



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

New urinal screens such as this have been installed in fraternity and EMU bathrooms.

## Urinal message reminds men of their role in stopping rape

*The idea to place the message-toting screens in urinals came from Ohio State University*

By Doug Irving  
Student Activities Editor

University urinals have a message: "You hold the power to stop rape in your hand."

Bright green, apple-scented urinal screens now greet bathroom users with those bright white words. The idea is to make men realize the role they play in rape culture, and the role they must play in stopping it.

"Oftentimes, [rape] is considered just a women's issue," said Linda Hoover, assistant dean of Student Life. "Actually, it takes both men and women. What this does is it brings the issue to the forefront."

One in four women are sexually assaulted during their college years, according to the Koss Study, a 1987 survey of more than 6,000 women on more than 100 campuses.

Women on this campus probably face similar odds, said Laura

Blake Jones, associate dean of Student Life. Rape and sexual assaults are among the least-reported crimes, she said.

Men often think sexual assault is a women's issue, ASUO Vice President Ben Unger said. Because of that, some people think dealing with sexual assault should focus on protection and prevention.

"That's so backwards," he said. "By ignoring their role, [men] are excused from ever having to challenge themselves."

The urinal screens target men, forcing them to confront the problem and their role in it, Unger said. Student groups hope the screens will break down the "rape culture," he said.

Outright sexism and sexual harassment make up that culture, Unger said. But things some people might not think about — like inappropriate or sexist jokes — perpetuate it.

"It's one level not to rape somebody," he said. "It's another step to actually stop the rape culture: a culture that, while it doesn't create rape, allows rape."

The ASUO joined with Sexual Assault Support Services, the Un-

wanted Sexual Behavior Task Force and the Office of Student Life to buy 576 special urinal screens. University Housing and the Office of Greek Life also helped out.

The screens — which block large objects from being flushed down the urinals — made their debuts earlier this week. The idea came from Ohio State University, which started using similar screens last May.

The EMU and fraternity houses installed the screens. Both groups will buy the next batch in about a month, when the screens lose their apple scent or succumb to the rigors of everyday use.

Each special screen costs \$1.25 — only a few cents more than the blank model. The student groups invested about \$725 in the first group of screens, Unger said.

Student groups will also hang up posters about sexual assault awareness. The University needs to raise awareness, Unger said — by whatever means are effective.

"Some people are kind of nervous about the message [on the screens]," he said. "That, I think, tells you a lot."

## MEChA: More activities set for weekend

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implement at Kennedy Middle School. The tutoring program was designed to invite Chicano and Latino middle school students to explore their culture and expose issues affecting them in the community through tutoring, field trips and cultural education. College students, high school students and community members are invited to participate in the program.

"GANAS is a program to create opportunities," he said. "It helps students to know who they are as Latinos and Chicanos."

The MEChA conference is an opportunity for GANAS, as a model program, to be implemented in other schools and communities in the Northwest.

Professor Robert Haskett will

address how indigenous representations of the past are classified as myths, thereby devaluing their historical value and Mesoameri-

*"Overall it is just to educate people about Chicanos and Latinos..."*

Andres Barajas  
MEChA coordinator

can perspectives.

Saturday night will feature cultural activities with performances by the Nyssa Ballet Folklorico of Oregon and an Azteca dance by Xipe Totéc.

The University will host region-

al caucuses and workshops Saturday and Sunday. These meetings will detail ways to mobilize members of the community and students on and off campus about Chicano and Latino issues.

Keynote speakers Patrisia Gonzales and Roberto Rodriguez, husband-and-wife journalists, will speak about furthering El Movimiento through action.

For the first time, members from this year's regional conference will appoint two people to be national liaison representatives, whose input will help plan the structure and topics of discussion for the national conference in the spring.

"The MEChA conference plans to address immigration, racism, self-determination — issues that transcend all Latinos and Chicanos," Barajas said.

### ET ALS

The **Outdoor Program** is holding a trip initiation clinic at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Outdoor Resource Room. For more information, call 346-4365.

The **ASUO Women's Center** is sponsoring a "Women of Color" discussion group from 3-4 p.m. in the EMU Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4095.

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Influenza vaccinations will be given at the Health Center for faculty and staff every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and for students Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 15**

**Students \$3.50**  
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Annual flu immunizations are recommended for the following:

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