

Turn around and make brothels legal

City-run bordellos — San Francisco has considered the idea after many complaints from merchants and residents. City officials are considering whether to establish city-run brothels that would rent rooms to prostitutes, check their health and collect taxes on earnings.

The way prostitution is handled right now is horrible. The spread of sexually transmitted diseases is running rampant through that community. The underage prostitutes who are selling themselves to people on the streets need to be stopped. The income that is earned through prostitution is, for the most part, untaxable.

Right now the police are simply looking the other way. If prostitutes are arrested, they are usually in jail for only a few days before being released because of overcrowding. As far as the police are concerned, prostitution is legal. If it were legalized and state-run, then the streets would be a safer place.

Legalizing prostitution and mandating a state-run agency could potentially involve a system of registration — one where the prostitutes involved are screened for diseases, checked for a legal age and permitted a place to legally practice their trade, which would successfully encourage a safer environment where the use of a condom would be positively mandated and readily available.

This would have a drastic effect on eliminating the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Not only would the prostitutes be screened, but the interested party as well. If the government is simply going to turn its back on the problem, then it should at least provide an acceptable environment for prostitution. Having the city survey the involvement would certainly be better than a pimp with a selfish self-interest further polluting the streets.

At the moment, there is no place for prostitutes to go to promote their business, except the streets. If prostitution were legalized, it would be removed from the streets and put into a state-run facility where prostitutes could meet the prospective john. No longer would prostitutes need to advertise themselves on street corners and bus stops — a first step to cleaning up the streets rather than simply turning the other way.

Right now, prostitution is spreading into neighborhoods that are historically nicer simply because they are safer. With prostitution comes problems that exist on the streets and follow the lead of prostitution, problems like drugs and crime. If prostitution is leading the way, then it should be the first thing taken off the streets. Certainly not first in a series of steps to legalize other things like drugs, but rather first off the streets, leaving drugs and crime with no leader to follow.

Prostitution is an age-old dilemma that the police have turned their backs on, in a sense legalizing it. If it is going to be legal, then it should be done in a beneficial way. It should be done in a way that takes it off the streets, makes it safer, curbs the underage aspects and pays for all the cost incurred above with income that could be directly taxed by users of the city-run brothels. Instead of ignoring the problem, mandating state-run facilities would encourage a responsible alternative.



OPINION

Husky-Duck rivalry non-existent



CARA ECHEVARIA

During my first week here, I was doing the typical freshman shopping at the University Bookstore, trying to improve my collection of Duckwear. While perusing the T-shirts, I came across a shirt that left me confused. The tee read, "My two favorite teams are Oregon and whoever is playing Washington."

Now I grew up rooting for the Washington Huskies. Yes, I know that many of you are ready to turn the page, but wait. I have something to tell you that will keep you from continuing to make fools of yourselves. I hate to tell you this, but I feel some sort of responsibility. After all, I am a University of Oregon student now, and I feel like I should be looking out for my peers. So I am going to be blunt (straightforwardness is a quality we should all admire) and tell you crazy Duck fans how it really is.

The Huskies do not care about the Ducks. Having grown up praising Don James and wearing the holy purple and gold, I know what I'm talking about. I was just a youngster when my mother was earning her degree at the University of Washington, so I spent a lot of time on campus during my early years. I started following the Husky football team at an early age. I had a Husky Rose Bowl tee at the age of eight that I wore religiously. You might say that a love for the Dawgs was deeply embedded in me.

After following the Huskies for so many years, it's likely that I would know who their big

rivals are. Miami rings a bell, as does Michigan, but not once did I hear anything about Oregon. Like I said earlier, I'm telling you this for your benefit. The Huskies do not care about the Ducks.

Why do you think they scheduled their homecoming for the weekend that they played us? OK, I'll admit they did not have a good year, but they will be back next season. It's been a rough time for the Dawgs: the loss of coach James, bowl suspensions, lame actions of once-promising players ... I could go on forever. But what I'm trying to say is that Washington does not bat an eye when the Husky-Duck game comes up. Does the story of David and Goliath sound familiar? Well, when it comes to the Huskies, David just isn't going to win.

You may be wondering why I'm telling you this. Well, put yourself in my shoes. I could have gone to the University of Washington (for a lot less money), but I wanted to be a Duck. Of course I didn't base my decision on the reputations of the football teams, but nevertheless here I am. And I'm proud to be a Duck. Because I'm proud of our school, I'm trying to help save a little face.

What would you think of a USC student who wore a tee that read, "My two favorite teams are the Trojans and whoever is playing the Ducks." Chances are you would think he or she is an idiot. Reason being that there isn't much of a rivalry between

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the Ducks and Trojans. We really don't care about USC. And the Huskies really don't care about us.

What do you think University of Washington students (or a hardcore fan like myself) would think of someone who wore the T-shirt that reads, "My favorite team is Oregon and whoever is playing Washington." Yes, they would think that person was an idiot. If you truly disliked the Huskies would you want their fans to think you were an idiot? Probably not. Do you understand now? Do you see? I speak the truth.

I know I probably should have said something several weeks ago, but keep this knowledge in the back of your mind. There's always next year. And keep wearing that Duckwear, school spirit is a positive thing. And who knows, maybe by the time my senior year rolls around and we're playing the Huskies, I might just be rooting for the Ducks. Maybe.

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Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159 EUGENE OREGON 97403

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.

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