

## Pinkman's powers fail; superheroes aren't real

**■ OUR OPINION:** Pinkman has a skeleton in his closet, but we should forgive him

It takes coordination to keep your balance on a unicycle. Riding one of those single-wheeled contraptions is a lot like life: Sometimes the ride is smooth and uneventful; sometimes you take such a bad spill that you wonder if you'll ever be able to get back on.

Last week Pinkman's life hit some loose gravel. His past cruised up from behind and ran right over him.

Michael Max, also known as "Pinkman," was a self-styled superhero on the front page of *The Register-Guard* last Wednesday.

Two days later Pinkman went from silly superhero to child molester when *The Guard* reported that Max had fondled three girls in separate incidents during a several-year period.

What a difference two days make.

Thanks to this recent revelation, Pinkman's image has gone from a brilliant day-glo pink to an embarrassing shade of red.

That's good.

Max's behavior was indefensible and any attempt to minimize his actions would be irresponsible. However, he also admitted his deeds and turned himself in. He has shown remorse. His past is forgivable.

It is for this reason that we should grant Max a second chance in our community. While Max has a serious problem that he must continue to deal with through professional counseling, we should not run him out of town.

Society justifiably holds a more intense amount of con-

tempt for individuals who purposefully harm children. This is as it should be. Children who depend on adults for protection and guidance suffer deep psychological wounds when the very people they look up to turn on them and hurt them.

We urge the victims of abuse to see someone who can help start the healing process. Victims of abuse have been dealt an unfair hand, but there is hope. They are not to blame.

The fault lies with people who have a problem. People like Pinkman.

But, as tragic and awful as Max's actions were, we should save our rage and be stingy with our forgiveness for inhuman monsters such as Ted Bundy, Elizabeth Diane Downs and John Wayne Gacey. Society has to be protected from individuals such as these who are better off spending the rest of their lives in prison.

Max has already paid a hefty price for his actions, and he shouldn't be hated or driven from our city.

It seems he has been trying to get his life back on track after having to start all over again. The man deserves another chance.

Pinkman's joy is contagious. He has made us smile and laugh in the middle of our otherwise routine and boring days.

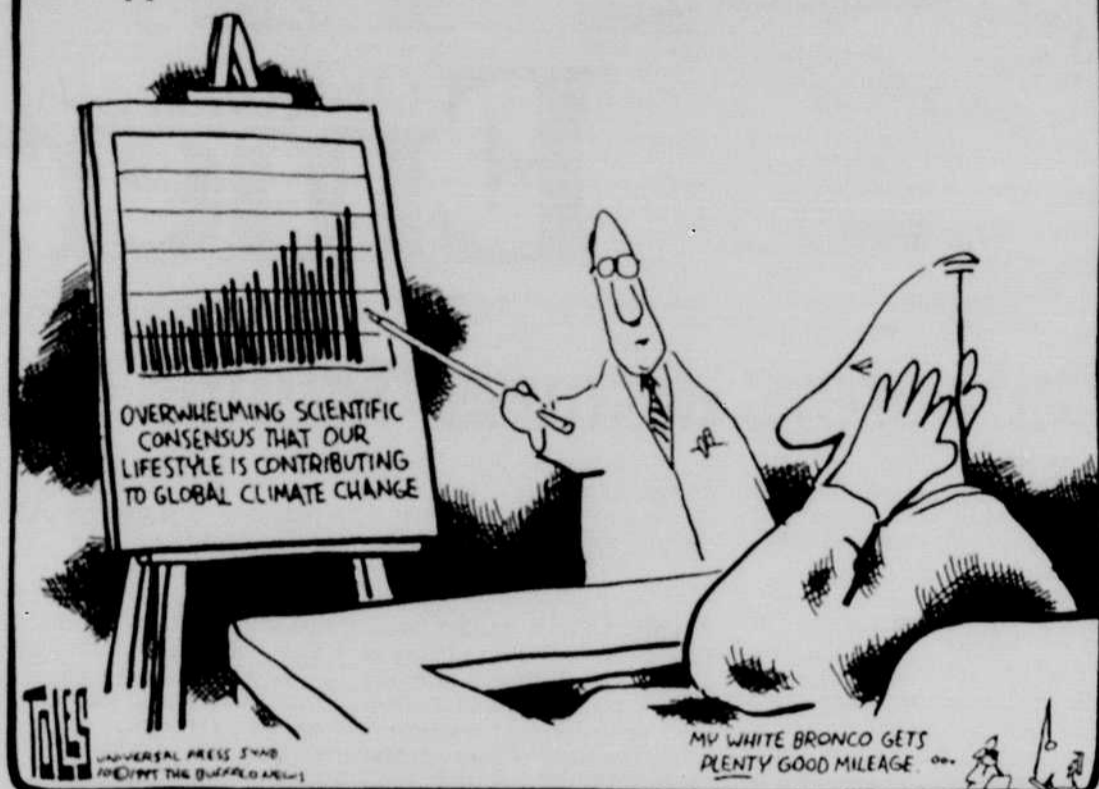
He did the right thing by bravely coming forward and turning himself in.

Now, for his sake and the benefit of the people around him, he should resume his counseling. If he does, he may be able to find that elusive inner peace without putting on the pink suit.

Then there will be a new superhero in town.

Michael Max.

But we wouldn't ignore scientific evidence just because it happens to be something we don't want to hear. Noooo....



### LETTERS

#### Supreme law

Normally I find your editorials to be harmless if somewhat uneducated babble. The editorial regarding the Supreme Court (*ODE*, Oct. 9), has crossed the line.

To accuse a conservative court of legislating from the bench is to ignore the last 40 years of Supreme Court history. The very term "legislating from the bench" came in response to the efforts of the Warren court to rewrite social policy, regardless of what was in the Constitution.

The fact that much of what came from the court was good does not change the reality that it was, for the most part, judicial legislation. In *Roe v. Wade*, the court changed the law rather than allowing it to be changed through the legislative process. By contrast, the Rehnquist court has generally followed the Constitution and has not let the right of judicial review get out of hand.

Just because we may agree with what the Warren court did does not change what it was — judicial legislation. Just because we don't agree with the actions of the Rehnquist court does not give us the right to call it something that it is not.

Robert M. Farley  
Political Science/History

#### Humans, not God

This letter is in response to Jesse Bohrer-Clancy's column concerning "God" and the two-slit experiment in quantum physics (*ODE*, Oct. 13). Though Bohrer-Clancy is correct in saying the experiment brings up very large questions of metaphysics as well as physics, his conclusion that some sort of god is therefore at work in the periphery is a somewhat galactic jump in logic.

The two-slit experiment has to do with the wave/particle duality of light. Photons of light are shot through a sheet with two slits cut in it. The interference patterns that result on the photographic plate (the measuring device behind the double-slitted sheet) do, as Bohrer-Clancy states, vary depending on whether you know ahead of time which slit the photons have passed through. The illogical jump he makes, though, is to explain this discrepancy by resorting to some sort of (dare I say Christian?) god.

The experiment does not so much prove that some "prankster god" is at work, as it shows that the act of focusing your mind, your consciousness, on an experiment can causally effect that experiment.

The critical variable in the experiment (the variable that creates the two separate interference patterns) is not "God," but rather the human observation of which slit the photons have passed through.

An answer to this very important discrepancy shown by the experiment is not to be found in

resorting to Christian theology, but rather in more study (scientific or otherwise) of the connection between human consciousness and physical matter.

Such study would help us to transcend tired, incomplete and often dangerous materialist-science world views and allow us to form more complete and less destructive metaphors with which to perceive the world.

Saul Harper  
Philosophy/Women's Studies

#### Hunger activism

I was surprised to see myself the subject of your editorial (*ODE*, Oct. 13), with quotes, as neither I nor any other hunger strikers (there are now three) have ever spoken to anyone at the *Emerald* staff. You said our hunger strike to oppose logging without laws "will change little," will not "have any effect on the logging of Oregon's timber," and is "pointless and a little silly."

You chide the hunger strikers because we are not "willing to die for our cause." You suggest that we should: "Write commentaries to local papers. Ask people to sign petitions. Call our elected officials. Form a lobby. Watch CNN."

I have written opinion pieces for six papers in the last two weeks. We have gathered almost 200 signatures on two petitions. We have met with Congressman Peter DeFazio's staff three times and held meetings with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

We have a meeting scheduled with Governor John Kitzhaber's staff and hope to meet with Senator Mark Hatfield's staff. We have also had discussions with U.S. Senate candidates Harry Lonsdale and Michael Donnelly.

Contrary to your suggestion however, I still believe the most important thing we are doing is remaining steadfast in this place and foregoing food. Only four percent of the original forest in the lower 48 states remains uncut.

The moral dimensions of cutting this final four percent demands an in-kind response. I'm willing to give every moment of my time and energy to stop this. I'm sorry I'm not willing to give my life at this time. I don't think my actions are silly and pointless. I don't have the money to beat industry at lobbying. Watching CNN doesn't feel very useful.

I'm doing the best I think I can at this time. I benefit from public support. I try to support others who are approaching this destruction with different strategies. Working together will be most effective. Please come by and visit us at Seventh Avenue and Pearl Street. Let's stop the cutting of ancient forest and each other.

Tim Ream  
Eugene

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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