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# PERSPECTIVES

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## Concealed changes

AN EMERALD EDITORIAL

*The University has stopped mailing grades and schedules and changed login procedures without bothering to tell students*

Now is a great time to be computer literate. And psychic. According to a recent story in the Register-Guard, the University is striving to make the college experience easier for freshmen. Unfortunately, a pair of recent policy changes make it seem it's not interested in making college easier for the rest of us.

The decisions to stop mailing schedules and to change the login procedure for dial-up access to Gladstone affect everyone, including new arrivals, but those students who were accustomed to the existing policies are the most impacted.

If you have easy access to a computer, both at the University and wherever you live during the summer, you can probably adjust to the changes. DuckWeb — the new source of schedules and grades — offers an easy way to find out what you're taking and how you're performing.

The problem is that not everyone has easy access to a computer, nor does everyone wish to make a long-distance phone call to Duck-Call if he or she can't get onto the Internet from home.

These problems and others should have been discussed after the University revealed its policy, but they weren't for a simple reason — the University didn't reveal its policy.

The change was buried in the schedule of classes, where most students never saw it. Nothing was mailed out to inform students and parents that schedules and grades can only be accessed electronically (a big problem for those who rely upon paper copies of grades for insurance purposes). No major publicity effort was undertaken. The registrar didn't even send out a press release.

Nevertheless, this decision was brilliantly publicized compared to a recent decision made by the computing center. The "'pass through' logins to gladstone from U of O terminal servers have been discontinued because of security problems," according to a message on Gladstone.

Did that last sentence make sense to you? If so, consider yourself among the computer elite.

"Pass through" was the ability to type "gladstone" after first logging in by modem, thus generating a login prompt for the gladstone system. By eliminating that ability, the computing center has left many students unable to determine how to log on.

Students hoping to log on by modem need to enter their UO-net login and password, which can be authorized in the same way a Gladstone account is obtained, either by modem or by going to



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

the computing center.

If you don't speak the technical language of the Gladstone message, you might never figure this out. Worse, the message is only available to those who have figured out how to log on to Gladstone already.

E-mail might not seem to be a priority service for students, but the number of professors who require their classes to get accounts and send e-mail has drastically increased the importance of electronic communication.

The computing center believes most students rely upon programs that automatically log students in, rendering the decision irrelevant. Once again, for returning students as used to calling in by modems as they are to receiving their schedules in the mail, this assumption is wrong.

Both these recent decisions have a major impact upon all students at the University, especially those who were used to the existing policies. They should have been announced to the students they

affected in a plain and effective manner. Instead, they received little or no publicity.

If University administrators want to retain students, they need to do more than schedule parties for incoming freshmen. Keeping students at your school requires maintaining communication with all students. Recently, the University — despite all the money it obviously spends on public relations — has failed to communicate two very basic and important policy changes.

*This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.*

### Quoted

"And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon the people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneading troughs."

Exodus 8:3

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion."

Leviticus 18:22-23 [emphasis added]

"Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also."

Luke 12:33-34

"Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant; also our bed is green. The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters of fir."

Song of Solomon 1:16-17

"Will he esteem thy riches? No, nor gold, nor all the forces of strength."

Job 36:19

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Genesis 1:26 [emphasis added]

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Cassini dangerous

The Russian Mars '96 space probe crashed to Earth carrying plutonium batteries. Initially, it was said to have fallen into the Pacific Ocean. Later, it was revealed to have scattered debris over the Atacama Desert in Chile and Bolivia.

Now, in October there is the scheduled Cassini probe to Saturn carrying 72 pounds of plutonium. This probe will orbit Venus twice and come hurtling back at Earth to get the gravitational boost to get to Saturn. What if something goes wrong, and it vaporizes in the Earth's atmosphere? What if the Titan rocket carrying the Cassini probe explodes on the launch pad, spreading radioactive dust over much of Florida?

Plutonium is one of the most dangerous substances known. Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, has stated that one pound of plutonium, if evenly distributed among the Earth's population, would be enough to give everyone lung cancer.

None of this is considered serious enough by our free, independent, objective and piercingly investigative media to make the evening news.

They would rather talk about Tiger Woods or some other celebrity. I fear that this may be just the prelude to nuclear weapons in space and nuclear-powered rockets. Some very rich and powerful men are playing Russian roulette with life on Earth, and it is occurring in absolute media silence. What an Orwellian world it is becoming!

Gary Sudborough  
 Bellflower, Calif.

#### Non-reproductive sex

Given our male and female design, many people believe that each act of intercourse must have a procreative meaning. However, the moral judgments and behaviors of most sexually active Christians contradict the moral teaching regarding the centrality of procreativity.

Examples of non-procreative sexual expression such as the use of birth control, masturbation, intercourse during pregnancy and infertility, and oral and anal sex fly in the face of the belief that procreativity is the most important function of sexuality.

Some people argue that such behaviors are evil and corrupt, that those who practice them are

bound for Hell, that the world is hurtling on a course to destruction.

However, it may more accurately indicate a problem with the teaching itself.

The focus on intercourse as procreative also has implications for those who are single, separated, divorced or celibate. While some people view them as deficient because they do not reproduce, the supposed purpose of life, few would claim they are immoral.

Interestingly, many people who argue that gay men and lesbians are immoral because they do not reproduce are unwilling to apply the same arguments to themselves.

The view that life has a solely reproductive purpose ignores the primacy of love in faithful unions and the need humans experience to consummate their love for each other by touching in intimate ways.

Clearly, the same holds true for lesbians and gay men in their faithful and loving same-sex unions.

Don Paulsen  
 North Sioux City, S.D.