

LETTERS

Saferide

Project Saferide was created in an effort to make the University campus a safer place after dark. It is a free, easy to use rape-prevention shuttle service specifically intended for use by female University students, staff and faculty. Prior to Saferide's existence, the Office of Public Safety received calls from up to 100 women per night requesting an escort. In contrast, OPS received approximately three calls from male students requesting this service during that entire year.

By servicing University women, Project Saferide allows OPS to focus its attention on its other duties. OPS still provides an escort service for both male and female students who are concerned for their safety. Any student, staff or faculty can request an escort from OPS at any time by calling extension 6-5444.

Project Saferide could not continue to operate without its dedicated team of volunteers, both male and female. We welcome new volunteers throughout the year, and are always available to answer questions and participate in seminars and workshops. We encourage those who are not familiar with our operation or services to visit us in the ASUO Women's Center, or contact us at extension 6-0653.

**Jen Reed
Leyla Farah
Co-Directors
Saferide**

Lynch Berg

Recently you ran an article on the Star Trek Information Council, which mentioned our sci-fi talk show in it. Although we appreciate all the free publicity we can get, we must take issue with your story. The show in question, which airs at 6 p.m. Sunday evenings on KWVA 88.1

FM, was listed in your pages as *Trek Talk*; it is fact called *Star Talk*.

Once again the *Emerald* staff shows its ineptness. Does the "Editor" Jake Berg do anything? Certainly not fact-checking. Indeed, he has once again shown his callousness to the student body's concerns. It is common knowledge that *Star Trek* is the only issue that unites everyone on campus. Perhaps if Jake spent a little more time editing the *Emerald* and watching TV, and a little less walking around campus looking for bike wrecks and squirrels, the paper would reflect everyone's interest in the greatest television show ever.

**Captain Zane Adams
Ensign Farm Boy
Grand Moff Tetsuo
Chief Niemonic
Star Talk hosts**

Do we learn?

We diligently attend classes and workshops to examine racism and bigotry. We see the need to start education on how to get along, early in life, as in kindergarten. However, I believe there are many other factors in bigotry that bring about alienated, hate-filled skinheads and others taking potshots at minorities, creating an opening for an Oregon Citizens Alliance and its holier-than-thou preachings which divide our communities.

It appears that we are in a period of great turmoil in which is added the deteriorating condition of the whole planet, loss of forest cover, polluted land and seas, acid rain, global "warming" and the thinning ozone layer. Kids see their parents struggling in ill-paid, inferior jobs, losing them and becoming homeless; parents who have no decent health care in this supposedly "great country of U.S.A."; parents who are finding that jobs are non-existent or being replaced by computers

and automation.

How can young people have ambitions to "make it big" when there is no place to go?

Who cares? With the lack of meaningful education and their feelings of weakness and inferiority, they pick on others of a minority and fantasize themselves to be superior or even blame them for their situation. They create (demonize) their enemies and so racism and bigotry are born.

Do we learn? No! But we could, with some better understanding of the causes, a decent minimum wage, a government sympathetic to labor and the environment and less concern with greed and capitalism.

**Hilde K. Cherry
Eugene**

Saddened

I was deeply saddened when I learned of the recent death of Ms. Leah Kirker. I had the pleasure of being in her World History discussion group two years ago. She was intelligent and informative, and she facilitated class discussions beautifully, keeping everyone involved and engaged with the material. She also had the kind of gentle personality that made her easy to approach for personal consultation and which, for me at least, commanded a natural sense of affection. I have no doubt that she would have made an excellent teacher at any level. The University community is worse for having lost a bright mind and a wonderful human being.

**Mark Radermacher
Snohomish, Wash.**

Ferret > Dave

This is a strange story, but I ask that you believe it as it is true. Last week my ferret escaped, and meticulously arranged his Johnny Cat to spell out, on the carpet of my apart-

ment building's lobby, a statement of his philosophy on why ferrets are superior to people. I took issue with his logic, and I told him so in great detail. "Bad ferret. Humans good. Humans smart. Humans make machines. Humans make environment better for humans." The next day, he had printed my rebuttal, again in Johnny Cat, faithfully reproducing my argument.

Several days later he laid out another diatribe, this time saying that he was right all along. He used my name specifically, with a bowdlerized version of my argument to prove his point. Of course I objected, and told him once again where he had misunderstood my argument. I didn't convince him that I was right, but next day, there it was: my opinion spelled out in Johnny Cat. He had enough respect for me to recognize that if he used my name in his editorial and specifically attacked my argument, that he also had the ethical obligation to print my response. I guess that makes my ferret superior to Dave Thorn, who failed to find room for my rebuttal to his latest mangling of my argument regarding the relative superiority or inferiority of critters. Can a ferret apply for editor-in-chief?

**Steve Close
English**

Not possible

I have not raped, and I don't agree that every man is a poten-

tial rapist. I am married, now, to a man who would never rape. His father would never rape, nor would my father. I have male friends who would never rape.

On the other hand, I regard all other men with suspicion and fear. After all, what does a rapist look like? In my support group, the men who raped us were young, old, tall, short, heavy, thin, black, white. They were single men, married men, college students, professional men, men who were unemployed.

How do rapists behave? Mine were openly menacing and hostile. Some were friends with their victims for years. Others were in relationships with their victims — they were tender, thoughtful, considerate, loving, and then suddenly, inexplicably, turned vicious, brutal, violent.

So, you walk around campus, surrounded by men. Is he a rapist? Is he? What about him? You just don't know.

Any man might be a rapist, and until he proves himself to be otherwise, I'm not trusting him to drive me home. The problem is, gaining my trust takes years! And even if a man proved himself to me, he would still have to be trusted by every woman who uses Saferide. That's just not possible.

If men want to start their own safe shuttle, I will support them. I am willing to pay higher fees, if they think they need the service.

**Korin Gary
Cognitive Decision Sciences**

LETTERS

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.

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