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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**ODE's story about KWVA could be misleading**

I feel that I must respond to your news item ("KWVA receives allocation to update equipment," ODE, Feb. 19) describing the ASUO's allocation of \$31,794 to KWVA. The reporter, Chuck Slothower, did a poor job in presenting both sides of the discussion. Sens. Harding and Curtin are quoted, and both of their statements are critical of the station. What Slothower, not unlike these two senators, failed to acknowledge was that station General Manager Charlotte Nisser did account for the budget discrepancies, and did directly respond to each of their queries in a straightforward way. Slothower also failed to report that these senators admitted that they did not research the issue before the meeting, despite the fact that Nisser gave them the figures a week in advance with an invitation to contact her. They entered the meeting without knowledge of

how radio works (which they freely admitted), did not tour the facilities at the station to have an idea of what Nisser was requesting, and did not acknowledge her explanation of how the previous money was spent.

Slothower said nothing of the many positive statements made by several other senators in support of the station and its request. In short, the article could lead the uninformed to believe that KWVA has done something wrong, or that it was in some way dishonest in its dealings with the ASUO and University in general. This could not be further from the truth.

**Nikolas Voll**  
senior  
journalism  
production director, KWVA

**Conservatives should allow private lives to stay private**

What is it with the Republican Party and its ongoing fascination with other people's genitalia? We spent the better part of three years obsessing over Bill Clinton's package and what marital indiscretions occurred thereon. Isn't it time we moved on from what other people may or may not be doing behind closed doors?

How does it change things if the lesbians down the block, with their adopted child, also happen to have a marriage certificate? Is the GOP afraid that soccer moms are going to start running away with Dykes on Bikes? That their sons and daughters might start listening with more brevity to Leviticus 19:18 and 19:34, or Matthew 5:34 and 19:19, or Mark 12:31, rather than Leviticus 18:22?

Fortunately, I think that most Christian Republicans are inherently good-natured people who have been led astray by deranged, vindictive lunatics who think that God hates gays and that Jesus meant cut taxes and starve the welfare system when he said "sell what thou hast, and give to the poor."

**Ethan Firpo**  
sophomore  
anthropology

**Emerald must drop mascot issue, smoke weed instead**

What a truly ignorant article your editorial board has written about the tradition of Chief Illiniwek at the University of Illinois.

I am an Illinois grad. It's really none of your business what my university decides to do. My first suggestion is that you learn to mind your own business. You must have something better to do than attempting to run the University of Illinois from 2,500 miles away. I hear they've got very good weed in Oregon. Why don't you smoke some and try to get your priorities straight?

Your suggestion that Oregon not schedule Illinois is PC idiocy. You are not accomplishing anything, nor do you intend to. Your editorial is part of the wretched tradition of halo preening. Please stop it. You're just making asses out of yourselves. When you don't have anything to say, as is evident in this case, I suggest that you say nothing.

And, yes, the Fighting Illini basketball team will kick Oregon's ass from here to the other side of the world.

Progressive means Marxist, which isn't very progressive at all. In fact, it's

hard to imagine any ideology that is more backward. Let me be the first to inform you that the Soviet Union is defunct, and that communism failed throughout the world.

Anybody on your staff ready for the 21st century?

**Stephen Thomas**  
Jersey City, N.J.

**No draft doesn't ensure voluntary service**

I read David Jagernauth's column concerning the draft ("The Draft," ODE, March 4). And I agree that the draft is not the answer to our civic and logistical problems, in a time of global and national crisis.

The draft is a weak excuse for civic duty, requiring service only from those who've been unlucky enough to be drawn in a lottery-style selection process. A truly equitable and far more beneficial program would be one of universal conscription — where everybody has to serve.

Jagernauth and others who oppose mandatory military service are concerned by the obviously undemocratic organization of the military and the prospect of people having to fight a war they don't believe in. Here's a bit of news for those who oppose universal conscription: There are already people being forced to fight a war they don't believe in.

Most of the men and women currently serving in Iraq joined the military before the decision was made to invade Iraq, and many of them were personally opposed to the decision. On the other side of the coin there were many fat and happy "patriots" who enthusiastically supported an invasion, in comfort and safety, knowing that they would not be required to fight themselves.

By requiring every citizen, who is eligible to vote, to put their (or their loved ones') butts on the line in support of a war, universal conscription could prevent the reckless initiation of war more easily and effectively than any peace rally could ever hope to do.

**Paul Griffes**  
senior  
geography

**Bush must face his critics in public campaign settings**

"Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?"

Few Americans over 50 will ever forget that chant — or that it led to President Johnson's decision not to run in 1968.

It's a memory not lost on the Bush White House either. And it explains why the president's travel schedule is as secret as the makings of the atom bomb. It explains why thousands of protesters are kept "a country mile" from every site where Bush goes to campaign. It explains why Bush cannot visit a single foreign country anywhere in the world — not even London, where a million angry citizens gathered late last year to protest his presence in their land.

What would happen if American protesters were allowed their First Amendment rights of assembly? How many thousands would "greet" the president at each stop? How many more at the next one? And the one after that?

We know the answer. Thousands

would grow to tens of thousands. The images would appear regularly on national television — all red meat to lions determined to ensure Bush's defeat.

What would Bush do?

Would he dare to hunker down inside the White House from now until November? Or would he brave the chants — "Hey, hey, Bush, how many jobs did you lose today?"

Here is a story that needs to be told.  
**John Hibbs**  
Eugene

**Marginalization of Sharpton, Kucinich should concern Americans**

Perhaps for the first time in history, two politicians were attempting to give simple 'yes' and 'no' answers. But when Al Sharpton asked why the other two, John Kerry and John Edwards, were receiving all the attention, Dan Rather — moderating CBS's debates, billed as "Helping America Decide" — justified the exclusion by announcing, "The voters have already decided."

Hmm.

In both debates leading up to Super Tuesday, co-moderators abandoned all pretense of fairness, not once acknowledging the two lesser known candidates, or as Rather might have called them — losers. Counting CNN's debate earlier that week, Congressman Kucinich was allowed to speak for seven of 150 minutes, Sharpton just marginally more.

Super Tuesday was crowded with news about Kerry and Edwards, but the real story should have been the suppression of the two candidates voters knew least about.

What does it say about our democracy when four equals two on national TV?

To those elected, it says that deadly choices and mistakes will go unchallenged, that the people are far removed from power, distanced and controlled by news media excessively geared to maintain intimate relationships with government policymakers and generate profit rather than honest information for an honest democracy.

I think most Americans would agree that, in a democracy, candidates should have equal time and newscasters shouldn't play God.

**Brian Bogart**  
graduate student  
peace studies

**ODE's take on Illini mascot is baseless and silly**

So playing the Illini is racist ("Oregon takes backward step by scheduling Illinois game," ODE, March 1)? Sports Illustrated did an article on this topic a while back and found that a full 80 percent of Native Americans weren't at all offended by the use of their tribal names as college mascots and, for the most part, took pride in that usage. So, what we're really talking about here is an elite group of white liberals "watching out for" their Native American brethren. Another way of saying "these poor, ignorant, naive people don't even know they are being subjected to racism and we (white liberal establishment) are going to protect them." What a joke.

**Keith Sparks**  
Beaverton

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