

**Capitalist sex**

Jonah Howard's "horror" concerning our "cruel and spiteful race" is misdirected when he expressed his "disapproval, if only symbolically," toward prostitutes (ODE, Jan. 22).

By scapegoating and persecuting prostitutes, we are effectively forcing them to take those other low-paying, go-nowhere jobs that undermine both physical and mental health. Because of "vice" laws, an enormous percentage of the poor wind up in prison, while the rest wind up imprisoned by labor.

Howard talks of a woman selling "her body, her soul," etc. — don't all workers in a capitalist society do essentially the same? The only difference between working for McDonald's and prostitution is that the former involves wage labor (which is inherently exploitative), and the latter involves the exchange of sex for money (which some consider immoral).

Unlike Howard, what I hold sacred is the right to choose for one's self what is sacred, and not for others. If sex is somehow religious to you, that's your business — and if it's business to someone else, your religion has no right to interfere.

The argument against prostitution is based on moral prejudices, not on reason, and Howard shows his by classifying "whores" as "impure" and "fallen" women who deserve our "pity." Perhaps sex workers are individuals with their own ideas about values and self worth.

The rich hire servants to scrub their toilets, and the poor accept this fundamental insult because they have needs.

If you want to fight for a more humane society, then fight to provide alternatives, not to take them away.

**Bradley Butterfield**  
Comparative Literature

**Compass needed**

Your publication of "Pussy Galore is more than perfection"

(ODE, Jan. 19), a piece about kitsch James Bond novels, set a new low for college journalism (yes, even for the *Emerald*). The context of the article in a section of the paper traditionally saved for political and social analysis made me ask, "Aren't there more pressing issues to explore?"

If the editorial staff of the *Emerald* hasn't heard, Congress has not passed funding for education next year. Unless that changes, thousands of students will not have the financial aid to attend the University in 1997-98. But you were right to not explore that threat hanging over students' lives; the James Bond issue supersedes student lives and issues of social, academic and personal importance.

Why did you not write about the fact that only 40 percent of the students who enter the University as freshman will graduate? Harvard's graduation rate is over 95 percent! What do those two facts say about the University's practices regarding student retention? I can imagine your editorial staff saying, "Forget the drop-out rate at this University, we have 'Pussy Galore' to publish!" Does contextualizing James Bond or the future of students on this campus, have the greater claim to the op-ed page? The *Emerald* made its choice, and in my opinion it was the wrong one.

To close this letter on a positive note, I know that many dedicated, talented and hard-working people put in long hours at the *Emerald*; for that fact I thank you. All I am saying is, if you wish to represent the University, please rethink your editorial choices. I believe the *Emerald* has the potential to be a great college paper, but the path the *Emerald* is now on is not taking that direction.

**Mark Jeffers**  
English and Philosophy

**Group no fun**

The cold meal and screwed-up schedule during "Japan Night," sponsored by the Japanese Student Organization on Jan. 20, was a disappointment to me.

I was expecting the event to provide the audience with a background in Japanese culture in a sophisticated way. However, the program's content (such as the fashion show and cooking demonstration), was roughly organized and very childish. Even though I am Japanese, I couldn't understand what they were trying to introduce.

The most absurd part of the event was that JSO sold two kinds of tickets. One was a "general" ticket and the other a "premium" ticket. The performance was delayed more than half an hour because JSO served the premium ticket holders a special dinner in another room. As the "VIPs" finished their dinners, the general ticket holders had to wait with empty bento boxes.

JSO should reconsider the primary purpose of this campus event; it should be for students, not for VIPs.

I'm not pleased with JSO's general activities, either. Since I have been at the University, the only JSO major events I have heard about are Japan Night and the Japanese Language Table. On the other hand, I have been invited to barbecues, movies, fruit picking, parties and other social activities by the Chinese Student Association and other student associations.

JSO should be aware that out of the 90 countries represented at the University, it is a majority group with 377 students out of 1,649 international students.

**Fumiaki Nakamura**  
Journalism

**LETTERS POLICY**

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on 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.

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

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- **Creatures of Habit**, part of the OP's Wed. adventure Video Series, bring your lunch and join us for this flick featuring extreme snowboarding on peaks around the world. Wed., 12 pm, OP Resource Room. **Free!!**
- **The Columbia Unveiled**, join Dennis Todd and Ed Moya to recreate their adventure of the first passage of the entire river by sailboat. Their photographs portray a river harnessed, but still powerful, a watershed exploited, but still wild. This slide show promises to be interesting and informative. Thurs., Feb. 1, 7:30 pm, 100 Wilkomette Hall. **Free!!**
- **The snow is here!!** Initiate your OP Ski trip today, its easy, just come by the OP office in the EMU basement for all your needs. Need more info? Call us at 346-4365.



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Feb 1	Hazel	\$5.00
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Feb 4	Austin Lounge Lizards	\$7.00
Feb 4	Malaysian Night	\$8.50 UO students \$9.50 G.P./\$4.50 under 12
Feb 6	Reggae Angels	\$5.00
Feb 10	Love Lode	\$3.00
Feb 10	ISA Dinner & Dance	\$10.00
Feb 13	Willie Barcena	\$5.00 students/\$7.00 G.P.
Feb 15	Jambay	\$5.00
Feb 15	Presidents of the United States	\$13.50 UO student/\$16.00 GP
Feb 16	Throwing Muses	\$10.00

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