

Sex offender's parole threatens all children

■ **OUR OPINION:** Child-molester's release raises many social concerns

On Monday, an East Texas psychiatric prison opened its doors and released self-proclaimed "child-molesting demon" Larry Don McQuay to a parole facility.

The public outcry over McQuay's conditional release is due to his chilling statements to counselors and prison officials that he would molest children again if freed — but with the added threat of promising to kill his next victim(s).

With the incriminating statements coming straight from the man's mouth, it doesn't take a psychologist to determine that McQuay was not rehabilitated during his prison stay and is obviously unfit to return to society. He even failed two sex-offender treatment programs in prison.

A lot of people would have rather seen Texas throw away the key and let unreformed McQuay spend the rest of his twisted and dangerous life in prison. But that hasn't happened.

This case has all the tell-tale warning signs of other instances where violent criminals have committed other crimes (some worse than what they originally went to prison for) after being released from jail.

For whatever good it will do, McQuay is now in an intense parole program that includes all kinds of rules. If he gets a job, he will even be assigned a personal security officer who will accompany him to work. Texas is doing at least one thing right in eying the man's every move.

In a bizarre request that could deter some of his tendencies, McQuay himself has repeatedly asked prison officials for castration surgery, though it turns out the radical surgery might not curb the actions of sex-offenders after all.

Whatever McQuay ends up doing and wherever he ends up going, he faces a lifetime of being watched closely — either behind bars or in a probationary setting. But all the screening and surveillance in the world can't guarantee that McQuay won't be able to escape to commit another crime against another innocent child.

And while society deserves to be protected from monsters like McQuay, he was released because he served the time given him as punishment by a court and jury.

However, because of "special" cases like McQuay's, different rules and allowances need to be made to ensure that the McQuays of this country are permanently kept from preying on our children again.

The McQuay controversy comes at a time when our courts are swamped and our jails are packed beyond capacity, with no solution in sight to the problems that dog our legal system. So, we come back to the same old arguments that have been kicked around for the past several years. Do we build more prisons? Do we try to invent better rehabilitation programs? Do we try and solve some of our nation's moral problems?

Or do we keep letting people like Larry Don McQuay out on our streets?



LETTERS

Officer Jesse?

Jesse Bohrer-Clancy had a few interesting comments to make that I think he should have kept to himself (*ODE*, April 5).

First, when the police went out to arrest that half-naked, unarmed old man, I'm sure they didn't know he was half-naked or unarmed. They were sure that he refused to come out and weren't sure how far he would go to prevent his own arrest.

Second, Bohrer-Clancy may not like the fact that his tax dollars (or his parents') are going to pay for Officer Schultz's hospital care and worker's compensation, but I'd rather have it go there than to pay Social Security disability benefits received by former and present drug addicts and alcoholics. He probably believes that is a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Third, Bohrer-Clancy and several others on the *Emerald* staff consistently write articles antagonizing the police and their efforts to keep him and the rest of us safe. Sometimes they do make mistakes. They are only as human as Bohrer-Clancy and me. They are at least willing to stand up and protect us whenever they can. Can Bohrer-Clancy say that? Would he be willing to do the same job they do?

David Kellett
Sociology

OSPIRG = skills

I am writing to encourage students to get involved with OSPIRG. I have worked as an intern and volunteer for OSPIRG for more than a year and it has been probably the best learning experience of my life.

Through work with projects including Free the Planet I have learned skills that will help me in my career and other future endeavors. I have learned leadership skills as well as many other skills.

I think that working with OSPIRG is one of the best experiences a college student can have. I hope that more students will take advantage of this great opportunity this term through internships and volunteer work.

Glenda Marshall
OSPIRG Co-chairwoman

Basketball petition

The University Athletic Department is currently proposing to cut 560 of our seats from the floor of Mac Court. This is due to sparse attendance at some of this year's basketball games.

The department offered us free seats in the third balcony. Being put in the third balcony would detract from the spirit of the "sixth man" and the history of Mac Court.

To try to resolve this problem, we will be circulating a petition throughout campus to get 560 signatures — a number that represents the seats that could be lost.

On Monday, other students and I will meet with coach Jerry Green to present him with the petition

and to discuss alternatives.

Please sign the petition and help us keep the spirit alive.

Chris Kantowitz
Political Science

Yes for OSPIRG

In the beginning of fall term '95, I went to an OSPIRG information table and immediately got involved with the Higher Education Project. I learned more organizing skills in that term than all my classes combined.

In the winter, I decided to lead the Higher Education Project and am now one of OSPIRG's co-chairwomen. Being involved in OSPIRG has given me a direction in life and has allowed me to experience college in a whole new light.

I encourage people to get involved with student groups and to vote yes for OSPIRG.

Sadie Rogers
OSPIRG Co-chairwoman

Cultivate dialogue

I recently received a letter that accused me of doing a disservice to this campus for not printing racist and anti-Semitic material. The author referred to the upcoming Ethics After the Holocaust Conference as a "Zionist circus." He told me that my grandchildren would hate me for exposing them to multiculturalism and the evils of mixed marriages.

In light of the recent racial incidents on this campus, one thing is clear: The current effort to combat personal attacks against students for their ideologies and ethnicity is not enough.

The Race Task Force and other student groups have met with the President's Office repeatedly in an effort to form a solution. Many who attended these meetings feel that the University sweeps the issue under the carpet and waits it out.

We do not need speech codes or strengthened conduct codes. We need to encourage people to speak their minds in an open forum and to cultivate diverse opinions. But we also need to protect students from direct attacks based on ideology, gender and ethnicity.

It is unreasonable to expect these attacks to fall solely on the shoulder(s) of our minority student unions or the Multicultural Center. This should be an issue that every one of the 80-plus programs at the University can get behind.

Every group, publication and arm of student government should be programming events on this campus to provide not only services and activities, but also a base of support for students. Several groups should be able to come together to co-sponsor activities surrounding these issues.

But only if every group unites on this issue and works to bring more students into this process will the culture of the campus change.

Farah L. Bostic
Editor-in-Chief
Oregon Commentator

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