

■ LETTERS

**Inflammatory**

I am writing this letter as a result of Mr. Harwood's inflammatory articles about student athletes, which depict people in stereotypical fashion (ODE, April 24 and 25).

I thought investigative reporting, by definition, required all parties to be interviewed. At no time was I ever contacted to present my side of this story, although the person accusing me was able to speak without restraint throughout the article.

I went before a court of law and paid my fines for the one situation in which I was involved. I thought that I could move on, but now find it to be untrue. It seems to be considered a legitimate thing for this reporter to drag out this three-year-old incident and rehash the whole thing — without, of course, any input from me.

Now, with allegations about my life spread out for the whole community, I find myself embarrassed about coming to school and going to class. Even though I was never proven guilty of anything, I am now guilty by accusation in the press.

Whatever happened to "innocent until proven guilty"?

I have also been really upset about being connected somehow to gangs. I left Hawaii and came to Oregon in order to escape the gang-affiliated environment. I am not a gang member, but the press seems to feel free to print anybody's suggestion that I might be somehow involved.

I am of Samoan background. I weigh 350 pounds. I stand 6 feet 3 inches tall. I am a person who

stands out in a crowd.

Because of my appearance, I seem to be stereotyped as a mean, aggressive individual. I am none of those things, but what I really am doesn't seem to matter to this reporter.

The worst part of these articles is the implied accusation that I am the kind of person who would enjoy intimidating other people. That is the last thing I want people to think of me. When I walk around campus, I know that people are thinking about me and, even though it's totally false, they believe that it's true. That hurts me worse than any of the other stuff.

I am sure that Mr. Harwood feels that his "expose" is his ticket to success in the journalism area. It is a shame that he neglects to consider others' civil rights in his attempt to make a name for himself.

If Mr. Harwood had at least talked to me before writing his articles, perhaps he would have understood that I am a human being as well.

**Tasi Malepeai**  
Sociology

**Endorsement?**

As I was walking down 13th Avenue last week, a girl handed me a flyer and told me to vote for Chris [Kantrowitz] and Niki [Scott]. I was very impressed by who I thought had endorsed them.

As I proceeded to the EMU, another student gave me a flyer with Jennifer [Williamson] and Zachary [Kelton] on it. The flyer had a copy of an endorsement from the *Emerald*.

This really confused me, as I thought from Chris and Niki's flyer that the *Emerald* had endorsed them. After a quick call to the *Emerald* I found that they had in fact endorsed Jennifer and Zachary.

I felt Chris and Niki were out to pull a fast one on me and my fellow University students. I kept asking myself, "Is this the type of president and vice president we want to represent us here at the U of O?"

I urge my fellow students to do as I have and get all the facts! I, for one, know that I will be voting for Jennifer and Zachary on Wednesday.

**Karen Ellison**  
Undeclared

**Look now**

This may seem like a departure from the normal letters, but I wanted to call attention to the wonderful job someone did landscaping. There are some beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees on campus, especially in between University and Agate Streets. Even fairly common flowers like tulips and daffodils can be found in unusual colors, sizes and textures. I should have written this earlier, because many of them are fading now, but there is still time to look.

The flora may seem insignificant compared to terrorist bombings and even ASUO elections, but in little things and our reactions to them, we find our humanity. And if we lose our humanity, what do we have left?

**Gina Harris**  
Romance  
Languages/History

**Be conscious**

If I have one more flyer shoved in my face while walking down 13th Avenue I am going to scream until I am blue in the face.

Here we stand, on one of the most "environmentally conscious" schools in the country, on the brink of the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, in Flyer Hell.

Isn't it ironic that we are being asked to pay indirectly for student campaigns generating thousands of basically "worthless" ads at the same time Campus Recycling is being asked to pay for election and OSPIRG paper blitzes, but also the recycling? Give me a break.

Think of all the times you have almost been impaled by an OSPIRG publicity stake while walking past Chapman. Honest to Pete — these gung ho volunteers stick those dumb advertisements every five inches. Do they think that every five inches we are struck blind? One stake every 24 feet would be more appropriate and effective.

Like any self-respecting die-hard liberal, I support student activism. However, I do not

think handing out several trees a day on 13th Avenue with ASUO candidates' pictures plastered on them is the solution to apathy, especially if we're paying for it. If you want people to vote for you, wear a sandwich board, utilize the *Emerald* (which we also subsidize), KWVA and our brand new \$50 technology fee. A few posters on recycled paper is fine. Using a forest is ridiculous.

With OPEU striking soon, we need to become more conscious of the trash we are generating on campus and the advertising which, for the most part, ends up on the ground.

To you candidates who insist on contributing to the nation's landfills, perhaps you should rethink why you want to become involved in politics and if you are prepared to make the sacrifices that come with changing the world.

To OSPIRG, I question the hypocrisy that stems from your bleached paper campaigns. Remember the 25th anniversary of Earth Day and what it stands for.

**Jennifer Knight**  
Pre-Journalism

■ LETTERS & COMMENTARY POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* welcomes letters and commentaries from the public concerning 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.

Commentaries should be between 600 and 800 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the commentary is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

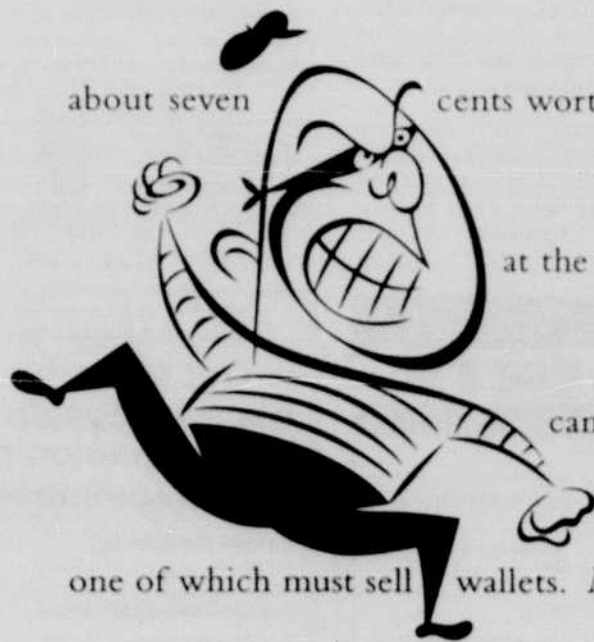
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