

■ COMMENTARY

Mens' Center aims to provide positive reinforcement

Michael Endicott

I will not dignify much of Paul Van Sickle's personal assault on me (ODE, May 18) with a response, but I do have this to say. My commentary was not about rape in any way, shape or form. Paul said, "The question was not meant as an attack on men but rather a form of education."

And I say, has society educated women and minorities that way for centuries? Maybe his sharp words were meant as the whip of education or maybe they are an attempt to "grind my spirit to dust." Who can say?

I do know one thing: his words affected me deeply because they are categorically untrue. I gave Paul the opportunity to find out more about me and my ideas by providing my e-mail address with my commentary, but he already has

stereotyped me as a bigot and his end then justified his means.

I have inserted an excerpt of a letter I sent to the president of the University April 28 (prior to the commentary) that may clarify some of the erroneous assumptions made in Paul's opinion about me and the Mens' Center.

"Most people have no idea what the problems of men are in modern society. Many issues that affect men in fundamental ways are not addressed ... and the men affected suffer in silence.

"One of the things that is needed is an ASUO Mens' Center ... This center would work closely with faculty and staff currently employed by the University to establish support and prevention programs that will help young men prepare for a future in which they can fully take part in a society that is more equal than any previous

society we have known. Men understand men best and men are the people best-suited to reach out to other men and help them on a new road to social justice.

"The second thing that is needed is a Mens' Studies curricula that can articulate the condition of men as it stands today and help men make choices that make society more suited to equality for all members.

"While I do not advocate for a reduction in the financial and ideological support for women and their issues, I do believe that an equal effort should be made on behalf of the men of this University and our issues," (end excerpt).

As for the Mens' Center, it exists and has members from the former Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault Support Services, along with other people from various walks of life. Here is what we are about.

Our philosophy is based on a fundamental respect for the civil rights of all humanity. We believe that the social contract demands of us actions that promote the welfare of all individuals in society. We believe that the politics of utility are the politics of stagnation and that the means will ultimately define the end. We believe that the social contract is a center-seeking force and its center is consensus, unity and equality for all citizens.

Our mission is fivefold:

- To provide positive reinforcement for the image and self-esteem of men on campus.
- Engage in a social activist campaign in our campus community and beyond.
- To provide a platform for research into mens' issues.
- To provide a place where men can gather to explore the meaning of being a man both

personally and socially.

- To sponsor social activities that support the first four missions.

There is much more to learn about us and we hope not to be born into the fire of angry rhetoric. If you are the least bit inclined to criticize me or the Mens' Center you should at least come and find out more about us.

You can contact me at my e-mail address, mee@gladstone, or the Mens' Center e-mail address, kev@gladstone.

You will find out that we are men and women of conscience. Soon we will have our own home page on-line and our newsgroup. Watch for it. Our next meeting is Thursday night at 6 p.m. in EMU Century Room E.

Michael Endicott is the lead organizer for the Mens' Center.

■ LETTERS

Fix my letter!

I am the author of the letter titled "Union Diaries," (ODE, May 19). I wish to inform you of one error in your publishing of my letter.

The paragraph: "Who cares about those children out of care this week? But we also have families to feed."

It should have been published: "... who care about those children out of care this week, but also have families to feed," because if you read the sentence I wrote preceding this paragraph,

"We are women who provide quality childcare at the EMU's Childcare and Development Center's seven sites on campus and off with some of us earning as little as \$1,100 a month," you would see that the way you published the "who cares" line with the word "cares" and the question mark at the end implies that we as teachers at CCDC don't care. We do care.

Please publish this letter to explain this correction. If you don't, you imply my insensitivity toward the children I care for by leaving the paragraph as you

published it, not the way I wrote it.

Victoria Bolz
Assistant Childcare Teacher,
EMU CCDC, West-
moreland Preschool

Protection?

I was alone in my home Friday night when someone decided to let himself in and wander around. It was only after the intruder left that my roommate arrived and we called the police. About 45 minutes passed and

there was no patrol car in sight. [We made] another call to the police only to be told there weren't enough officers on duty for anyone to come.

A walk past the police department makes it evident there is not a lack of police cars in Eugene, nor does there ever seem to be a shortage of officers needed to confiscate a skateboard, or give out tickets to bike riders because they ran a red light, or didn't ride in the bike lane.

Isn't the purpose of the police force to protect the citizens? Well, I want to know where my pro-

tection was when my home, my privacy and my piece of mind were invaded.

As citizens of Eugene, you should be aware that if you are ever in the same situation, don't be so sure that anyone on the police force will answer your call for help.

Are your tax dollars really going toward the good of the community, or is your salary buying the guys in the station a new kind of Starbucks coffee?

Tizzy Upsher
Eugene

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