

Letters

Evolution

If I'm interpreting Dennis Kallimanis' letter correctly (ODE, Jan. 29), he believes it's possible life originated from inorganic material. He refutes Frary's and Richards' notion that entropy, by itself, is unable to disprove evolution because earth is not an adiabatically isolated system, which is a condition of entropy.

Now, although I'm having trouble with some definitions, I think their basic discrepancies are: 1) knowledge of the difference between evolution and punctuated equilibrium, 2) acceptance that "adiabatic" pertains to an unattainable hypothetical ideal, and 3) belief whether extrapolations can prove if life originated from inorganic material, or not.

The first two discrepancies should dissipate upon reading the original sources — Gould and Darwin. The third requires a bit more energy — an example, no less.

Extrapolatively ("to infer by extending or projecting known information," American Heritage Dictionary) it can be shown that since worn down boulders near streams — after experiencing the pebble phase—eventually become part of our topsoil, and that when combined with animal fecal matter render what once was rock into fertile soil, then there must be at least a smidgen of dinosaur shit in each of us.

On the surface of it, this may appear oversimplified, but not when one considers the 250 word limit.

They found, however, a verifiable connection between ability to extrapolate and proportion of organic to inorganic material in a number of subjects tested. "An agglomeration of extrapolations," they concluded, "should flatten out the more piled on. Then the flies have their day."

Tim Jaques
Undeclared

OSL

We wish to clarify the use of incidental fees to fund Oregon Student Lobby and OSL's legitimate representation of student interests.

OSL was formed "to represent, advocate and further the interests and welfare of students

in public higher education before the Oregon Legislature...." A 1963 Attorney General's opinion addressing legal uses of incidental fees makes a clear distinction between political activities and activities of groups such as OSL which focus on "the preparation and presentation of legislation and activities to enable the legislators to understand the merits or demerits of legislation." Funding groups like OSL was found to be a legal, prudent use of incidental fees.

OSL is an invaluable advocate for student interests before the Legislature, thoroughly researching issues to represent the student majority view.

OSL's stance against the merit-based scholarship program is based on its 1986 survey which found that two-thirds of Oregon State System students surveyed were opposed to aid based solely on scholastic ability. Funds for need-based grants are shrinking in favor of loans; federal programs are

diminishing, yet the merit-based scholarship program constitutes 25% of the Governor's budget for student aid. Clearly, OSL is responsible in opposing this shifting of resources.

Steve Nelson
OSL Board of Directors Chair
Victoria Perkins
OSL Board of Directors
Member

Personal

Regarding Eric Todd Smith's letter (ODE, Feb. 5), while I don't know what kind of a personal problem Mr. Smith has with Lambda Chi, I do know that every time he writes a highly-opinionated and insinuating letter about them, he makes references to the entire Greek system. Mr. Smith is entitled to his opinions, but he shouldn't make commentaries on things out of his realm of knowledge.

"Beer sluts" do exist, I suppose, but they're not exclusive to the Greek system OR women. Have you forgotten their male counterparts, the beloved "beer gigolo." At any rate, it's none of his business what they do with their lives.

Lisa Reagar
Eugene

Resignation

I was disturbed to learn of the recent request for the resignation of ASUO President Steve Nelson by five University students. As the Chair of the Student Senate, one of the four branches of student government which includes the executive branch headed by Nelson, I consider this request to be a serious matter.

However, upon investigation, I have come to believe that this request does not indicate a serious problem in the present ASUO presidency, but rather demonstrates an irresponsibility on the part of at least the three ASUO government members who made the request: Ron Munion, James Randall and Timothy Chase.

Two of these three, Munion and Randall, are the ones who brought you the OSPIRG "crisis" last term. They insisted upon a special hearing by the

ASUO Constitution Court because a phone number was accidentally printed (without OSPIRG's knowledge) upon a pamphlet that it should not have been on.

While all students have every right to use the processes set forth in the ASUO Constitution which are intended to keep the student government accountable to its constituents, there are also inherent responsibilities which come with these rights.

I think it is important to ask: Have any of the above-mentioned persons ever offered to assist the ASUO in the resolution of any Lone Star insurance cases? Have they ever attended any ASUO Insurance Committee meetings to offer responsible input? Or are they merely pursuing a course of character assassination against Nelson for purely personal reasons?

Randy MacDonald
ASUO Student Senate Chair

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