

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but I like hate mail

After having written this column for two months or so now, I thought that it might be interesting to share some of the responses that I have received.

Probably one of the things that I have heard people most often say is something like "Robbie, you look like you are having some sort of a neck (shoulder, etc.) spasm in the picture that runs with your column." Not exactly what I have been looking for as far as feedback goes, but thanks for noticing.

However, I really do enjoy hearing what people think about my column. No, I'm not on my knees begging "please, please write to me, please..." as I'm not that interested.

It could be said that my favorite type of mail is the hate mail. No, I haven't received any death threats quite yet (I've hired Tonya Harding's hit man just in case, so watch your knees if you send threats), but the anti-Robbie and anti-column letters are my favorite.

Most of the letters are letters to the editor. Actually, about a week or so ago, a string of them referred to me as either "ignorant" or some variation of unintelligent or the like. I loved them. I'm getting them framed next week.

Some people think that letters to the editor that disagree with



ROBBIE REEVES

my column somehow hurt either me or my column. Nonsense! Spell my name right and, hopefully, you might get me a few new readers. How could I disagree with that?

The mail I find most interesting is anonymous mail. Granted, anonymous mail won't get you anywhere in life and makes you look like a wimp, but it is occasionally fun.

One letter I received last week was from someone at a military recruiting office here in Eugene who was responding to my column on my persistent military recruiter in Portland. I would love to have mentioned this man by name, but he neglected to leave his full name on the letter. Anyway, he sent me a recruiting brochure along with a note that said "nice column." Finally! Someone in the military agrees with me!

I enjoyed the letters about my Packwood column, "Warm kisses and cold showers," in which I recounted the kiss-and-tell stories of Sen. Bob Packwood and a

campaign aide.

I received a letter in which a person stated that my opinion was typical of that of a man. Well, last time I checked I was staunchly anti-Packwood, and male, for that matter. I would hope that my column was representative of men, but then again, I don't speak for all men, just me. But thanks for writing.

Another letter was published from someone who said that she would stop reading the *Emerald* if she saw another Packwood column. Wow! I guess I'd better stop writing Packwood columns then! I might lose one of my three readers...

However, more than anything, I have been surprised about what hasn't brought in any mail.

Nobody here seems to care about the Tonya Harding fiasco. Granted, Tonya is more of a Portland figure, but I thought that more people would be writing to say something like "How dare you badmouth Tonya! She hasn't been convicted of anything yet! This is all probably some coincidence! Tonya couldn't have known anything!"

Well, I think I'll respond to the letters that never came. Tonya is beginning to look a little more guilty. Just a little more. Now, the attorney for Harding's ex-husband has revealed that Tonya was asked to approve the idea for the hit (no pun intend-

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ed) while driving her husband somewhere. To be even more exact, she was told about the idea near the intersection of 92nd and Flavel streets in Portland. I don't know why that is significant, but it was on the front page of yesterday's *Oregonian*, so it must be important.

Another thought that I would hear about would be the one on the new Clinton-sponsored condom ads. I thought that it was a very important topic, but the letters never came in. Either everyone agreed with me, or that issue of the *Emerald* hasn't yet been delivered to Springfield. (That'll do it. Now I'll hear from people that think I am bashing Springfield!)

My Bobbitt column brought in

less mail than I thought — only one letter. Actually, although Lorena has now been acquitted, we haven't yet heard the end of the Bobbitts. Lorena is now getting ready for a sanity hearing, which will determine whether she is released or will spend some time in a psychiatric institution. Also, it was revealed that an Ecuadoran group had threatened to castrate 100 American men if Lorena Bobbitt was convicted. That's one way to cut tourism...

OK, it may seem like I don't take all of the responses to my column seriously. I don't. I have trouble taking anonymous letters seriously, and some letters just sound off the wall. But I do read everything that is sent to me, and all letters to the editor. I actually enjoyed the letters that called me ignorant. Really.

So keep that mail rolling in. I'll be watching for your letter.

Robbie Reeves is a columnist for the Emerald.

CORRECTION

Zach Hochstadt was completely identified at the end of a letter to the editor in the Feb. 2 *Emerald* as simply Student Director. He is Student Director of the University Hillel.

THIS WEEK



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