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In my opinion

Paying the Price



JESSICA DERLETH
 FREEDOM RINGS WHERE OPINIONS CLASH

For some time now, there has been a lot of talk about piracy: downloading music for free, burning CDs, sharing music files and all other creative methods of theft. Those within the music and movie industries have been working to protect their products, introducing legislation that makes it easier to go after "online thieves," and winning thousands of lawsuits against people who illegally download music and movies. For some people, the threat of legal action is not enough, so companies have looked to develop programs that keep consumers from pirating the music that they are attempting to sell.

So far, the majority of these attempts to protect CDs have been rather benign, though they can be annoying. One of the more popular forms of protection is "end-user license agreements." This contract makes users agree to a long list of restrictions before they can use the product they have purchased. Some license agreements, like that listed on Sony BMG's compact disks, can be rather restrictive: The music cannot be loaded onto a work computer; music loaded onto home PCs cannot be taken out of the country; and people who no longer possess the original CD are required to delete music they have loaded onto their computers.

Some of these restrictions are unfair and, for lack of a better word, silly. I have had a CD break and the only reason I can continue listening to the music I paid for is because I had already loaded it onto my computer. Although I think some of these terms are a little restrictive, I see why they are necessary.

A lot of people are out there stealing and distributing music. I understand burning the occasional CD from a friend or downloading the occasional song. But a lot of people take it too far and, any way you spin it, it is theft.

There are a few popular defenses for piracy: The artists make enough

money as it is, and most CDs only have a few good songs. Well, lucky enough, all of this music downloading has led to legitimate Web sites where people can buy single songs. These sites are a convenient way to get the music you want. Aside from the quality of the CD as a whole, I have heard a lot of scorn when it comes to music artists and how much money they make. This I can understand. If Hillary Duff, for instance, is complaining about not getting all the money that she is due, I find it hard to muster any sympathy. Those who have seen those programs about the ridiculously expensive things celebrities buy should at least be able to see where I am coming from. My lack of concern for the millionaire artists is balanced out by my appreciation for all of the people who work on recording, producing, creating and selling the CDs, who certainly deserve to be paid.

Music is a product just like anything else you find in a store. And just like anything else, if you take it without paying, you are stealing. With that in mind, I can understand why companies work so hard to protect music; however, Sony took things too far.

On Oct. 31, blogger Mark Russinovich discovered a hidden program installed on his PC by a Sony music disk. When the CDs are put into the computer, they automatically install a program that restricts how many times the discs' tracks can be copied, which is inconvenient when it comes to using

portable music players. The alarming part about this program is that it is designed to bury itself deep within the Windows operating system. Manual attempts to remove the software can disable the PC's CD drive. Even worse, the program has given virus writers an easy tool for hiding their "malicious software." Yep, Sony has made it easier for virus writers to steal personal information, launch attacks on other computers, and send spam.

When people purchase CDs, they shouldn't have to worry that the company that made it will mess up their computers. Sony is working to prevent piracy, yet all it is doing is punishing people who purchase its CDs. Besides overreaching, Sony's action may be violating state and federal spyware laws (class actions have been filed).

When Sony realized the huge mistake it had made, it started trying to fix the mess from the 4.7 million shipped CDs that had the program and the 2.1 million sold. To help those that had the program installed on their computers, Sony developed an uninstaller that has created more problems. According to The Associated Press, "To get the uninstall program, users were asked to request it by filling out online forms. Once submitted, the forms themselves download and install a program designed to ready the PC for the fix. Essentially, it makes the PC open to downloading and installing code from the Internet."

It is important to protect intellectual property, but companies cannot put their consumers' property at risk. It is not OK for Sony to jeopardize the computers of their consumers. If there is any hope to end piracy, people need to stop stealing music and the industry needs to stick to responsible, safe methods for protecting their products.

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Out loud

"The chief justice says that the court in no way desires to legislate. This is fucking legislation."

— **David Goward**, Recognition Review Committee chairman, on the Constitution Court's decision last week to reject the RRC's bylaws.

"I think what we are most deeply saddened by is the tremendous loss of potential for a peaceful person who had (such a) good heart."

— **Pat Lombardi**, director of undergraduate advising and research assistant professor, on former University student Raymond Dwayne Gwerder, 30, who was shot and killed by a Portland police sniper on Nov. 4.

"I hope that someone who shares my values, my commitment to this community and the determination to make a difference will step forward to run for the position."

— **David Kelly**, Ward 3 city councilor, on the qualities he would like to see in his replacement. He announced his decision not to seek re-election this week.

"So often in the United States, we have the Middle East reduced to a couple of conflicts and a couple of peoples in a couple of countries. We're obligated to engage in basic education about the Middle East."

— **Shaul Cohen**, associate professor of geography, challenging Americans to learn more about the Middle East during his speech kicking off the International Resource Center's week-long "Opening Windows on Middle East Cultures" event.

"We feel that it portrays sexism in that all women are highly sexualized and objectified. We feel that their presence should not be here on campus."

— **Heather North**, sophomore women's and gender studies major, on "Mojo Master," a video game promoting AXE men's fragrances that AXE representatives displayed outside the EMU Tuesday. Sign-carrying protesters encircled the AXE tent and shouted slogans.

"We knew there would be things that some might find controversial."

— **Amy Johnson**, Scheduling and Event Services coordinator, on AXE's "Mojo Master" promotional stop.

"He was definitely on his way to doing things. My life is never going to be the same without him. It's just not."

— **Shane Reese**, friend, on the death of senior Paul Michael Grillo, 22, who died Nov. 7 from a stab wound to his chest that police say was inflicted by his brother, sophomore John Andrew Grillo, 19. A memorial for Paul Grillo will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Hillsboro.

"We put so many cups in the garbage it's not even funny."

— **Rosie Sweetman**, ASUO environmental coordinator, on a visual display she created by collecting paper coffee cups from campus trash cans to celebrate America Recycles Day Tuesday.

"This is just another nail in the coffin for low-income students."

— **Bill Dwyer**, Lane County commissioner, on the potential sale of Westmoreland Apartments.

CORRECTION

The graphs accompanying Thursday's article "Comparing Compensation" represented total compensation, not just salaries. The salaries listed for Lorraine Davis, Dan Williams and John Moseley were from 2004-05, not 2003-04.

The headline for Thursday's story "Journalism school adds diversity plan" should have specified that the school actually revised its 1993 plan.

The Emerald regrets the errors.

Guest commentary

Guest columnist represents event, speaker inaccurately

In response to the guest commentary written Nov. 10 (ODE, "Narrow minds inhibit peace") we, the Jewish Student Union, would like to respond to three inaccurate and offensive statements that appeared in the opinion piece written by Alex Deley.

First, Deley stated that the Nov. 1 speaker, Mitchell Bard, "is affiliated with the Jewish organization known as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee." This is false. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is in fact an American-based, non-partisan, non-religious lobbying group, which advocates improved relations between the United States and Israel. It is nothing less than offensive to label AIPAC as a Jewish organization. Furthermore, Deley is grossly mistaken in suggesting that Dr. Bard is affiliated with AIPAC. Dr. Bard does not represent the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and is in fact a prolific author of more than 15 books on the Israel/Palestine conflict. It is also very arrogant for Deley to suggest that Dr. Bard demonstrated a "very shallow knowledge of Arab history and psychology." While we respect Alex Deley's "great interest" in

the Middle East, in addition to his "great lengths to read both sides of the argument," we do not think that it is respectful to belittle Dr. Bard's — or any other accomplished scholar's — extensive knowledge and experience of the subject.

Second, Deley incorrectly referred to the Islamic Terrorist organization, Hezbollah, as a "political organization," claiming that Hezbollah plays a "much greater role in the Middle East" by sponsoring humanitarian projects such as the building of schools. Deley fails to mention that Hezbollah's mission in building schools is to teach children the ideologies of anti-Semitism, the destruction of Israel, and the realization of an Islamic global presence. According to the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and several other world powers, Hezbollah is strictly classified as a "terrorist organization." The Anti-Defamation League also defines Hezbollah as a "terrorist organization" that seeks to destroy Israel and the West "as steps in a Pan-Islamic struggle." The ADL goes on to say that Hezbollah has grown into a "military network that engages in terrorist-related activity all over the

world, perpetrates and plots against American's Westerners and Jews both inside and outside Lebanon, and cooperates with other international terrorist organizations."

Third, the goal of inviting speakers to campus is not to present a point of view which pleases all sides, but rather to present different points of view on multi-layered conflict. It is unrealistic for Deley to expect an "evenhanded" approach to such as issue.

In conclusion, we would like to clarify that the lecture by Dr. Bard was the first in a series of several lectures we will be putting on throughout the school year, which aim to represent differing views on Israeli politics and culture. On Jan. 22, the Jewish Student Union, in conjunction with Oregon Hillel, will be bringing the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's son, Yuval Rabin, to campus to honor the 10th anniversary of his father's assassination by a Jewish terrorist.

Jonathan Rosenberg is director of the Jewish Student Union and a political science major. Daniel Rosove is a political science major.