

Thursday, July 10, 2003

EDITORIAL

Quacks & smacks

Quacks to pop star Britney Spears, who in the new issue of *W* magazine finally admitted that she and former boyfriend Justin Timberlake did the nasty. At first we thought about chastising the sex symbol for lying all this time, claiming she was a virgin. But apparently Spears got a memo from the music industry saying sex is cool again (what else could cause the about-face?). Dirty, dirty pop.

Smacks to the all-but-certain tuition increases scheduled for next year. Yes, students benefit from college education, but tuition hikes suck.

Quacks to the Iranian twins who, after being joined at the head for 29 years, attempted a complicated surgery to be separated. It is unfortunate that the two women died, but we commend their courageous goal of independence.

Smacks to more American deaths in Iraq. The longer we stay, the more soldiers will die.

Quacks to the near-completion of the Lillis Business Complex. Should all students be so lucky as to major in business.

Smacks to President Bush for his assertion in the State of the Union address that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Africa. Turns out it wasn't true at all. One would think that in the president's annual address, he could at least double-check the facts before misleading millions of Americans.

Quacks to Luke Ridnour for making it to the NBA.

Smacks to the Oregon Legislature. The 2003-05 biennium started July 1, and we still don't have a budget. Figure it out.

Quacks to the ASUO Executive, which committed itself to providing a safe way home for drivers of state-owned vehicles like Saferide and Nightride. If the state decides the University's policies are problematic, ASUO has vowed to "make sure that anyone that needs to be taken home will be taken home."

Smacks to talks of sending troops into Liberia. It hasn't yet come to this, and it shouldn't. What happened to picking battles wisely? The Bush World Tour really doesn't need to stop in Africa.

Quacks to summer school and lazy days of reading.

Smacks to crappy, legal fireworks in Oregon. Bright, noisy fireworks that don't leave the ground aren't enjoyable in the least.

Quacks to the city of Eugene for seeking to name a street after Martin Luther King Jr. Too bad things got so ugly.

Smacks to the Portland Trailblazers. Trying to clean up the team's image? On July 3 Damon Stoudamire was arrested — for a third time — on pot charges. Tuesday, the Blazers canned nearly a third of their 280-person staff. We presume the former employees have less legal trouble than Stoudamire — all 88 of them combined. Let's just say the chances of the Blazers turning it around are highly suspect.

IntroWELCOME

As hundreds of students flock to campus today for the first installment of IntroDUCKtion, we'd like to take this opportunity to extend a warm greeting to our newest classmates and their visiting families.

The Emerald strives to educate the community about issues pertaining directly to the University campus. While new students will be able to utilize our services, we would also like to point out that the families of new students can as well.

The Emerald — published Tuesdays and Thursdays in the summer and on weekdays during the school year — can be read online at www.dailyemerald.com.

Also, the Emerald provides news and sports updates to interested individuals via e-mail. Find out what's going on in your student's community by registering for the Emerald Insider at www.dailyemerald.com.

Oh, and again, welcome to the University.

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. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submission must include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

Fiery, explosive karma

It was a day to celebrate independence, pride in America and the freedom to enjoy things that explode. But my celebration on the Fourth of July was tainted when someone infringed on my right to personal safety. Let me explain — and vent — so I can avoid clinging to the bad memory for years to come.

I spent most of the holiday in pleasant fashion. I went to my father's house for a barbecue and enjoyed live music from three teenage blues musicians who are sure to have excellent futures. I shot a roll of film for a photography class and chatted with family and friends for a few hours.

After the barbecue, a friend and I drove to Rooster Rock State Park on the shoreline of the Columbia River. We spent the afternoon resting in the sun, enjoying conversation and watching escapades on the river.

It was on the drive back to Portland on Interstate 84 that a bizarre and frustrating event transpired.

A live firecracker came spitting out of a nearby car window and flew toward my Mazda. In a split second it exploded with a burst of noise and red fire as my car sped over it. I shrieked with surprise and confusion; I didn't immediately realize what had happened.

My friend was driving and he quickly accelerated and chased down the culprit of the prank, the driver of a silver PT Cruiser with an easily identifiable custom license plate. We pulled even with the harasser and the driver leered at me, then spontaneously switched lanes and zoomed off an exit, nearly crashing into another car.

The whole incident took place in less than a minute but left me pissed for hours. Even more irritating is that the car actually got back onto the freeway a few miles later to further taunt my little Mazda. The driver pulled alongside my car and laughed as he watched my outraged reaction at his return. He then sped off to another exit, his business finished.

What did I do to warrant this nasty



Peter Utsey for the Emerald

attention? Maybe mister smarty-pants was offended by my liberal, feminist bumper stickers, but I suspect I was probably just a random target, probably one of many on his Fourth of July.

It occurred to me to report the dangerous pest to the authorities but I didn't know the phone number for the non-emergency reporting line. I refuse to dial 911 for non-life threatening emergencies, something instructed by family

members who work for emergency services. So the culprit remained free on the day of freedom, unless another unlucky victim reported him.

I don't even like fireworks in the first place. They're loud, they spit flames uncontrollably in all directions and they are a waste of money and resources. I don't see them as pretty or exciting and they don't convey celebration of freedom in any way that I can gather.



Adelle Lennox
 Rant-o-licious

SB 10 misunderstood; would be helpful

Recent commentaries ("Illegal aid," ODE, July 8; "Illegal aliens would up tuition costs," ODE, July 8) have only perpetuated misconceptions about Senate Bill 10.

By allowing undocumented graduates of Oregon high schools to pay in-state tuition, Senate Bill 10 would break down a barrier that prevents some highly qualified students from going to college. These are students who have grown up in our state, while attending our K-12 schools and — despite what naysayers would have you believe — making vital contributions to our state economy.

It is important, then, to clarify the implications of Senate Bill 10.

People could not just come to the state looking for lower tuition rates. Students would have to attend an Oregon high school for three consecutive years in order to be covered by the bill. They would also have to prove that they are working toward legal residency.

Senate Bill 10 would not raise costs for students — or for anyone else. The Ore-

gon University System has submitted an official statement attesting to that fact. In actuality, Senate Bill 10 would more likely add tuition money to university accounts. Students who were previously unable to afford an education (and thus paid universities nothing) would be paying in-state tuition.

Senate Bill 10 does not take anything away from other students. Students covered by the bill would not be eligible for financial aid. Further, the Oregon University System has repeatedly and publicly testified that our universities can absorb the projected enrollment increases without negative effects on current students or future applicants. In total, Senate Bill 10 would add only about 20 to 250 students to a university system of nearly 80,000.

Opponents of Senate Bill 10 perplexingly suggest that its ideas should be enacted through a law change. That is exactly what the bill would do: change Oregon law.

According to the legal counsel for the Oregon Legislature, Senate Bill 10 does not conflict with federal regulations. This legal opinion agrees with similar findings in other states that have already implemented legislation like Senate Bill 10.

I'm not a total Fourth of July bummer just because I don't like fireworks. And I don't mind large controlled firework displays put on by responsible organizations; they provide a great opportunity for snuggling under the brilliant night sky. But I'm no fan of personal fireworks, especially when they're coming toward me.

Maybe my feelings result from my upbringing. My stepfather was the assistant fire marshal for the city of Portland and he definitely instilled in me a cautionary approach to fire and explosives. But shouldn't one be extremely careful with explosives? They explode!

I don't want to take away anyone's right to celebrate with fireworks, but I don't want to suffer injuries because of their right either. If fireworks are part of your holiday tradition, do everyone a favor and play nice. Keep the firecrackers off the freeway and avoid the bad burning karma that is certainly coming to Mr. PT Cruiser.

Contact the design editor at adellelennox@dailyemerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

And while we're on the subject, policies similar to Senate Bill 10 have been passed not in three states (as suggested in a recent guest column), but in seven: Washington, California, Oklahoma, Texas, New York, Utah and Illinois.

All in all, Senate Bill 10 would increase access to college and benefit Oregon students. Thus, the Oregon Student Association and the Associated Students of the University of Oregon are well-justified in their support for this bill.

OSA and the ASUO work hard to ensure student access to higher education. Part of ensuring that access is making higher education is affordable to would-be students, which is why both groups have supported, currently support and will continue to support Senate Bill 10.

Senate Bill 10 is not about taking from students; it is about giving to students. I urge you to call your representative and voice your support for increasing college access through Senate Bill 10.

Maddy Melton, a senior majoring in sociology and women's studies, is ASUO president and chairwoman of the Oregon Student Association.