

Women should not be told sexual safety is only their concern

Guest commentary

It was a bittersweet moment to read the editorial in Wednesday's Emerald ("Women cannot assume they are safe on campus," ODE, Feb. 13). While I appreciate the information about services available to women and the acknowledgment that our campus climate does pose a significant risk to the safety of women, all of the information that was provided was in reference to women changing or altering their own behavior to prevent attack.

Why was there no acknowledgment of ways that our campus can, in fact, become safer? And why was there no information about appropriate behavior for men?

Methods for improving safety for women on campus are continuously addressed. Walking in packs, getting a ride, not going out after dark, carrying a cell phone or a whistle, knowing your neighbors and a barrage of other suggestions have been made indicating ways that women on this campus can protect themselves from attacks.

The argument was made in the editorial yesterday that women might have a false sense of security on this campus. If that is the case, which for some women and men it very well may be, then the advice was well received and given.

However, by limiting advice and conversation to simply the preventative behavior of women, only the symptoms of this campuswide, statewide, national and international epidemic of inequality and gender discrimination are being addressed. To make actual, concrete steps forward, we need to advocate for the self-corrective behavior of all, particularly men, in creating a safer campus community for all.

Sexual harassment and assault need to be the primary focus for both men and women. It's not simply enough to know that it exists and that steps can be taken to avoid women's exposure to it. We need to find ways to form an army to make an assault on the mentality that it is acceptable at all.

Men should be just as disgusted by the behavior of their peers and should spend the majority of their time creating a peer-induced stigma that will at least begin to look at an issue that is currently being masked by continuously focusing on ways that women can protect themselves, and not on ways that men can stop it from happening to begin with. Responsibility lies with all members of this community, and the issue should be handled accordingly.

Rachel Pilliod is the ASUO president.

Letters to the editor

University Housing needs regime change

The recent neighborhood forum in the West University Neighborhood was closed for public input. As a renters' rights and historic preservation activist, I have compiled many facts on East Eugene housing injustice and deficiencies in the last few years. The chairperson of the meeting forcefully excluded me from the discussion.

The chairperson also happens to work as a spokesperson for the University on its housing department demolition issues. A real meeting meant to solve problems can't be managed by parties interested in obstructing reform and taking neighborhoods apart.

If our state school can't run its 100 homes decently, what can it expect from out-of-town property owners? Keeping East Campus Family Housing empty and shabby lowers the bar for all landlords. University planners are now incorporating in their East

Campus plans language that protects the University's practice of letting the homes fall apart — or an "un-housing code."

Find a copy of City Councilor David Kelly's re-election brochure and you'll notice he supports a housing code for "privately-held" properties. I guess if you live in University housing, laws don't apply to you, at least in Kelly's world.

Zachary Vishanoff
Eugene

Mandrake cheapens University's image

It is time for students and the administration to realize that things have gone far enough with Mandrake, "Mighty Morphin Power Duck." Now, there is nothing better than seeing the Ducks smash Stanford by 15 in McArthur Court. However, when I viewed ESPN's "Top 10 Plays of the Day," I lost all thoughts about our win, and was furious with our new mascot. To those who didn't attend the Feb. 6 game or see it on TV, Mandrake, our new "athletic" Duck, decided

to do a trampoline flip dunk.

However, I guess Mandrake is just too athletic for Eugene, as he over-accented the flip, hit his beak on the rim, and totally bricked the dunk. In a day where Shaq broke a backboard, Kobe scored 46, and even our beloved Ridnour scored 23 off the bench, Mandrake stole the show, and the No. 8 play of the day, with an absolute comedic flop.

Now accidents happen, but when is the last time you saw Donald make a complete fool of himself? Mandrake wasn't designed to be a comedic reference, unlike Stanford's representation of a tree on drugs. Mandrake is out to prove athletic superiority, which he botched when he ate one of our metal rims.

The fact is, the time has come for the University to realize the harsh reality of Mandrake: no self-respecting Duck fan likes him, he doesn't stack up to Donald in any way, and he makes a fool out of the University from a national perspective.

Charlie Wheary
junior
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Online poll

Each week, the Emerald publishes the previous week's poll results and the coming week's poll question. Visit www.dailyemerald.com to vote.

Last week: What is the best way to get laid on Valentine's Day?

Results: 112 total votes

Bring your date home for a movie — 7.1 percent, or 8 votes

Hang out in the lobby after "The Vagina Monologues" — 8.0 percent, or 9 votes

Show off your new dreadlocks at a peace rally — 4.5 percent, or 5 votes

Romantic dinner, gifts and candy — 13.4 percent, or 15 votes

Backrubs! (They work every time) — 38.4 percent, or 43 votes

Beg — 17 percent, or 19 votes

Leave me alone! — 11.6 percent, or 13 votes

This week: Which of these anti-war slogans from Saturday's rally is the most clever?

Choices: One nation under surveillance; How did our oil get under their sand?; I pee on Bushes (seen on a dog); Stop mad cowboy disease!; War does not increase penis size; None of these are clever; What anti-war rally?

Jewish Student Union

Presents...

Jewish

Film

Fest

February 18th
7:00 pm, 123 Pacific

A Time of Favor

Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards

February 19th
7:00 pm, 123 Pacific

The Frisco Kid

The greatest cowboy to ride into the wild west... from Poland

February 20th
7:00 pm, 123 Pacific

Seder Trek

Two Journeys - One Film