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The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. Unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.



"... YOU MEAN I CAN STILL WEAR THE PISTOL IN HERE? AND THE BANDOLIER, TOO? GEE, THIS IS JUST LIKE BEING BACK AT THE U.N.!"

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

In my opinion

The male model of infertility

Groundbreaking studies are currently being conducted by U.S. scientists in an effort to find a new method of contraception for men. Researchers have discovered that injecting a certain protein will produce antibodies that render the male infertile, as long as regular shots are received. Tests are still in preliminary stages, as they currently involve monkeys rather than humans, but more research is surely on its way. How will this development in sexual health care affect sexually active heterosexuals in our nation? Let's look at a potential timeline over the next year and find out.

January 23, 2005: Amid hype about the possibility of an easy-to-use, effective measure of male birth control, forward-thinking men across the country rejoice. Now they can stop soaking their nether-regions in boiling vats of water and rely on antibodies to kill their sperm instead.

February 3: Tests on protein injections are still not complete, but the Food and Drug Administration finally puts on its reading glasses and realizes that male contraceptive pills, based on hormones and approved in Europe for some time now, are 100 percent effective. A communal "d'oh!" is released. Unfortunately, just as someone is about to remedy the situation, a whole new slew of prescription medications arrive seeking approval. Side effects could



AILEE SLATER
FURTHER FROM PERFECTION

include headache, drowsiness, addiction on par with morphine, dubious acts involving hot pepper sauce and all-expenses-paid vacations in Bermuda for our employees. "You bet we'll spend our time testing your drug!" Endorsement of the male birth control pill is put on hold.

May 15: "Wait. You mean it's 100 percent effective, has almost no side effects, and lets men be more responsible for their sexual health and decisions?"

June 11: Sexual health educators realize that the problem with the Just Say No campaign is that this burden of refusal almost always falls on women. Until men recognize their ability not only to create, but also to prevent a pregnancy, true responsibility may not be felt or accepted by the masculine masses.

July 3: Male birth control pill sanctioned by FDA; method based on antibody reactions not far behind.

July 10: All state governments express approval, sans Texas, which has by now instituted statewide textbooks

that deny the existence of sexual intercourse all together. That's right little Jimmy, babies come from the magical purple ferret in the sky. You don't need to worry about "birth control." Only sinning homosexuals need to use that!

August 19: Mary Katherine Smithe of Duluth, Minnesota, experiences an otherworldly orgasm upon her sublime realization that, for the first time, she is enjoying sex without the fear or burden of pregnancy on her shoulders. Fundamentalist groups call her realization immoral and stupid; Mary calls it sexual freedom and the result of a product and partner she can trust. Her man is interested in the equal distribution of burdens not just of child rearing, but child producing. He is willing to let go of stone-age social norms, which force women into ultimate responsibility for an act that is pretty clearly two-sided. He understands that in an age of technology wherein lamps can be clapped on and off, it's time for men to share in contraceptive decision making and action. He knows that women deserve to someday be able to say "yes" to sex with ease and fearlessness. He also bears a striking resemblance to Johnny Depp.

November 11: All forms of male birth control are approved by the FDA. U.S. society ushers in a new era in which sexual activity is safe, protected and fun for all.

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INBOX

Abusive Republicans benefit from voting fraud

Republicans shamefully abused civility so their legion would vote for gay discrimination and President Bush. They demonized Democrats and again disenfranchised voters. Not having paper records from e-voting machines is maddening because you can't re-count. Voting machine maker Diebold was

quoted it "would win Ohio for George Bush." That's why Kerry conceded? Republicans won't correct voting fraud because they benefited twice.

Fight censorship, discrimination, anti-choice, anti-freedom, fiscal irresponsibility, assault weapons and war crimes. The far right wants us to be unhealthy, misinformed, unemployed, silenced and scared into relinquishing

our freedoms (i.e. the PATRIOT Act). They think our Constitution is a rough draft needing numerous amendments.

Republicans demonstrated their wickedness and their base approved that message. Good guys finished last. Wise up Democrats: Develop winning candidates that can reach everyone.

William Stark
Eugene

Editorial

France fails as functional Ivory Coast peacekeeper

"The use of force, which entails serious risks of destabilization for the region, for Africa and the world, should only be a last resort." That was French President Jacques Chirac in February 2003, discussing with a coalition of African leaders why he opposed a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Chirac would have been wise to listen to his own antiwar rhetoric last week before he authorized his military to unilaterally destroy the air force of the West African state of Ivory Coast. France was retaliating for the Ivorian government's Nov. 6 attack on a peacekeeping post that left nine French soldiers dead, along with a U.S. aid worker.

The Emerald condemns President Laurent Gbagbo for the attacks and for violating his 18-month cease-fire with Ivorian rebels in the north. We support proposed U.N. sanctions against Gbagbo's government — also endorsed by African leaders — which, among other things, would include an arms embargo.

But we also feel that the French government can no longer function as effective peacekeepers, due to their numerous financial, military and political interests in their former colony. Currently, 40 percent of the peacekeeping force in Ivory Coast is French (nearly 4,500 troops), according to the Inter Press Service in Johannesburg. They act independently of other peacekeepers and are perceived by many to be supporting the Muslim rebels against the Ivorian government.

The French government's understandable, but ill-advised, military actions illustrate the failed role it is playing in the Ivorian peacekeeping effort. The government's real and perceived conflicts of interest are only fanning the flames of an already difficult situation. In the interest of neutrality, the French should reduce their presence or leave Ivory Coast altogether, to make way for a more multilateral force, led by the United Nations or by the African Union.

President Chirac, if building an international coalition was the right course in the Middle East, then it is certainly the right course in Africa. Please stop the hypocrisy.

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ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

What would be the outcome of a brawl between the University of Oregon Duck and the Oregon State University Beaver? Visit www.dailymerald.com to vote.

- Buck the Feavers. Donald would win for sure in a one-on-one match.
- Roast Duck. Angry Benny Beaver would chew up any poultry opponent.
- A tie. Both teams have mascots that could kick some butt.
- Waterfowl and oversized rodents? These mascots don't deserve rivalry.
- Who cares. I can find something better to do with my time than worry about fictional matchups of over-sized stuffed animals.

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