

EDITORIAL

Speed kills ... your pocketbook

The uninhibited weight that seems to draw one's accelerator pedal closer to the medal could drastically inhibit the controllable weight on one's pocketbook.

New legislation that goes into effect Feb. 1 is heavier than a lead foot, and crushing for those with a lead foot. For example, a 78-mph speeding ticket, in a 65-mph zone, that costs \$160 dollars today could cost a minimum of \$329 early next week. However, the increases are not just limited to speeding infractions, but traffic infractions in general. An open liquor container that costs \$57 today will increase to \$416 next week. Ignoring the flashing lights of a school bus will cost you \$630, an increase from \$110.

A common question is sure to be, why such a drastic increase?

"We're hoping this might encourage more compliance," said Bill Linden, state court administrator. An ugly way to ask for compliance, one might add.

"We don't have reason to justify these bails. The Legislature gave these new rules, and we have no other alternative than to set the tickets," Officer Bill Jennings said. He also mentioned he had a hard time comprehending the drastic increases.

Wait a minute. This is an officer of the law, the guy giving out the tickets, but even he doesn't know why they cost so much. Next time you find yourself on the shoulder of the rode with a peace officer at your window, handing over an infraction worthy of wiping out half your life savings, be sure to ask the officer, why is this so dang expensive? The response should be an amusing one.

Where is all of this money going anyways?

It is estimated that the increase in the infractions will generate an extra \$16 million, and that is only in the 17 months remaining in the state's two-year budget period. About \$12 million is to be allocated to the state general fund. (The general what?) The rest of the newfound riches are to be spent on cities and counties. (Be sure to note the improvements in your area.)

It seems a good portion of the increase in bails may have to go to an increased public relations task force for the police departments (maybe it can come out of the general fund). Certainly, they will have quite a lot of work to do patching up the relations between themselves and the unlucky recipients of the traffic infractions.

If you do feel the need for speed, take it elsewhere. Take it across the state line, where in both Washington and California the fines are considerably less. Considering the 65-mph speed limit, in Washington traveling between 71-75 mph provides a minimum fine of \$38, and in California the same infraction deems a \$54 ticket (as long as it's your first ticket). It seems a little biased to be subjected to such an increase when our neighbors aren't, but maybe Oregon is just a forerunner in the ticket increases.

For the officers giving the tickets, one might suggest they park slightly closer to the villain violating the law. Certainly a quick getaway might be the easiest explanation for the officer passing on the fine. When all else fails, don't forget, you can always take it to traffic court.



LETTERS

Responsibility

I am writing in response to a police beat article that appeared in the *Emerald* last week (Jan. 21). It reported a party at the Phi Delta Theta house in which alcohol was allegedly served to minors. What bothered me about this article was the way it was worded so as to place blame on the Greek fraternity for others' irresponsibility.

Why must we live in a society where someone else is always responsible for the decisions you and I make? When do people start to become liable for their actions? Concerns over underage drinking are warranted, but why must the Greek system be targeted more than anyone else?

I have been a member of this fraternity for three years and have seen, too many times, the Greek system persecuted by the University, the Eugene police department and by other Eugene citizens. I am no different than anyone else who attends this University, except that I am a Greek.

Yet, people have prejudged opinions about the Greek system. Don't judge us as a group, but rather as individual people. You couldn't explain the whole human kind by only looking at one person.

Long gone are the Greeks of *Animal House*. Kids today are a lot more responsible, no matter what the police or the University might tell you. Still, it is too bad that people condemn the Greek system when they know nothing about it. As individuals, we are just like everyone else, but when we are stereotyped, we are viewed as irresponsible animals, which is extremely untrue. Greeks are tired of being harassed just for growing up, something our parents — and those who criticize us — had to do.

Kyle Bland

Irresponsibility

I am writing to address the Lorena Bobbitt issue, specifically Robbie Reeves commentary in

the Jan. 13 *Emerald*. The tone of this article disturbed me somewhat. It sounded to me as if Reeves thought Mrs. Bobbitt to be an untrustworthy individual concerning her husband's behavior, that her claims of abuse and rape were fictional and were made in an attempt to create additional publicity. This is almost certainly not the case, because between the trial and the media attention, she must have been caused no end of embarrassment and emotional pain.

Reeves' tone throughout the article makes it sound as if Lorena is the one who is lying and that her side of the story is far less important, that her pain in her relationship was not real. This kind of attitude makes me sick.

When Lorena Bobbitt cut off her husband's penis, I doubt if it was without provocation. Spousal abuse is a real problem in this country, one that has been taken too lightly. I find it disturbing that Mr. Reeves chooses to trivialize Lorena Bobbitt's and any other abused woman's plight. He should be informed that, at least in the United States, it is not legal to either sexually or physically abuse your wife.

I think we should applaud Lorena Bobbitt for standing up and being courageous in the face of such abuse by both her husband and the media. And, although I don't condone spousal castration, I think Lorena Bobbitt's reaction to the situation was not completely out of the realm of reason.

Paul VanSickle
Pre-Journalism

Bad OCA

I couldn't say it any better than Robbie Reeves said in his opinion piece (*ODE*, Jan. 18). The Oregon Citizens Alliance is misguided in its thinking that homosexuality is a choice. Why are they so afraid of anybody who is different than them? The United States is not made up of just white Christians. Welcome to the present! It's called diversity.

Ben Nelson
Eugene

Oregonians need to join together to solve some real problems and not be turned against each other over some silly thing like this. Take your narrow-minded views home and stop trying to push them on the rest of us!

Jackie D. Cherry
Eugene

KWVA good

I am writing in support of the University radio station, KWVA. I have read in the *Emerald* that many think the station is a waste of time and money. Others say that nobody listens to the station. What was it that they said? Oh yes! That there's only 15 listeners, and they are all DJs, two guys from Springfield and their dog.

If you don't like the sound coming from your radio when it is tuned to 88.1 FM, it is only your fault. The DJs are more than willing to play whatever is requested. I for one have even heard the sounds of a country melody being played ... which could be punished by disembowelment. This just goes to show what lengths these radio announcers are willing to go to just to please their audience. So any arguments made on the basis that the music is not desirable should be seen as invalid.

What everyone should also realize is that KWVA is still in its first year of life. Other radio stations weren't built in a day. So just relax while 88.1 becomes more professional and popular. KWVA has already put on some very worthwhile concerts such as the "Screw" and has sponsored others at the WOW Hall. Plus, there's no better way to win tickets to local shows than by winning them from KWVA.

In closing, I would just like to thank campus radio for providing me an alternative to KDUK and Hot Country. Thumbs up from me for a tremendous job. And to all you pessimists of college radio, please transfer to some conservative school like Oregon State. Bye bye.

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