

COMMENTARY

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Thursday, February 13, 2003

Editorial

Women cannot assume they are safe on campus

On Monday, ASUO President Rachel Pilliod was the victim of an eerily familiar incident just off-campus: As she was leaving for the University, a man jumped out from behind a car, dropped his pants and began masturbating in front of her.

It goes without saying that this abhorrent behavior is sexual harassment. It has also happened too frequently in recent memory on campus, with men masturbating in front of women's residence hall windows.

We're very thankful that there haven't been sexual assaults recently like those of two years ago, but because of the relative peace, we worry that women may develop a false sense of security. Just because no new assaults have happened doesn't mean that there are no sexual predators.

And there are things women can do to lessen the risk of being a victim. For instance, try to stay in groups when traveling from place to place. Most sexual predators look for lone victims. To avoid traveling alone at night, women can also avail themselves of shuttle services, such as Nightride and Saferide (call 346-7433), that are set up specifically for nighttime travel.

When confronted by a flasher or masturbator: Leave the area and call the police. Remember every detail that you can, no matter how insignificant, about the perpetrator. Every detail you can supply will help the police catch the suspect. Also, unless there is an imminent risk of violent assault or your path is blocked, don't confront the person. Get as far away as possible.

Finally, seek counseling if you feel threatened or ashamed or are having other emotional trauma stemming from the incident. There are programs specifically designed to help victims of sexual abuse, assault and harassment, such as Sexual Assault Support Services (call 484-9791).

Sex, drugs, booze at college parties? Why, we never!

We are shocked — shocked! — to learn that there are drugs and sex and alcohol (not particularly in that order) at college parties that members of the football team might attend. OK, so we're not shocked. But 17-year-old high school football star Lynell Hamilton apparently was during his recruiting visit.

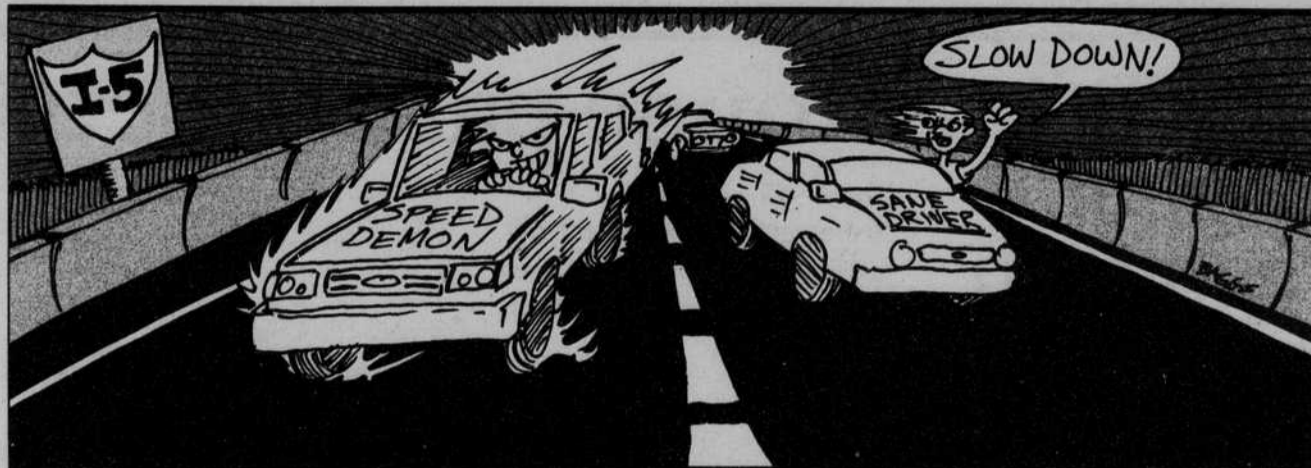
We are surprised to see what looks like awkward growing pains as the Athletic Department moves toward being a top-tier program. Hamilton, now signed at San Diego State, was paired up with former Duck Onterio Smith as his host for the visit, according to The Record, a Stockton, Calif., newspaper. Apparently, Smith took this to mean show Hamilton a good time. A very good time.

Certainly, the Athletic Department can't control everything that happens during a recruit's "free time" off-campus. But if the point was to make the best impression possible on Hamilton, wouldn't the smart move been to take Smith aside and say, "This kid is a devout Christian, and we would like him as a tailback. Have fun, but keep it clean"?

Of course, we also have to ask: What did Hamilton expect, that Smith was going to take him to see the new library? Many athletes seem to live at least part of the "rock star" lifestyle; shouldn't Hamilton have expected a college party while he was visiting a, er, college? Perhaps he could have told his host what he was and was not interested in and saved everyone a lot of grief.

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.



Steve Baggs Emerald

Suppress the need for speed

There is no denying it. At some point in time, after getting into the driver's seat of a car, a force has taken nearly everyone over. I've seen enough University parking decals and pom-poms in the back of cars, showing that Ducks are guilty of this crime as well — the speed demon has a grip on all of us.

For the past three weekends, I have made what seems like an endless number of trips up and down Interstate-5 to go to my hometown of Gresham and back. In all, I've driven at least 720 miles on the freeway these past few weeks. And let me tell you, that is a scary thought.

Although I am no expert on I-5 traffic patterns, I do get out there enough to say that there are definitely some trends. Whether it's talking on cell phones or tailgating other drivers, one of my pet peeves about the road is one of the most deadly of all — speeding. In one trip down I-5, I am sure that more than half of the drivers were speeding, and all of these were driving at least 10 miles above the designated speed limit.

Now, I can understand this need for

speed that many drivers crave. Heck, I am guilty of it, too. The wind in your hair, the stereo blaring — it is only natural to let loose and watch that needle break 65. But, unfortunately, consequences still hold true, and this obsession with speed needs to fade.

The first weekend that I made the pilgrimage from my quaint residence hall back to my hometown, something happened that opened my eyes. Nearly a full day after I complained about the horrible traffic and the woman in the Buick who felt the need to ride my you-know-what, a sobering incident brought the consequences of high speed into clear focus.

As reported by The Oregonian, Joyel Daniels was killed Jan. 25 when another car lost control, flipped over, catapulted into the air and landed on top of Daniels' SUV. The resulting crash injured her sister Kailyn, and Joyel died in an ambulance on the way to Oregon Health & Science University.

The accident is attributed to one factor and one factor alone: The driver whose car went into the air was speeding.

Though it may be fun, speeding rarely pays. Simple math can tell you that driving well over the speed limit may not necessarily make your trip any faster. Between Eugene and Gresham, there are nearly 120 miles of freeway driving. Maintain a speed of 65 mph on

the freeway, and it takes nearly two hours to complete the Eugene-Portland run. But increase that by 10 miles per hour, and it only shaves 15 minutes off. At a speed of 85 mph, a full 20 mph faster, it only makes the trip 26 minutes shorter.

If you ask me, speeding seems rather silly. In this case, the consequences far outweigh what you gain. If caught speeding along the interstate — and this seems to happen frequently right when you get into Salem — the penalty is a ticket, with an almost-certain court appearance and fine. This doesn't do wonders for the driving record.

Also, as with the driver whose out-of-control Suzuki Samurai killed Joyel Daniels, speeders are putting their own lives and the lives of others at risk. And for what? To save a few extra minutes? For the thrill of just going fast? In the grand scheme of things, these just don't seem important.

So, next time you drive down I-5, take a minute and think about the consequences of your actions. And if you're really in that much of a hurry, look around, and if you see a gold Toyota Corolla driving around, watch out — I've got plenty of time.

Contact the columnist at sarahspellman@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Sarah Spellman
Spin cycle

CODAC facilitates research, offers resources

Guest commentary

I would like to commend this year's Oregon Daily Emerald editors and writing staff for their attention to diversity, campus climate and social equity issues at the University. As a founding member of CODAC, the Center on Diversity and Community, I am especially heartened by your efforts to elevate the level of campuswide information and discussion on these important issues.

To that shared end, let me follow up on Brad Schmidt's recent story on student diversity recruitment efforts, "Given a sporting chance" (ODE, Feb. 2), with a couple of clarifications about what CODAC is. Because we are so new on campus, many of your readers may not know what CODAC does.

CODAC was administratively created in October 2001 (not May, as was reported), after more than a year of research and planning by faculty, students, staff and community members. It is not CODAC's role "to evaluate the University on its diversity and on issues that threaten diversity." CODAC's mission — as an interdisciplinary research center — is to promote inquiry, dialogue and understanding on issues of racial, ethnic and cultural diversity.

CODAC accomplishes this mission through advancing diversity scholarship, innovative programs and events, information exchange and partnerships with individuals and communities throughout higher education, the region and our society.

CODAC offers many opportunities and resources that are meant to assist student and faculty recruitment concerns, as well as to enhance the University's

campus climate for diversity. These include events such as the December panel and forum "Voices of the Ducks: Campus Climate, Community and Broadcast Media," our DUCKS facilitator training course and student dialogue groups, our sponsored Campus Climate Research Interest Team, postdoctoral fellowships, graduate research stipends and undergraduate community internships. However, CODAC's role is that of a diversity research center, not of an administrative watchdog.

For more information about CODAC or for a listing of upcoming events, I encourage readers to contact the center or visit the CODAC Web site at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~codac>.

John Shuford is a postdoctoral research fellow with CODAC.

Letter to the editor

Evil euthanasia ideas are nothing new

It is true that our government may not always have the best leaders running it, but after reading Peter Sur's idea in "Selective euthanasia can save the world" (ODE, Feb. 7) about killing everybody who doesn't

have an important role in society, I am certainly glad that we don't have people like him in our government.

At first glance I thought his letter was a joke, and I am still unsure whether or not it was. His ideas are so incredibly evil and sinister that I see no way that a sane individual could conjure them up. Everyone has the right to life, born or unborn — that is what America means. That is what patriots have been willing to die for in the past.

Just because someone may appear useless to society doesn't mean they deserve to die.

And one more thing. Your ideas aren't all that revolutionary. Not too long ago, a man with similar ideas came to power and started "cleaning" his nation of useless people in order to get rid of population and economic problems. His name was Hitler.

Zachary White
sophomore
history