

Harding, Packwood, the OCA, Roberts, Oregon has it all

You've got to admit that Tonya Harding is the perfect Oregonian. She makes us all look like blithering idiots.

Seriously, now. Take a look at Oregonians that are perpetually in the news. There is (soon-to-be-ex) Senator Bob Packwood, who gets press for groping, there is Lon Mabon, head of the very-conservative Oregon Citizens Alliance, who gets press for opening his mouth, and there is Barbara Roberts, Oregon's incumbent governor, who seems to be having a lot of problems in office.

And then there's Tonya. One might imagine what people in other states think about Oregon, judging by all of the news that they get from our state. The Nancy Kerrigan assault and the possible Tonya Harding connection gets weirder by the minute. However, it certainly ranks up there with one of the stupidest crimes in a while.

Put yourself in this position for a minute. You are a nationally-known ice skater and want to ensure that you will be going to the Winter Olympics. However, there is a slight problem, namely someone named Nancy Kerrigan. She also wants to go to the Olympics. She might take your fame and fortune away if you don't get to go to the Games and would probably bruise your ego as well.

So, being a level-headed per-



ROBBIE REEVES

son in Tonya's shoes, what would you do?

Of course. The obvious answer would be to go destroy Nancy's kneecaps.

True, Tonya has not been convicted of anything (or, as of Friday, charged with any crime), but look at it this way. If your bodyguard and ex-husband were in on a plot to eliminate your Olympic competition, wouldn't you look like a suspect?

I think so. It would be a shame if Tonya Harding (and her reputation and career) went down in flames. She's one of a limited amount of icons that Oregonians (and, more specifically, Portlanders) have these days. And it gets tiring pretty quickly cheering for the Portland Trail Blazers (and I don't like basketball anyway).

However, before her future is totally obliterated, the more immediate question comes up of whether Tonya Harding should be allowed to participate in the Olympics.

Well, it's difficult to say. If she is charged with being involved in the take-out-the-competition plot, then, unfortunately, she shouldn't be allowed to represent America in the Olympics.

Why? Because she would make the rest of the team, and, indirectly, the country that she is representing, look bad. Real bad. It would show that, in America, it is all right to go after one's competition in any way possible, eliminate them, and then to compete without their presence. Not exactly the idea of the Olympics most would agree.

Just think, though. If Tonya does go to compete in the Olympics, would she intimidate all of her competitors from around the world to the point where they would wear kneecaps? Or maybe they could all skate with their bodyguards.

If charged, Tonya's trial could be moved to Norway, and the media following Harding can get a two week vacation. With this story, they probably deserve it!

I've heard complaints from people the last few days who are getting sick of hearing about Tonya Harding, and especially seeing her all over the front pages of newspapers (such as the Oregonian) and want to get back to the real news of the day.

Well, in time this will all blow

over. However, as irrelevant (outrageous, etc.) this story sounds, it is actually pretty important. The Harding case revolves around a person who wants to succeed so badly (in the Olympics, in this example), that she (may have) had some part in trying to destroy her competition.

The story is just as relevant as the Bobbitt case (does alleged assault and rape justify cutting off a man's penis?) and the Michael Jackson case (is Jackson guilty of molesting young people?). The only difference between these cases and those with non-famous people is that the people involved in the well-known cases have had a lot of media attention, while other people in comparable cases have not.

I'll admit, the story caught my attention not because of Nancy Kerrigan (whom I had never heard of before), but because of the Tonya Harding connection and Tonya's possible exclusion from the Olympics. However, more than this, the Harding-Kerrigan case is not just an isolated incident of envy among stars, but a reflection of the unjustified use of violence in American society today.

People seem all too willing to pick up a gun (knife, and so on) and kill (maim, injure, remove sexual organs, etc.) these days, where often a simple resolution

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to the problem exists.

It's saddening to think that Tonya may have sunk to the depths of the common criminal. However, that will all have to come out in a trial. (And I'm betting that there will be one. It seems that there is too much evidence against Tonya, and there needs to be some spectacular ending for the flood of made-for-TV movies that will be coming out any day now.)

I know that I sound like I am convicting Tonya right now, and I don't mean to. I have nothing against Tonya as a person. I truly hope that she knew nothing about this and that the whole thing was just a nasty coincidence that she didn't have anything to do with. But looking at things realistically, it doesn't look good for Harding.

In sports, not everyone can be a winner. But, with each passing story, Tonya Harding seems more like a loser.

Robbie Reeves is a columnist for the Emerald.

LETTERS

Hissie fit

Gee, Robbie, thank you very much for your hissie fit regarding military recruiters (opinion is too strong of a word). It is a fact that most young people receive propaganda from the U.S. Armed Services. Most simply ignore it if they are not interested. Not Robbie — he has to waste valuable paper discussing the obvious, while feeding us a full helping of his narrow-minded opinion.

Robbie shows further ignorance of his subject in stating that the purpose of the military is to "participate in various acts of murder and mayhem." Well, Robbie, it seems you need to be reminded that the mission of this nation's armed forces is to protect the Constitution. The military also protects American citizens and the interests of those citizens. Apparently, you believe that our reserve forces helping citizens in flooded Midwestern

towns and earthquake-devastated California also constitute "acts of murder and mayhem." Perhaps you do not realize that the National Guard is a member of our military.

From the tone of your opinion article, I would gather that a peace-loving guy like yourself would remember the words "live and let live." That does not seem to be the case. Perhaps you should do a little more thinking and a little less criticizing. Be

thankful that you can lock your door at night and crawl into your nice, warm bed. Meanwhile people like myself will be crawling through mud and getting shot at so you can have cheap gas and warm sheets. I do not begrudge your choice, Robbie, all I ask is that you respect mine. And if you have to deal with some junk mail and a few phone calls, I am sorry for the inconvenience.

**Kain Anderson
Undeclared**

The Oregon Daily Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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.

THIS WEEK



JAN. 24-30

EMU cultural forum and food service present
THE EMU BEER GARDENS
MUSIC ON TAP
in the EMU dining room

January

29 **The Daddies** 2 bucks

February

4 **Sun Runner**

11 **International Anthem**

18 **The Flapjacks**

21 AND OVER WITH ID

Alternative beverages available

Free Chips & Salsa 4 to 5

Live Music 5 to 7

EMU

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15% Off

Pepperidge Farm cookies and snacks

Youth Hostel Cards

Available for both International
Students and U.S. citizens

\$25

LTD Day Passes.....

\$1.90

Unlimited rides for one day

weaving workshop

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Wednesdays,
Jan 26-Mar 2
6:00-8:30pm



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