

**COMMENTARY**

# Student interest were neglected, especially LGBA Pride Week

By Tammy Howard and Douglas Knecht

As part of the Lesbian, gay, Bisexual Alliance (LGBA) Pride Week Planning Committee, we would like to express public thanks to the many people—lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual—who made Pride Week 1994 a successful event. There are too many people to mention so we are using the *Emerald* as the means to reach the masses in order to thank everyone who participate in Pride Week's success!

Speaking of the *Emerald*, as the number one means of University student, staff and faculty distribution (they distribute 10,500 copies throughout campus and the local community), we would also like to mention the newspapers in its Friday coverage of Pride Week.

With the exception of Lia Sal-

ciccia's commentary, the last-minute-looking two articles published were thrown together in reconciliation for the lack of coverage the first few days of Pride Week.

Look back to the *Emerald* April 26, and you'll see George Overkill was granted the front page photo while not one of the four Pride Week events that occurred consecutively on Monday were covered (beside being mentioned in the Et Als, but Douglas did that). Highly possible to believe the *Emerald* photographer who was running around with his camera taking pictures of the three hour rally wasted *Emerald*, student funded, film!

Along with Jackie Balzer, three *Emerald* staff reporter about discrimination on the University campus. We had talked for over an hour about harassment, the greek system,

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housing, general campus life and lack of safety for lesbians, gays and bisexuals, but there was no mention of the students in her article. Her interview intentions were unclear and after reading the article pub-

lished on April 29, we felt student voices were neglected.

The Committee was excited to see an article that addressed the panel "Color Me Queer." Lesbians, gays and bisexuals of color are often overlooked by both the heterosexual and homosexual communities, and we were elated to see the *Emerald* cover the issue. However, once again, after reading the article, we were disappointed in the reporter's efforts: Paraphrasing the panelists' comments and choosing only one voice to quote—not a panelist, but someone who was sitting next to him during the program.

Overall, the week was successful despite low media coverage. The Pride Week keynote speaker, Leslie Feinberg, drew such a high turnout in audience, it spilled out of the Gerlinger Lounge. Both the *Emerald* and the *Register-Guard* were informed about the keynote address, neither publication

mentioned her lecture.

Perhaps next year's celebration of Pride Week will have some merit in the pages of the *Emerald*. Knowing the *Emerald* is the best vehicle of information for students, staff and faculty at the University, we would like to believe that it is unbiased and supportive to the University's dedication toward student issues and concerns.

After all, the *Emerald* should reflect campus diversity and hopefully feature the celebrations organized by its students. Urge Overkill may have been an entertaining highlight, but in all fairness, University student functions and events should have some precedence, especially when the University newspaper is student run.

Tammy Howard is a member of the LGBA Pride 94 Committee Douglas Knecht is LGBA Special Events Coordinator.

**LETTERS**

**Good Prof.**

Class "The Origins of the Present and Image Making," we are writing in response to the negative press that George Kokis and "The Origins of Mark and Image Making" has received. We are concerned, yet realize we know very little about what happened. We do know that in our class, there is trust and no violation of that trust. Our concern in writing this letter is to support Professor George Kokis, whom we respect and to support this class which we value.

"The Origins of Mark and Image Making" is an unusually

engaging class. We are learning about our own lives as we reenact the lives of ancient peoples. Our classroom is by the river, and we meet there regardless of the weather. At the beginning of each class, George carefully explains what we will do and the time and place in which we will live for the next few hours. We express our meanings of what we do through story, making things, dance, painting and theater.

At the end of the class we review our day. George guides this discussion as we talk seriously about our origins as humans. He connects our insights to scientific research

and his knowledge of the past. The meaning of "sacred" becomes clearer as we touch the spirit of making things and images in our work together, realizing the need we all have—then and now—to make special things.

George is an excellent teacher. As we share what we make and think and feel, George listens with patience and attention, helping us to learn the ancient wisdom of giving and to develop meaning from these experiences. We are fortunate to be in this class and to have George Kokis as our professor.

Barbara Goldberg  
Fine and Applied Arts

**Inferno**

The publication of my recent letter, "Secret codes" (ODE, April 27), addressing the effects of Bob's Inferno on educational quality, is a prophecy come true. The copy editing of my letter makes me believe that we already lost the battle.

For example, words in my letter were changed, apparently to be easier to read: "suspension" was substituted for my word "suspicion"; "design" was substituted for my word "deign," which by the way means "Condescend, patronize, stoop." Another "big word" (attributed)

was inappropriately capitalized. The word "getting" was omitted in the sentence, "It is obvious that Mr. Bosco is not getting any better." The subtlety missed here was that art therapy was not improving his mental condition. As published, we do not know what Mr. Bosco is better than.

Like, man, I'm blown away totally if some dude thought, like, ya know, I misused words in such a bogus way! Like maybe I was some kind of dork or something who don't know how to speak so good? Man, like that really sucks.

Robert L. Weiss  
Professor of Psychology

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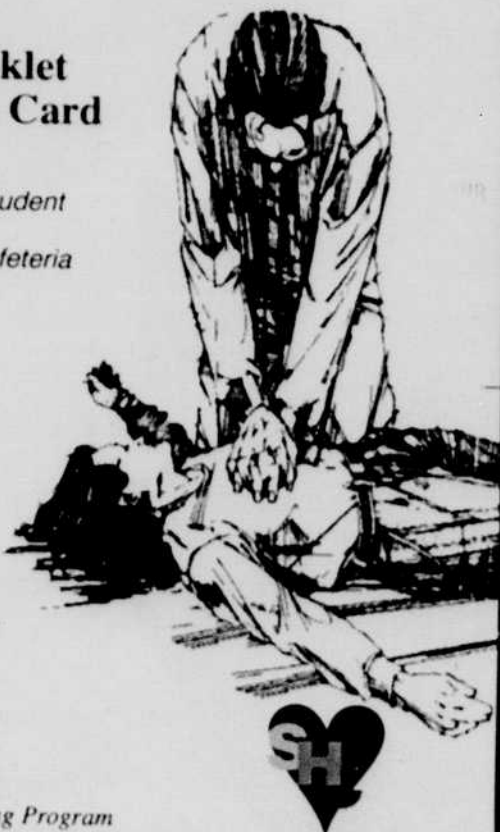
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