

LETTERS

Scapegoat

I have just reread your editorial (ODE, Feb. 1). I found your examination of pending drunk driving bills insightful. I would like to say a few words concerning your advice to and criticism of the police, which occurs in the last two paragraphs.

You say that a novel approach would be for police to patrol parking lots around places where drinking takes place. This is already a standard and widespread practice among police officers. If there are no calls for service at that particularly busy time of night, most officers can be found establishing a presence outside watering holes in their districts.

Your next suggestion, that officers go to schools and teach students about the hazards of drunken driving, is a wonderful thought, but it begs an important question — how many roles and job descriptions shall we foist upon these men and women? I realize that our expectation is for them to be the same sort of non-human superpeople, but they are already our "social service of last resort." When all other elements of society have dropped the ball, we ask them to come in and clean up the mess. If they proceed to do so too forcefully, we condemn; if inefficiently, we mock and deride. And now you would have them not only take up other professions' slack, but you would have them also replace these professions. Thus you put them in an increasingly untenable position, maneuvering them to be our "scapegoat of last resort."

Adam Rasmussen  
Asian Studies

Uninformed

This letter is in reference to Brian Womack's opinion, "Military can't fight two wars" (ODE, Feb. 2).

Mr. Womack, why do you write the opinion column? Your

opinions are uninformed to a degree that makes them a joke. I am lost to see why you waste your time and mine.

Anyway, my criticism.

1. What if 'some other country decided to invade' the United States? Well, the simple answer is that you'd be screwed, no matter what size your army was. If you weren't so focused on size, you might notice that the structure of the U.S. military is spread all around the globe. The military is not designed to defend the United States; it is positioned for offensive strikes in other countries.

2. Which particular country is going to invade the United States? Let me guess ... North Korea or maybe Nicaragua again? Or maybe some other devious menace that is planning a sneak attack that only you, the Republican party and the tooth fairy know about. When was the last time the United States was invaded? Since the British invasion of 1812, I can't think of anyone who has even come close. In contrast, how many other countries has the United States invaded or occupied in the last 200 years? I've lost count. Maybe we shouldn't get into the use of the U.S. military for colonial exploitation. I doubt if you could cope with that much reality. Better that you should live in the dark, with your uninformed opinions.

3. Why do you need to fight two wars at once? So you can impose your will on other countries? To enforce the interests of big business? Why do you need to fight any wars at all? Is it a macho power trip for you? Would the nasty foreigners not bend down and kiss your feet, so now you're going to kick their asses? Are you still reminiscing the good old days of the Vietnam War?

War expenditure causes the majority of the national debt in this country, directly through weapons manufacturing and by

supporting 'anti-communist' governments. If the need for militarism could be overcome, then maybe a start could be made in reversing the national debt.

The way you write your article, you sound like someone who gets a real kick out of those big, long missiles, just sitting in silos waiting to thrust forward. Not to mention those hunky young men with those big, long guns. War is sexy, isn't it, Brian? It's an affirmation of manliness. The fact that other people die doesn't come into it, really. Might is right, and you're number one.

P.S. Who asked you for your opinion? And what ever possessed you to believe that you had an opinion that was worth hearing?

Stephen Milligen  
History

Bizarre logic

I read and reread the commentary of the Newman Center's ordained staff. I will try not to make too much of its bizarre logic that feeling rejected by those that one perceives as being in control is not only an "understandable" reason to execute them, but then they conclude with an implication that the executioner may be absolved of responsibility.

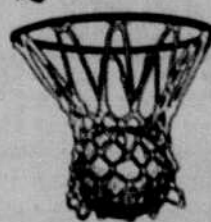
As ordained priests of the Catholic Church, Fr. Pimentel and Fr. Lucci have very subtly applied the practice of absolution, pardoning of sin, to those who may choose to execute staff members at women's clinics. They present this act of absolution in their conclusion, written in the form of an ultimatum. "Unless this is recognized, the bloodshed will be in the hands of the pro-choice movement. ..."

I feel their subtlety is an obvious contribution to the inflammatory nature of anti-abortion terrorism.

Patrick Clancy  
Eugene

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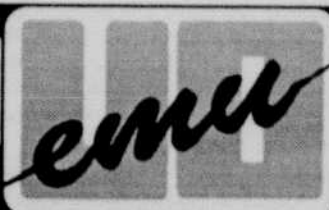
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- Save postage: Pay your EWEB & NWNG to the Main Desk Store. Save 32¢ on each bill paid. (Sorry, we no longer accept U.S. West.)

Catch these Cultural Forum/SARO events:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Holly Near</b><br>(women's folk/jazz favorite)<br>Thurs., Feb. 16th, 8:00 pm<br>EMU Ballroom<br>\$10 student,<br>\$14 general public | <b>Jim Carroll</b><br>(cult author and poet)<br>Feb. 22nd, 8:00pm<br>150 Columbia<br>\$4 student,<br>\$6 general public |
|---|---|

**UO Queer Film Festival**  
Feb. 17, 18, 24, 25, 26 180 PLC  
\$4 student, \$5 general public  
PASS: \$9 student, \$15 general public  
The Cultural Forum Events Crew needs volunteers for these events. For more information call: 346-4373

Shakespeare in Ashland

Whether you are new to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival or a seasoned professional, a trip to Ashland is always great fun. A trip is being planned for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 17, 18 and 19, 1995. Plays include *Twelfth Night*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Pravda*, and possibly, *Mississippi Delta*. Rooms are being held at the Albion Inn Bed and Breakfast (5 rooms) and Stratford Inn (5 rooms). Transportation will be pooled among participants. Call Frank Geltner at 346-0007 for details! Rooms on first come, first serve basis.

4 Plays  
+2 Nights  
(double occupancy)  
\$160  
including service fee

The Shakespeare Festival is an Oregon Treasure!

CONCERT

tickets on sale

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Great White ..... \$14.00    | Acoustic Junction..... \$5.00    |
| Floater ..... \$5.50         | Zero ..... \$9.50                |
| Black Happy..... \$6.50      | NW Tap Consort..... \$8.50       |
| Ferron..... \$14.00, \$10.00 | The Meditations..... \$10.50     |
| res. seats                   | Steel Pulse..... \$12.00 UO st., |
| Trixter..... \$10.50         | \$15.00 GP                       |

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