

## 'ODE' answers concerns over photos of suspect

**OUR OPINION:** Racism charges against the paper are unfair and false

A 19-year-old woman was sexually assaulted on campus early Sunday morning, and now the suspect's photo may be making the news.

Kylee Justin Brooks was positively identified Sunday by three witnesses claiming to have seen him assaulting the female victim, whose name is being withheld.

Like most newspapers, the *Emerald* uses visual images and design elements — usually photos and graphics — to enhance stories and provide readers with as much relevant information as possible. This being our goal, the *Emerald* ran a photo of Brooks with Monday's and Tuesday's stories on the incident.

We ran those photos for three reasons: the alleged rape happened on campus, it happened to a University student and the police's prime suspect was a prominent University student.

In the past, the *Emerald* has published the photos of individuals charged with serious crimes — regardless of whether the individual was Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian or African-American. Skin color holds no sway when we consider whether to print the mug shot of an alleged criminal.

The *Emerald* has no racist agenda nor does it strive to perpetuate stereotypes. Quite the opposite is true.

As a student-run newspaper, sharing the sensibilities of many of our readers, the *Emerald* exists to uphold and promote diversity, further the mutual respect between all peoples and

serve as a voice for opinion.

There have been five reported sexual assaults on campus this past year (including last summer) that the *Emerald* has covered. To date, three of those suspects have not been caught. Two were — and the *Emerald* reported those arrests, with mug shots.

Earlier this year, 26-year-old Michael David Shipley (a white man) was arrested after finally turning himself in to the Eugene police. Shipley was charged with eight misdemeanor counts of third-degree sexual assault and one count of indecent exposure. The *Emerald* ran the story and photo for that Feb. 9 arrest on Monday, Feb. 12.

On Sunday, Kylee Brooks was arrested, and on Monday, was read charges of first-degree sodomy at his district court arraignment. The *Emerald* ran stories with his photo on both days.

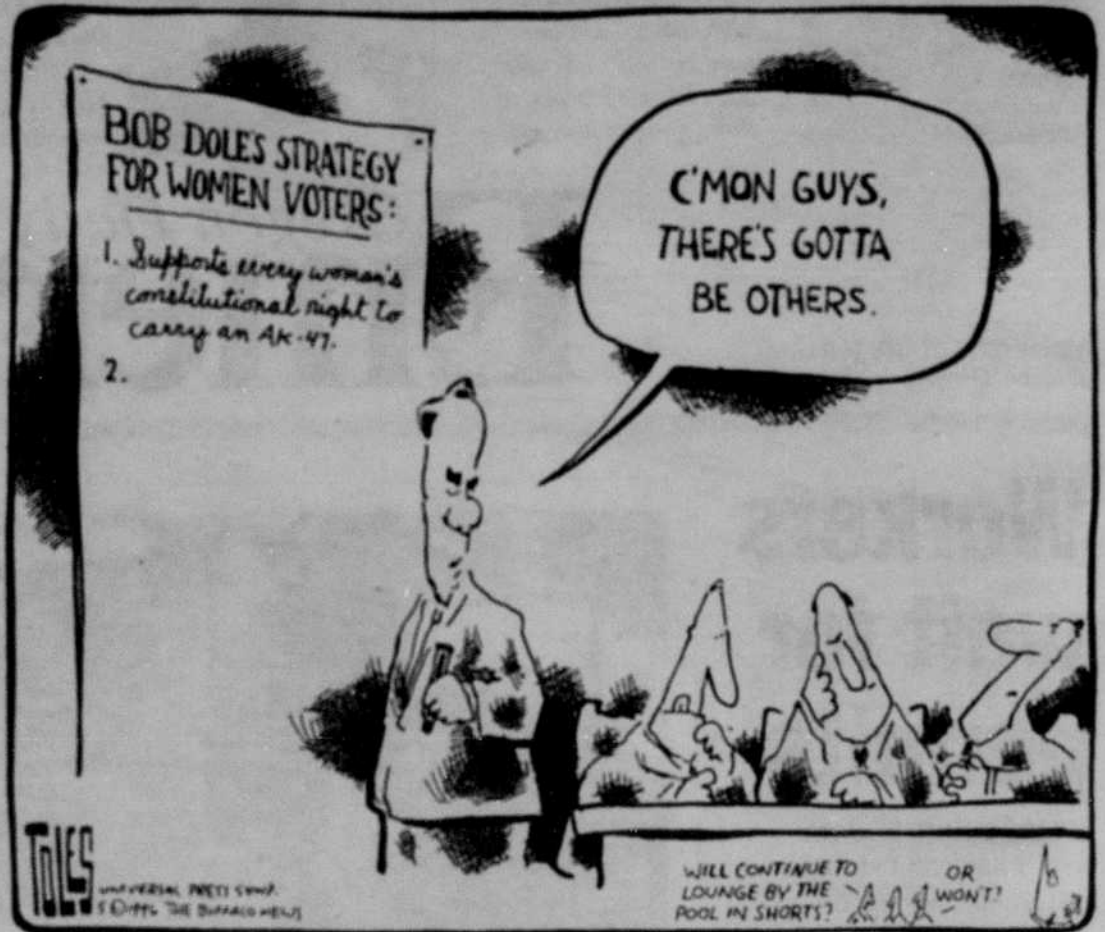
That Brooks, who is a student leader and former president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, stands accused of committing a serious crime is newsworthy enough.

The severity and proximity of the alleged crime, along with the prominence of the suspect, made the decision to print the mug clear.

A woman was sexually assaulted and a suspect was caught. The news was not that the alleged perpetrator was an African-American.

The *Emerald* did not, as one letter-writer has charged, "put a black face on this crime."

In this instance, the suspect's face just happened to be black.



## Concerned Parents Stand for Children

Melanie and Mike Daniel are typical of many young working parents in America struggling to make ends meet. For years, Mike worked three jobs so he could support his family while attending college. Now 27 and a recent graduate, Mike is an assistant manager at County General Store in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Melanie, 26, works at T.J. Maxx while attending college full-time. But despite their efforts, last year the family grossed just \$16,600.

"We love our children very much," Melanie says of Kailey, 7, and Hannah, 3, "and it hasn't always been easy keeping them warm and fed."

So the Daniel family and many others plan to Stand For Children at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"We'll be there June 1 because we want better for our children and for all children," says Melanie, "and we hope every parent will be there with us."

I hope so, too. The harder the times are and the more families struggle for children, each and every one of us can do better. Parents and grandparents can do better

for children. Religious and community organizations can do more. Political, business and cultural leaders can do a lot better. They can make it easier rather than harder for families to raise children.

With 518 babies being born to mothers who had late or no prenatal care, it is time to put children first in our families, communities and government, and that's what Stand for Children is all about.

Stand for Children is not a partisan event. It is a day to celebrate, strengthen and renew our commitment to children, to make clear our strong belief that for America to stand for anything, we must stand for children. We will commit ourselves, our communities and our government to help parents raise moral, healthy and educated children.

"People are so ready for this," says Bill Hager, director of St. Louis Care Biddeford, Maine, who has been traveling around the state talking to small groups about Stand For Children. "There is so much fear and discomfort in our communities and people are looking for a way to react. Stand for Children gives them a way to do that."

### COMMENTARY

#### Marian Edelman

If you are a parent struggling to raise a child but know you could do better, come stand with us. If you are troubled by the pollution of our airwaves, air, food, water, earth and our children's values, come stand with us. If you are worrying about whether your children's schools are preparing them for the 21 century, come stand with us.

If you are anxious that your children will get sick and not get decent medical care because you lack health insurance, come stand with us. If you are concerned about your children's safety, come stand with us. If you've had enough of political leaders from all parties talking about family values while not supporting what families need to raise healthy, safe, moral and educated children, come stand with us.

Like the Daniel family, America must stand us for its children, not just with words but with action.

Marian Wright Edelman is founder and president of the Washington, D.C.-based Chil-

### LETTERS

#### Outraged

I am writing this letter in response to the unfortunate sexual assault that occurred Sunday morning. Rape is a deplorable crime that threatens the safety of our campus community.

However, I feel that the *ODE* acted irresponsibly in its coverage of this heinous crime. By publishing the picture of a black male suspect on the front page of the paper for two days, the *Emerald* has successfully attached an African-American's face to the crime of rape. Some may argue that Kylee Justin Brooks committed the crime and happens to be a black male,

therefore the *Emerald* has done no wrong. My response would be that Brooks has yet to be convicted of the charges, and his photograph was published prior to his arraignment. It is not my intention to judge his guilt or innocence in the matter; that is beside the point.

The *Emerald* has vilified black men as perpetrators of sexual violence. The fact remains that rape is perpetrated on a daily basis by men of all races, especially in the frequent instance of fraternity-committed assaults, but their pictures are not displayed so callously for multiple days on the front page of the University paper. There seems to be no regard for

the rights of the accused or his privacy.

It is ironic that I am defending the rights of an accused rapist. As a volunteer for Sexual Support Services in Eugene, I have witnessed the pain inflicted upon families and friends of the victims of sex crimes. As a survivor, I have experienced outrage at the system for protecting the rights of the accused over the victim. I believe that the media has perpetuated a negative stereotype of black men as perpetrators of rape by neglecting to print the photographs of numerous convicted felons who are not black.

Serena Sullivan  
Political Science

**Oregon Daily Emerald**  
P.O. Box 1318 Eugene, Oregon 97431

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the Emerald editorial board; signed columns represent the opinion of the columnist.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

**Editor-in-Chief:** David Thom  
**Managing Editor:** Marcelene Edwards  
**Night Editor:** Trevor Kearney

**Community:** Sherry Runey, editor; Melissa Leblain, Dawn Paugh, Brian Womack  
**Higher Education:** Regina Brown, editor; Jean M. Bond, Laura Kapshars, Jennifer Schmitt  
**Student Activities:** Jennifer Carter, editor; Ashley Bach, Kristin Bailey, Doug Irving  
**Sports:** Trevor Kearney, editor; Andrea O'Young, assistant editor; Chris Hansen, Pete Schneider  
**Entertainment/Supplements:** Nicole Krueger, editor  
**Freelance:** Lara Pittman, editor; De-Lise: Joshua Olson, editor

**Editorial:** David Bartlett, Nicole Krueger, editors; Kelly Anderson, Jesse Bolter-Clancy, Keith Cunningham, Larry Holt, Kay Krautschick, Sonja Sherwood  
**Copy Desk:** Karl Hastings, copy chief; Paige Bills, Anna Beth Grimes, Tracy Picha, Paul Van Sickle  
**Photography:** Matthew Stiffler, editor; Andrew Brackensick, En-Min Chang, Elena Gerber, Shannon Kluff, Darcie Weisman  
**Graphics:** Dennis Bolt, Matt Barton

**General Manager:** Judy Reed

**Advertising:** Becky Merchant, director; Anne Amador, Lee Yan Beth, Yulin Chi, Merton Ching, Justin Gober, Nikki Harper, Matt Johnson, Heather Johnston, Sarah Mitchell, Trina Shanahan  
**Prediction:** Michele Ross, manager; Ingrid White, coordinator; Shawna Abate, Rachel Cunningham, Laura Daniel, Nicole Herzmark, Carrie Jones, Tara Knight, Molly McCanta, Carly Schlenker, Allison Stormo, Michael Young

**Business:** Kathy Carbone, supervisor; Judy Connolly  
**Circulation:** Tara Gaultney, manager; Jennifer Reel, Jodi Sellen  
**Newsroom:** (541) 348-5511  
**Business Office:** (541) 348-5512

**Distribution:** Jeff Johnson, John Long, Ferenc Rakocz  
**Display Advertising:** (541) 348-3712  
**Classified Advertising:** (541) 348-4343