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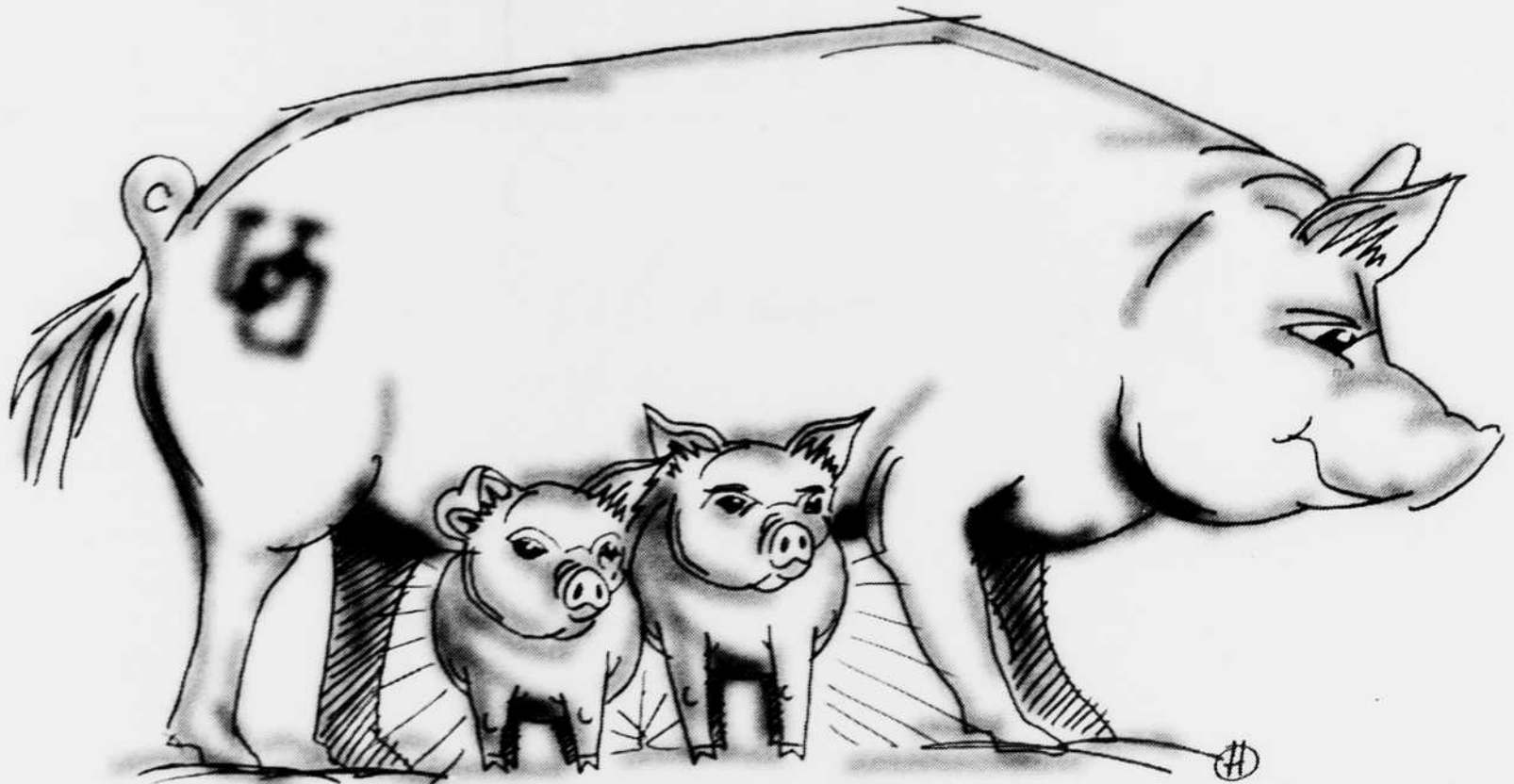
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Conduct code needs blanket jurisdiction



To work well, the sex policy must extend past the borders of the school

It's like a mother pig rolling on her young and killing them; it's grotesque." With that lovely farmyard analogy, John Parrot explained why his client is suing the University.

Parrot's client is upset because he was tried and punished under the old University conduct code regarding sexual behavior. The suit claims that the University has no right to deal with the behavior of students off campus, where the incident in question allegedly occurred.

While the comparison between a pig and the University might not always be invalid, in this case, we think it is important for the school to have jurisdiction over the be-

havior of students off campus.

The conduct code deals with important issues, including sexual harassment and date rape. Although the lawsuit deals with the old code, it threatens to cripple the new, more strongly worded code.

We have endorsed the language of that code in the past. While we think there is room for clarification and improvement, the definitions of unwanted and inappropriate sexual conduct are well-reasoned and necessary.

No matter how good these definitions are, however, they won't be effective if the range of the policy is limited to on-campus problems. The University has deliberately set a higher standard than the community to address the sensibilities of the campus and the problems that can arise within a college setting.

Clearly, the legality of this jurisdiction needs to be examined

AN EMERALD EDITORIAL

closely, but the logic and morality of the code are admirable. Students do not cease to be a part of the University the moment they cross 18th Avenue or Kincaid Street.

Anyone attending this school should realize they are signing on to be a part of a unique community with its own benefits and its own rules. In order to function as a community, these rules must apply to all the school's members, at all times.

The unique atmosphere of the school requires the more stringent standards regarding unwanted sexual conduct. Because of the large number of students who are single, young and packed together in social situations, the risk of inappropriate behavior rises drastically, along with the need to govern that behavior.

Similarly, the social settings facilitated by the University can also lead to dangerous situations. If the rules governing these situations and the people who might meet in them are not universal and well-enforced, the school will become unsafe.

Equally significant, violations of the code that take place off campus can affect students' on-campus behavior. If someone feels threatened by another student, or if his or her life is disrupted by sexual assault, that student's studies will suffer.

Because violations of the conduct code affect the role students play in the University regardless of where the incident takes place, it is important for the code to be far-reaching enough to control behavior everywhere in the school community.

Finally, because we support the idea behind the policy, we support

anything that will help make it stronger. By taking a clear and strict stand against unwanted sexual behavior, the University has taken an important step in rejecting hundreds of years of the "she-asked-for-it" mentality.

The policy, and therefore the symbolic stance behind it, can only be effective if it is extended beyond the borders of the University to parties and homes in the surrounding community.

We desperately want University students to feel safe while part of our community. An important part of that feeling is the extended jurisdiction of the conduct code. This mother pig isn't crushing us; she's keeping us warm.

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

READERS' WORDS

What's your opinion of Eugene?



"[It's a] pretty homogeneous place, but people just come here for school. You don't get a feel for the local way of life. There needs to be a community celebration involving students."

Evi Sari
Architecture



"It's a beautiful city that's in a state of transition because of the cutbacks in property taxes. It will be interesting to see which way the city will go. I like to hope for the best and, therefore, hope that there can be a positive solution here."

Michelle Turner
Graduate student



"Eugene is interesting and diverse — a real college-mode town. [It's] more friendly than a big city like Portland and is a good learning environment for University students. [It's] a nice place to live."

James Paul
Business



"It's a great place to live year-round with great people."

Terry Johnson
EMU night manager



"In general, it's a good group of people, but at times there's too many specific interest groups. I think Eugene is a liberal town, both because of the University and the city of Eugene, which is a good thing."

Jim Ransier
Journalism



"It's beautiful; it's Oregon. [Eugene is] a little big for me. I happen to like Corvallis better."

Jenny Riker
Undeclared



"I like Eugene a lot because it is a lot bigger and more diverse than my home town."

Heather Anderegg
Psychology

CORRECTION

The story "Be sure to think before you bank" contained some incorrect information. U-Lane-O Credit Union offers electronic banking, free checking and an ATM in Valley River Center. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters must be limited to 250 words or less. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length, clarity, grammar and style.