

EDITORIAL

Changes needed to protect students

Warning: Your most valuable possession carries the least protection.

Social Security numbers should be worth more than an expensive sports car, but they're given the security of a cheap bicycle.

At this University, where it's better to know a number than a name, just about everything you need on campus requires a student identification number. Unless you request an alternative number when applying for admission, this number is your Social Security number.

Lost your meal card? Tell the cafeteria worker your number and you get lunch. Need to register for a class? Duck Call takes numbers, not names. And if you want to check a grade, just look for your number posted outside a classroom.

Social Security numbers are used everywhere from class rosters to the backs of photo identifications. Although these numbers are meant to be confidential, students and other campus visitors can easily obtain ID numbers of other students. It's no wonder students are concerned about their privacy.

Students who use their Social Security numbers for University IDs are incredibly vulnerable to theft and fraud crimes that could destroy their credit ratings and threaten their safety. Since student numbers are used frequently, this campus is an easy target for potential criminals.

Social Security numbers are the key to finding any specific information about a person. With just nine digits, people gain access to bank accounts, credit cards, addresses and other personal information. Through Social Security numbers, con artists can learn enough about a person to assume his or her identity.

The University has used some small precautions to protect student privacy. But it's not enough.

Some professors still post full Social Security numbers when listing student grades, despite a reminder from University administrators not to do so. This summer, more than 800 Social Security numbers were posted outside of a classroom, serving as an open invitation for fraud and theft, clearly violating student rights.

Professors should respect student privacy by finding alternative ways of posting grades. Some professors have tried posting only the last four digits of student numbers, while others use code words to list grades. Another solution would be to issue numbers specifically for the purpose of grade posting. Whatever the method, Social Security numbers should not be open to the public eye.

University officials also need to let students know that they do not have to use their Social Security number for their student ID. Give students a choice.

When Social Security was first organized in the 1930s, numbers were issued on the basis of strict confidentiality. Citizens kept their numbers safe in deposit boxes and vaults. Let's work to keep those numbers private.



LETTERS

Sidewalk Faire?

I am writing in concern of the market along a portion of East 13th Avenue, the recent street faire. Although the stalls held objects of interest and good food, I feel it was not well planned to have the stalls facing the street itself. This caused traffic jams for both bicyclists and pedestrians. It destroys the point of having sidewalks if pedestrians are going to block the road for those persons on bicycles trying to get to class on time. I did not appreciate receiving dirty looks from people looking at merchandise while I was riding my bike where the law says to. The organizers of the street faire should consider facing the stalls toward the sidewalk so that those interested could stop and browse without creating chaos on the street.

Shannon Terry
Student

(Cough)

I recently meandered through the EMU Art Gallery for a look at the (cough) "Uncensored Celebration" exhibit, and a couple of questions come to mind.

First, since when does the concept of "uncensored" include hanging black curtains in front of anything that might be deemed offensive by morally tender members of our society? Hello! We're college students now; we don't need our sensibilities babysat by black curtains and people who "know what's best for us" anymore. College is supposed to be a time when people are exposed to new ideas and different points of view (even controversial ones). It's an expanding your mind kind of thing.

Second, if memory serves, about four years ago the EMU featured an anti-war exhibit by local artist Mike Randles. It consisted of numerous cross-shaped wooden frames with papier mâché body parts, leaning on crutches. There were hearts hanging at chest level, intestines festooned around the abdominal area, various unidentifiable chunks of meat here and there, and prominently affixed to each at crotch level, a set of male gen-

itals — some complete and some incomplete.

Is this little discrepancy due to the differing themes of the two shows? War as opposed to incest and homosexuality? Is it because the Randles exhibit displayed male genitals and most of the (cough) uncensored pieces feature women? Are the folks running the exhibits more uptight now than four years ago, or are students more easily offended?

Then again, and I know this is laughably optimistic, perhaps the curtains are there to make some sort of ironic statement on the purpose of censorship ... nah, that would mean giving credit to the intelligence of students, and the powers that be wouldn't want to do that.

Teresa Knezek
Political Science

No more cages

I always thought the EMU Gallery deserved more attention. However, the black curtains are not what I had in mind. Rather than rail against the curtailed minds of the EMU administration who wish to keep controversial art hidden in the technicality that a public causeway (a.k.a. the EMU Gallery) does not allow those passing through it a "choice," I suggest that they quit with the twinkie defense and give the gallery a proper home.

Rather than bastardizing a hallway and glibly patting yourselves on the back for providing cultural enrichment, that is until the free "decoration" does not meet with some arbitrary standard of propriety, give the gallery *real* space. Legitimize this gallery with a door and proper lighting and the ability to view things without even glass in the way. How can the gallery be called a gallery if it is also a hallway? And how can the curator be justifiably hired as a student curator unless she is given some autonomy in hanging art that needs to be seen and not censored?

Quit waiting for the next controversy. In every community college and university that I have ever visited, there is a *place* in their student unions for a gallery.

Not a hallway, not a closet, but at least more than seven narrow glass cages and a barricaded wall where getting close means setting off an alarm. Get with it! University President Dave Frohnmayer's brother John (former chairman of the NEA) has said, "It's the artist's duty to tell the truth and raise hell." How can truth ever happen behind the Iron Curtain?

My eternal support and confidence in the Cultural Forum and Anna Spickerman is prompted by shows such as "See No Evil." Provide them with the ability to do their jobs or quit pretending you have the student body's interests at heart.

Tori W. Orr
Fine Art and English

Save Amazon

I attended the forum given by the Amazon tenants Thursday and I came away convinced, contrary to the views of Dave Frohnmayer and some of his advisors, that to build new Amazon housing rather than rehabilitating current housing would be a great waste of money. (I do have some reservations, however.)

I therefore believe that the Amazon tenants should draft two letters: one to be sent to all state legislators and one to many potential donors of money (such as Mr. Lundquist, whose recent multi-million dollar gift got the business school named after him). The letter should suggest to the legislators and donors that they should ask Frohnmayer, "Why should we give you money when you are so very wasteful with it?" Before sending the letters, the tenants should show the drafts to Frohnmayer to get his attention.

They should also ask the legislators and the donors, many of whom are corporate executives, to send their own financial experts to realistically evaluate costs. For example, they should include the value of the "sweat equity" of those very bright tenants that, at \$10 per hour over 50 years, could exceed \$20 million.

Daniel Weiner, Ph.D.
Eugene

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3155, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Managing Editor	David Thorn	Editor-in-Chief: Kaly Soto
Editorial Editor	Joe Harwood	News Editor
Graphics Editor	Jeff Paslay	Sports Editor
Freelance Editor	Alaina Baum	Photo Editor
In-Depth Editor	Ed Klopferstein	Supplements Editor
		Night Editor

Associate Editors: Friedrich von Carp, Student Government/Activities; Marcelene Edwards, Community; Tiffany Smith, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Lori Bettineski, Wilson Chan, Amy Colombo, Tasha Eichenseher, Abe Estimada, Primo Fontana, Gayle Forman, Christopher Fox, Matt Garton, Gary Grass, Sarah Henderson, Kris Henry, Trevor Kearney, Adam Kincher, Mark McTyre, Ben Moebius, Anne Moser-Kornfeld, Sherry Rainey, Robbie Reeves, Lia Salociccia, Paul Van Sickle, Kim Weiss, Daniel West, Brian Womack

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Mark Waller
Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising: Marco Ching, Tony Fox, Erin Hersher, Nicole Herzmark, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Sarah Mitchell, Tom Mittelstaedt, Kelsey Wekell

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager, Sim Tze Teck
Distribution: John Long, Ferenc Rakoczi, Regina Zsopnik

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor, Judy Connolly
Production: Dehila McCobb, Production Coordinator, Shawna Abele, Greg Desmond, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Matt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

Newsroom: 346-5511
Display Advertising: 346-3712

Business Office: 346-5512
Classified Advertising: 346-4343