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Sticks and stones ... but e-mail won't hurt me!



SAINT AND PROFITS

ERIC PFEIFFER

Sometimes a jellyfish walks with two legs. There are those who kill in the name of God. And if you put your ear closely to the wall, you just might hear the sound of

silence bouncing through the echo chamber. Violence has invaded my life.

It started Friday night, getting jumped three blocks from home. Thankfully, I walked away unscathed. Still, Mom, thanks for sending the cookies and pepper spray.

When I returned home Saturday morning, I didn't expect anymore excitement.

Washington, D.C., has its share of crime, murder and strange offerings, but I hoped one act of violence was enough for the weekend. Unfortunately, I was wrong.

I had only been home a few hours when I saw the flashing lights outside my bedroom window. I pulled back the curtains to reveal a body lying about five feet from the window, crumpled and soaked in a pool of blood. There were three police officers at the scene. I asked the man in charge what happened. He made a gesture toward his chest. "Stabbed. Five times."

My neighbor had discovered the body while checking her mail. She sat with this stranger, nursing his wounds and watching over him until the police arrived. Without her help, he would not have lived. The next morning I dragged myself into work after having gone 48 hours without sleep. It wasn't where I wanted to be, but I figured the margins of violence were slim.

Then, I opened an e-mail message from my editor back in Oregon to find an unexpected surprise: my first death threat.

What do these three examples have in common? They are the acts of hooded mercenaries, anonymous cowards. Of course, I don't expect everyone to agree with my columns. In fact, I welcome intelligent debate. This was something entirely different.

An individual using the painfully ridiculous moniker "Heaton Seeker" mailed me a death threat in response to my Oct. 1 column regarding the role of the ASUO in activist circles. Apparently, Mr. Seeker does not calculate freedom of speech into his jihad against the evil forces of corporate dominance.

Never mind that with the increasing consolidation of media ownership, columns of this nature are a dying breed. Never mind that independent newspapers like ours are one of the last venues for democracy. Judging by Seeker's presentation, I would guess that a K-12 education did not factor heavily into his initiation with the neo-anarchist convention of

espresso-chugging, armed reactionaries.

Mr. Heaton Seeker, you are a coward. You blast me for labeling a faction of WRC protesters as fascists. Hey, that's your call. Yet, you send a semi-anonymous death threat to make your case. Perhaps you hoped I would recoil in fear from your words, overwhelmed by the collage of trite, clichéd rhetoric. Too bad for you I don't run from spineless jellyfish. I see your bible held close to heart; maybe it's the latest copy of "Mayhem." Either way, you're not going to change my mind with threats.

Thankfully, you were foolish enough to leave your address on a piece of propaganda, so we should be seeing you soon. Now, on the chance that the police are too preoccupied with crashing student parties to deal with you, allow me to be of assistance. You're not going to have much luck cutting my head off, as you so eloquently promised, when I'm all the way out here in Washington, D.C.

Lucky for us, I'm coming home soon. I'll probably be exhausted, long flight and all, but I guess that really isn't important to a modern-day Che Guevara like yourself. Don't worry, I'm not a big guy and I don't carry any weapons.

But in this case, Mr. Heaton Seeker, I'll stand by my word, when held against the sticks and stones of your vicious threats. Take care of yourself, and keep the revolution of hate alive.

Eric Pfeiffer is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald, currently serving an internship at the National Journal Hotline in Washington, D.C. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. He can be reached at epfeiffe@gladstone.uoregon.edu.



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

Letters to the editor

Driven by fear

Our lives are so permeated with psychological imperatives that it takes a degree in both psychology and advertising to even begin to properly sift through the minutiae thrown at our subconscious minds. At election time, this tragic battle for our souls seems to take the form of emotional blackmail: Hence, whoever can create the most fear will somehow become the winner because it is our fears, after all, which drive us harder than any joys we may contemplate.

The gay agenda with its holocaust and homophobia outbreaks, the police state with its perils of doom, the social service conglomerations and their worst-case scenarios, the crime commissions with perpetrators at every turn of the road, the student lobbies with outcries of empty futures and obsolete minds, the vulnerable poor and elderly, the disabled and unborn who somehow are neglected, the Christian character, which is both maligned and sin-pocked in its own efforts to win our votes, and victims of every act of life prey on our fears until we can hardly discover the difference between truth and fiction anymore.

I would like to urge everyone to

please look past the constant barrage of media impersonations of reality and struggle to find a balance in our desperate needs at this moment. If we do not think and act clearly at this time, our country stands to lose more than we realize. Please, think before you vote!

Deborah Martin
 Eugene

Administrative inconsistencies

The editorial on University President Dave Frohnmayer's decision to further the University's commitment to the Worker Rights Consortium ("WRC revisited: Will we stay or will we go?" ODE, Oct. 30) was accurate in many ways.

The editorial pointed out the irresponsibility of the manner in which the decision was made, and briefly outlined some of the events since last April. However, one crucial piece of information was left out. Last April, the University community was told that the decision to join the WRC needed to be made with the input of the University Senate.

However, apparently in order to take the first step in leaving the WRC, no public meeting with the Senate was needed, nor was such a meeting used to join the FLA.

Regardless of how the University community feels about the merits of

joining the WRC, we ought to be outraged by the inconsistencies in the administration's decision making policies. Either the students, staff and faculty have input on the University's policies, or we don't. It's that simple.

Ben Andrews
 junior
 geology

Nader supporters not limited to Democrats

This is in response to Democrats' cries that Nader is throwing the election.

Democrats need to work for their votes. At this point, rather than accepting that their platform has failed to convert people to their side, they are blaming Nader.

It is a lie that Nader is draining the Democratic voting base. On Oct. 26, The New York Times published an article regarding recent national polls — MSNBC/Reuters showed that only 25 percent of Nader votes are coming from traditional Democrats. The rest are coming from independents, non-voters and, yes, Republicans.

Nader has been able to inspire some of the 55 percent of Americans who don't vote. Nader/La Duke are the only candidates against nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles in space and the WTO/NAFTA; and for universal health care, public fi-

nancing of campaigns, increasing indigenous rights and upholding the Kyoto Accords. Many independents and non-voters are inspired by this.

Additionally, Republicans make up some of Nader's base. They are union workers frustrated about Bush's and Gore's support of NAFTA. They are from the Reform Party and after the split are voting for Nader. They are small business owners who see Bush and Gore acquiescing to corporate giants. They are right-wingers who feel their personal privacy is under attack by both candidates.

Democrats are wrong in assuming that Nader supporters would switch their votes if Nader dropped out. We are committed to getting the Greens their 5 percent so that our voices can be heard.

Natalie White
 senior
 sociology

Show me the light

What I can't understand is how we can afford millions of dollars to renovate Autzen Stadium, but we can't seem to fix the fluorescent light in the second floor men's bathroom in Oregon Hall for over a month.

Andrew S. Justice
 graduate student
 viola performance/pedagogy

CONTACT US!

The Oregon Daily Emerald welcomes and will attempt to print all letters on topics of interest to the University community. Letters are limited to 250 words. The Emerald may edit any letter for length, clarity, grammar, style and libel. Letters may be mailed, dropped off at EMU Suite 300, or e-mailed to the addresses at the top of the page. Also, please feel free to give your feedback to any individual story or column directly at our Web site. Feedback comments may appear in print at our discretion. Keep in touch!