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# COMMENTARY

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## Editorial

### Concertgoers get bum rap when artist pulls no-show

**H**ip-hop star Nelly and rap icon Ice-T were supposed to play at McArthur Court together Feb. 24. Supposed to. Even before the show's official announcement, rumors circulated with varying degrees of validity that unresolved problems existed between the promoters, the University and the city. Word even spread that a contract wasn't signed for the show until a day or two before tickets went on sale.

After conflicting reports questioning whether the rapper was going to cancel his appearance or perform as planned, the UO Cultural Forum confirmed Feb. 20 that Ice-T would indeed perform. But the rapper still never showed, and his absence left concertgoers wondering what went right.

Rumors about cancellation ranging from Ice-T's "physical problems" to his prior engagements ran rampant on campus the week before the show.

Parking problems plagued the area before the concert, and when the show finally started, the audience was treated to random opening bands with long intervals between sets. Additional, yet admittedly minor, woes came in the form of several hundred middle-school fans who could afford the pricey \$40 tickets. Nelly reportedly only played for about an hour, but the biggest letdown of the night had to be the cancellation of Ice-T.

The concert was a big disappointment all around for fans, and the only excuse we can suggest for Ice-T's no-show is: Hey — must be the money.

## Editorial Policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

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## Letter to the editor

### Pilliod and Buzbee have what it takes

Rachel Pilliod and Ben Buzbee have the plans and the leadership experience necessary to improve the overall education we receive at the University. Their past experience and commitment to students makes them the clear choice for the ASUO Executive.

I am voting for Pilliod and Buzbee because I know they will do everything in their power to remedy problems like inadequate campus security, rising parking fees, and decreasing state funding for education.

I worked as a legislative intern in Salem last session. The facts are simple: Student participation in the legislative process directly determines the amount of funding education receives. The future affordability of tuition at the University is directly dependent upon the quality and effectiveness of the ASUO leadership that we elect for next year. Oregon is facing an \$830 million budget deficit for 2002-03. Public education is the first place that our state legislators are cutting in order to balance the state budget. We need student leaders who will prevent further cuts in the OUS budget and prevent tuition from skyrocketing.

Rachel and Ben are the proactive and dedicated leaders that that we need in the ASUO. Take a few minutes and cast your vote for Pilliod and Buzbee, they are the best choice.

**Arne McLean**  
 junior  
 political science



Steve Baggs Emerald

## Time for HARD-CORE PORN reform

**P**ornography manages to both intrigue and disgust thousands of Americans while continuing to maintain revenue estimated as high as \$10 billion annually. It is the perfect marriage of stocks and bondage — with or without the black leather.

Despite popular culture's tendency to borrow from porn storylines (think Monica and Bill, MTV's soft-core soap opera "Undressed," or any "Sex and the City" episode), the subject remains taboo in society, usually relegated to fraternity houses, bachelor parties and dimly lit suburban bedrooms.

With the advent of the Internet, the scope of porn has been inflated — as are most things in the industry — and producers are reaching wider audiences who have an even broader range of perverse appetites. While the market for porn will always remain steady, the health risks involved for its participants are becoming increasingly dangerous. Safety hazards — not the current nonsensical lawsuits championed by Attorney General John Ashcroft fighting general obscenity — need to be addressed by the federal government.

A recent "Frontline" documentary on the pornography industry, "American Porn," interviewed pornography producer/director Lizzy Borden of Extreme Associates. The crew was conducting the interview on location of her latest porn film; the movie's storyline had the lead female character kicked

and punched, raped by two men, spit on while they slit her throat and left for dead — not very sexy stuff, but the market for this kind of violence is widespread.

Borden told "Frontline" that the actress was a friend and did not know she would actually be hit during the fake rape/murder. She justified the incident by saying it was OK because she was a female director, and her friend trusted her.

An isolated incident? Maybe, but it makes me wonder if the men and women participating in the industry need some form of protection from violence and health hazards, even though they are supposed to be consenting adults.

President George W. Bush and all of his puritanical cronies need to start regulating the industry to protect both actors and producers from physical health hazards. As of fall 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court has heard three cases involving porn; two center on the impact of availability of porn on the Internet. The administration needs to stop wasting time policing obscenity charges and begin devising porn health regulations. It would be doing a service to porn participants, and, in

turn, the industry would bring home the bacon.

Sex sells, and the government should get in on the action. The money gleaned from regulation standards and hefty fines for non-compliance could then be funneled into our public school system. The money might be "dirty" in some eyes, but who is to say the corporate support of schools from business super-giants like Apple, Coca-Cola or Pepsi is any less immoral?

Our children are growing up under the influence that corporate America is to thank for new soccer fields, textbooks and extracurricular programs. Our schools are desperate for government allocations — money the government could easily appropriate if it were making money off the porn industry. With the Bush administration hot and bothered to fight the war on terror, initial campaign promises to reform public schools have been put on the back burner.

Our public schools are getting screwed while the government is giving the shaft to the much-needed health and safety standards of the porn industry. By linking the two social problems, porn producers can continue to make their living safely and our kids can reap the benefits of an industry that makes more than all the "performing arts" combined.

E-mail editorial editor Julie Lauderbaugh at julielauderbaugh@dailyemerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald.



**Julie Lauderbaugh**  
 Editorial Editor