Americans see police brutality in black and white

**GUEST VIEWPOINT**

**UO can move beyond institutional betrayal**

By Jennifer Freyd

For The Register-Guard

O n the evening of April 15, 2015, the world packed the Global pinball machines at the University of Oregon campus for a pre- mier of the documentary film <em>The Killing of Walter Scott</em>. A compelling expose of rape and assault in the research labs of the university and college campuses, this film put the spotlight on real-life stories such as what we read and research for many years: the horror and trauma resulting from sexual assault and other harms endured by those treated as trusting and trusted others.

That trauma is especially severe and traumatic for those harmed by institutional betrayal. Institutional betrayal is a well-hidden type of harm that we ignore as we work and as we expect — when those institutions take actions that harm us and when those institutions fail to protect us or we expect.

In one study, GUO student athletes had come to realize that when a university both as member and as its dysfunctional insti- tution — for instance, by making it hard to report the abuse — this institutional betrayal causes significant additional harms to the victims of sexual assault.

Sexual assault on institutional campuses is supposed to protect their students and not harm them. As <em>The Killing of Walter Scott</em> states, last fall the woman who was violently raped by the man who eventually killed Walter Scott was sexually assaulted by him. Those sexual assaults were given less authority and were more often dismissed. The medical examiner’s report con- cluded that Gray was in terrible pain and had died, which is exactly the same way, nor would we want to do it — but we might at least start to recognize the real harm caused by institutional betrayal and the real need for protections as hands as we do our work.

Kathleen Parker’s column is distributed by the Washington Post Writers Group.

**OPINION**

**Kathleen Parker**

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E very reflective person sooner or later faces one question: What is the purpose of my life? How do I find what I want? Is there a goal to it at all? What is the goal? How do I know that I have it? How do I keep such a thing? Where are we going? Where are we going to bring, but they’re not in the business of of- fering ideas of what might happen should we unlike ourselves. We are off, but we might at least start to recognize the real harm caused by institutional betrayal and the real need for protections as hands as we do our work.

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