

And your name is?

Most people don't know that giving false information to a police officer enforcing motor vehicle laws is a crime punishable by up to one year in jail, a \$5,000 fine, or both. The law requires that any name, address or date of birth you give the officer be truthful. This rule applies to pedestrian, bicycle and driving offenses.

Giving false information to police will also cause your driver's license to be suspended for one year. The Department of Motor Vehicles will suspend your license whether you plead guilty, are found guilty, or forfeit bail.

If you don't hold an Oregon driver's license, the DMV will suspend your driving privileges in Oregon even if you have a valid license from another state or an international driver's license. In addition, news of the Oregon suspension could reach the DMV in your home state and cause action against your license there.

This penalty seems particularly harsh to students reporting permanent out-of-area addresses to officers who may consider your failure to report your temporary local address false information.

If you are a student who uses a permanent out-of-area address, you should also report your local address to any citing officer. This will avoid a criminal charge and resulting suspension if convicted. Be aware that Oregon laws require you to report your change of address to DMV within 30 days of your move, even if it's only temporary.

Purposely giving false information to a police officer is a bad idea. With computer information readily available, the officer will easily discover the lie. The likely result is you will face two charges instead of one, and the charge for lying is usually more serious than the charge you lied to avoid.

If you are a registered student at the University and need to talk to a lawyer about a false information charge, ASUO Legal Services is available for you. If you do need our assistance, call to make an appointment immediately.

Ilona E. Koleszar
ASUO Legal Services

Top-soil destroyed

As usual, we blame outside forces (Pineapple Express, El Niño) for our ever more frequent weather aberrations, but fail to take any responsibility for the possible causes of floods.

We keep permitting our protective old-growth forests, which absorb the rain, to be cut. In clear-cut areas, the water just rampages off, taking our precious top-soil with it.

Have we learned nothing from the disastrous Midwest floods of 1994 where the paving over and obliteration of the wetlands of the Mississippi were found to be the culprits? We keep on doing this right here in the Willamette Valley. Can we change before land and property, farms and forests are ravaged beyond recovery?

Floods cost us all billions, but good planning is deemed "too expensive!"

Hilde K. Cherry
Eugene

Retake Biology 101

In her letter, Sukey Lupton claims "the scientific community is divided on whether sentient life begins at conception," (ODE, Feb. 7). I know of no one who claims "sentient life" begins at conception — rather, that is when HUMAN life begins. This is elementary biology.

Sentience is one of many developmental stages that humans normally arrive at — if they are allowed to continue living. Each of us reached that stage only after going through earlier ones. Are we free to decide that individuals who haven't yet reached capabilities that come with later levels of development are less human than ourselves, and therefore disposable?

A newborn baby is not fully developed. Is that child therefore less human, or of less worth than an adult? Profound differences exist between a fetus and a mature adult, but they are differences of development, of complexity and capabilities — not of basic identity. Both are human beings within the continuum that is human life.

Denial of another's humanity is the first step in the process that results in such horrors as slavery and Nazism.

Severe problems accompany crisis pregnancies. A central question we face, however, is whether we are willing to be governed by moral and biological realities as we seek answers. Refusing to acknowledge these realities doesn't change them. It simply places us on the wrong side of the issue.

Mother Theresa has bluntly stated: "It is a very great poverty to decide that a child must die that you may live as you wish."

William Moore
School of Music

Greek bullies

I recently attended a fraternity "live out" party after being invited to the house by a friend. Our visit ended after the friend that went with me was harassed and then jumped for asking where the bathroom was. My friend

was grabbed by the neck, pushed to the ground and then beat up before he had a chance to defend himself.

The purpose behind this letter is not to generalize fraternal behavior from an isolated experience — though I'm almost positive a generalization applies in this case. I realize that pointing my finger at an entire systematically controlled organization, when individual actors are to blame, is unfair. However, I am trying to question the reasoning behind such violence.

What makes someone want to physically and emotionally harm another person for no other reason than to show one's assumed superiority? Do the people feel they have a "privilege" over others?

There can be a direct correlation between an organization and the acquired and accepted behavior of its members. It can be argued that an organization can influence the character and motives of the people involved

in it. My observation has been an exemplification of that sense of superiority within this University's, as well within other schools', greek systems.

It sickens me that alongside the dozens of senseless atrocities committed in our violent world each day, some people within the nonthreatening Eugene environment feel they have the right to intentionally harm others.

There is no justification for any violent act.

To the man who brutalized my dear friend: I hope your infantile behavior doesn't carry over into your future societal "contributions."

To those who are thinking about involving themselves in any "clan-like" organization: Before you join, investigate the beliefs and motives behind that organization.

Cate Hughes
Political Science

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STOPPING THE POLITICS OF HATE

Rosemary Dempsey

Action Vice President

National Organization for Women

Speaking about:

- The culture of hatred propagated by the Radical Right
- Grassroots organizing to defeat the regressive Radical Right agenda
- NOW's March to Fight the Right, April 14, San Francisco

ORGANIZING WORKSHOP

February 15, 1996
3:00 pm
Cedar Rooms C&D, EMU

SPEECH

February 15, 1996
5:30 pm
100 Willamette Hall
University of Oregon