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...I'M SURE GLAD TO BE DONE WITH HIGH SCHOOL AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FITTING INTO ALL THOSE CLICHE STEREO-TYPES.....



AARON DUCHATEAU | ILLUSTRATOR

In my opinion

DEALING WITH DISASTER

Hurricane Katrina has come and gone, taking with her more than 1,000 lives. Rita is well on her way out, with only one reported death directly related to hurricane damage. I think we've all learned something — preventative measures are key.

President Bush certainly believes in preventative measures. He went out of his way to ignore concrete evidence and predict that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Bush even went to war to prevent an Iraqi weapon of mass destruction from hitting the United States. So maybe it would be more accurate to say that Bush pre-empted his post-9/11 fall in political capital by blaming terrorism on Iraq and attacking the country at will.

The Bush administration was all for a pre-emptive strike against Iraq, but not one person took such a strike in evacuating the city of New Orleans.

Yes, money is always an issue. The subtext to the money is that no one in the Bush administration can even listen when environmental scientists say global warming could be one reason for a recent upsurge in dangerous storms. If the government has the power to allocate the billions of dollars it takes to deal with Katrina, they surely have the power to use scientific information as well as foresight and reduce greenhouse gases with the help of cleaner-burning fuel sources.

Speaking of preventative measures that can still save future disaster victims, it would do Bush well to remember that a reported 37 million Americans live in poverty. Aside from using phrases saturated in political correctness, Bush is doing very little to solve the problem of poverty. Bush claims that he can see the poverty/racism factors that resulted in Hurricane Katrina's destruction, but policy decisions show only that there is a "great city" needing to be rebuilt.

Phrases drenched in political accuracy are of no help to the poor. New buildings do nothing to heal the



AILEE SLATER
FURTHER FROM PERFECTION

poverty that led to so many citizens unable to escape their Great City as it flooded out from under them. Without a car to travel across freeways, without a television to even realize that there was a problem, New Orleans' poorest had little choice but to perish where they stood.

Pouring money into new Gulf Coast development (potentially more than \$200 billion) can't save the poor from another hurricane; only government acknowledgment that the poor are important and necessary to our society can prevent another instance of unnecessary death.

The Bush administration showed its disregard for the poor long before Katrina hit, with a national policy of fewer welfare programs and more tax cuts. If Bush wants to repair hurricane damage and the damage done to his own image, he ought to use future policy decisions to prove he cares. Bush must show that in the wake of thousands of Katrina casualties and less than 100 Rita deaths, his administration has learned its lesson. No more ignoring the poor and disadvantaged until they are already dead and plastered across a television screen.

So where's the funding and policy to at least attempt a solution to poverty?

A rebuilt city will likewise do little to end racism. Racism is an issue that Bush has admitted was related to the level of destruction in New Orleans. It seems that Bush is perfectly happy to oppose racism during his speeches, saying that America must "rise above the legacy of inequality," but he is

somewhat less likely to look at race when crafting his administration's policy values.

Bush agrees that there is a link between race and poverty, yet he ignored the racism/poverty cycle in his stand against affirmative action. And then, here comes Hurricane Katrina, a skeptical nation and Bush's lowest approval ratings ever. Now, Bush has no choice but to admit, in his own words, that the United States is home to a "history of discrimination, which cut off generations from the opportunity of America."

It's not good that our president only acknowledges racism when his administration is accused of being racist. If Bush truly understood the connection between a history of discrimination and the loss of opportunity that still exists to this day, affirmative action wouldn't even be a question. In the United States, the only sure way to repair poverty lies in access to higher education.

The Bush stance is clear: If no one is giving him criticism, the issue may as well not exist. Racism is pushed under the rug until a hurricane upends New Orleans. We know that sexism isn't discussed in the context of rape and abortion; sexism is a non-issue until child prostitution rings are discovered. Bush doesn't acknowledge homophobia when vying to make gay marriage illegal; homophobia is ignored until the national news reports that another young gay person has been killed by harassers. When does it end?

It ends as soon as our lawmakers get off their politically correct high horses and actually use their federal dollars and political power to do something about it. Even \$200 billion can't buy a fair fight against a hurricane. Dealing with the human element involved in exacerbating disasters is surely the most efficient and important route to healing.

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Editorial

Stereotyping students is disservice to community

On Saturday, The Register-Guard published a news article explaining why the Eugene Police Department will resume its "Party Patrol," concentrating EPD energy on University neighborhoods where potentially unruly parties may occur.

Reporter Rebecca Nolan applauds EPD's efforts, offering a few tongue-in-cheek insults directed toward the University population: "('Party Patrol' is) much reviled by youngsters who believe that hosting a kegger in a cramped rental apartment is a right protected by the U.S. Constitution."

The truth is, as long as everyone crammed into that apartment is older than 21, the right to have a party in a private residence is protected by the Constitution. Underage drinking is understandably a problem that must be dealt with, but not everyone comes to college hankering to get drunk and "start burning furniture in the street," as is indicated in Nolan's article.

More police watching over the West University Neighborhood may have helped prevent riots in recent years, but stereotyping all University students because of rioting more than two years ago only enforces the mentality that students are a nuisance to the Eugene community, no matter our current actions. Nolan's article insults college students, not even mentioning the economic and cultural benefits that a University population brings to Eugene.

Eugene belongs to each of its residents equally; we must all live in this city together. Nolan's "us and them" stereotypes will only encourage more anger and frustration from everyone. In the future, all Eugene media should encourage the value of mutual respect by using facts rather than stereotypes when reporting on University news.

Editorial Board informs readers about commentary decisions

In the coming months, within each issue of the Emerald, you may find yourself compulsively reading the commentary in this editorial space.

The ODE Editorial Board, a group of five Emerald editors, is responsible for editorial opinions and writings. The Board always includes the editor in chief, managing editor and commentary editor. The two remaining Editorial Board positions change every each term, as decided by the Emerald's Editor in Chief.

Those two openings may be filled by a photo editor or an online editor. No member of the Emerald's news desk can join the Editorial Board, meaning the opinions found in this space are not a reflection of the journalistic intent of any news reporter.

The Editorial Board strives to provide a voice for the Oregon Daily Emerald; we wish to let the community know how and why the editors of this newspaper make some of the decisions that we do. This editorial space is the product of weekly board meetings, wherein the Editorial Board discusses University, political, world and local events deemed important to our college campus.

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