMU for a hearing, which in turn will lead to the rescheduling of several other groups. Now the EMU staff must put off any post-budget decision making, creating more inefficiency within its own department. In addition, the IFC will probably have to have several quick, ill-prepared meetings to make its May 24 budget deadline.

This latest misadventure proves the point University President Myles Brand made when he proposed restructuring IFC power. Brand was concerned that the IFC was abusing its responsibility by reviewing budget notes from various EMU groups even though doing so is not within the IFC's jurisdiction.

Now the IFC, after trying to over-stretch its authority, is moving in the opposite direction by shirking its duties. How can the IFC campaign for more power when it can't handle the power it has?

IFC Chairman Steve Masat must solidify the committee for the rest of the year by clarifying that the hearings will not be missed and will be conducted professionally. Missing meetings is reprehensible, especially when members were directly elected by the student body to delegate funds.

Lerma, Balderas and Mehretab must also take the blame for their most recent actions. They must either confess their irresponsibility and show up to the rest of the meetings or resign. Although their individual excuses may have been solid, they must take the entire group into consideration. It is their duty as IFC representatives.



COMMENTARY

Is pornography defensible?

Pornography rapes women's respect

By Shoshanah Oppenheim

Sex, porn and all that jazz. I hope I got your attention. I want to introduce myself before we get to the topic at hand. I am one woman, with one opinion. I have one voice, and I choose only to speak for myself. However, I recognize there are women who both agree and disagree with me. I believe this editorial needs a disclaimer so these words and opinions are not exaggerated, taken out of context or wrongly applied.

Let's get right to the point. Pornography in my world view is bad. Pornographers such as *Playboy*, who come to recruit at the University, or any institution, are bad as well. Contrary to the belief of this fine publication (the *Oregon Daily Emerald*), neither I nor any of the women with whom I have talked about this subject have ever criticized the women who choose to pose for any pornographic magazine.

I fully acknowledge the fact that we as women know what is best for ourselves and that the choices we make are ours alone. I would never dare to make a decision or deliberately limit another woman in her decisions.

The problem with pornography is not that women are modeling for magazines; the problem is that the magazines exist, and pornographers are making \$22 million a day using women as objects.

I do not "scorn" the women who pose because I understand that we live in a society where there is an imbalance of power and opportunities, and that women are the victims of such a system of patriarchy and misogyny.

This imbalance in power is crystal clear in the sex industry. Who is making money off women's nudity? The models sure aren't pulling in the revenue. The *Emerald* reported that college women can make \$500 for posing nude; why didn't it report the magazine's gross profits from the Pac-10, Big 10 and other college issues? Why didn't the *Emerald* report what it means to be part of the sex industry and how profits are made exploiting women's bodies?

Pornography can be defined as the marketing of women's sexuality, bodies and lives for male consumption and entertainment. There is a market for sex in our society, and *Playboy* cashes in along with magazines such as *Penthouse*, *Jugs* and *Swastika Snatch*. These are only a few of the magazines available; the list goes on.

Playboy is one facet of the world of pornography that cannot be separated from the so-called "hard-core" porn. Furthermore, pornography is on a continuum of violence against women. Power is exerted over women by the constant objectification of women's bodies and the sexualization

Double standard for pornography

By Joe Huston

A lot of letters have been written lately about pornography. From what I have seen, many of these writers condemn the negative aspects of pornography on society, specifically asserting that pornography leads to the perpetration of physical or sexual abuse of women and children.

Most refer to a body of evidence that links pornography to these crimes. However, no one seems to be forthcoming and specific about this evidence. Some simply assert that the connection is obvious. Look at Ted Bundy's own confession for Christ's sake.

As a student of science and someone who has managed to go through life with his eyes pretty much open, I have a hard time accepting anecdotal evidence. I believe it was Galileo who was judged a heretic and cast out of the Church because he went against the beliefs of both the common and the wise of the time.

"Of course the Sun turns around the Earth. Look — here it begins its orbital path in the morning, and over there it finishes it at night. How else could it be?" I'm not trying to dispute a link between pornography and violence, if one exists. I just want to look a little closer at the evidence before I take freedom from a group or groups of people. You know — choice and all that stuff.

Along the lines of victimizing women and children, domestic violence among them, I have made some observations of my own. There seems to be a relationship between alcohol use and these crimes. Granted my observations are unscientific, gathered from friends who are police or who are in other branches of the judicial system and social support system.

There are also numerous books written by social workers, psychologists and, yes, even a few psychiatrists, detailing the adverse effects of alcohol on family members, such as women, children and even the occasional man.

Yes, it seems that some women become alcoholics too, wreaking abuse on their children and even on their spouses (as incorrect a picture as that may seem). I wonder why there are not any protests against alcohol as a source of violence against women and children. Why don't those posters say "Prohibit Pornography, Abolish Alcohol." Hmm ...

Now I am really going to go out on a limb and wonder what effect drug-addicted parents have on their children and their spouses. All that stealing and prostituting to get money to buy those drugs.

And what about those nasty come downs? I hear they can turn a person's behavior downright

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