

Editorial

Student Senate must realize potential

What ever happened to the Student Senate?

That's a question some people involved with student government must have been asking while awaiting the Student Senate's confirmation of Cliff Pfenning to the EMU Board of Directors.

Although Pfenning was appointed to the board by ASUO President Kasey Brooks in November, the senate did not confirm the appointment until Monday, Feb. 1 — about a two-month delay.

Disappointed was Brooks, who said she submitted Pfenning's appointment to the senate in November, but it "took them forever to get together on Cliff." Duané Dungannon, a senate member, said Pfenning's "confirmation would have been sooner, but we could not get a quorum."

It currently takes nine senators to make a quorum. However, earlier this year before two senate seats were officially declared open, the number was ten.

When asked about the delay of Pfenning's confirmation, another senate member, Alicia Sloan, said, "The confirmation process is not working."

The Student Senate's slow reaction to Pfenning's appointment exemplifies its general inactivity — an inactivity that stems from the apathetic attitude of some of its members and results in a general ineffectiveness.

Attendance at the senate's weekly sessions has been poor. Chairwoman Karen Frymoyer expressed concern about this, saying they just seem to "flake off" sometimes. Frymoyer's concerns were echoed by Brooks. "Attendance — definitely that's a problem," Brooks said.

The grievance and information booth, located in the EMU's main lobby, is the senate's responsibility to run, though it has been staffed inadequately because some senators have failed to fulfill their time obligations at the booth. This led to the creation of two work-study positions to operate the grievance and information booth, rather than relying on senators to do their job.

It is clear that senators must improve their attendance records at not only their weekly sessions but also the information booth and other activities, such as the University Assembly.

The senate's attendance problems are indicative of the apathy of some members, who believe the senate has little power to do anything. Yet it seems that the senate has been in a position to act, especially with regard to the Olum issue. Rather than actually being powerless, some senators feel powerless because "a lot of them are unprepared to deal with the issues" and this leads senators to react with apathy, Sloan explained.

Furthermore, senators are not attending sessions regularly because some "do not take it seriously," Sloan said, adding that at the next meeting she is going to try to find out how serious people are. If they are not serious, then "we want to do something about it," she said. Good for you, Sloan.

The Student Senate could be improved if it gets members who are committed to acting on the issues while getting rid of some senators who are there just to have something to put on their resumes. Any senator not committed to action should volunteer to step down so someone more enthusiastic and more energetic could take his or her place.

That's what it comes down to — use it or lose it.



Letters

Stop injustice

Thanks to the Muslim Students Association who stood in the rain last week at the downtown mall to share information about the besieged communities of the Israeli-occupied West Bank of Palestine. Arab and Jewish people lived in peaceful coexistence until the present Zionist regime imposed terror and persecution reminiscent of Nazi Germany.

The same racist nationalism spawned the worst chapters in U.S. history — the slave trade and the destruction of Native American nations. It survives in inner-city ghettos and the impoverished reservations, in Soweto and Johannesburg, and behind the CIA-supplied guns of Contra thugs who thwart the growth of freedom in Nicaragua.

Israeli soldiers, trained and armed by the U.S. government, invade the streets and homes of West Bank Palestinians and murder their children. Black people firebombed by police in Philadelphia, Hopi Indians forcibly evicted from their land by uranium mining companies, homeless people freezing in the streets of Chicago may not be surprised by this relationship.

After the concentration camps were liberated, we exclaimed, "Why didn't anyone know?" With live coverage on TV we have ringside seats. Either we act with conscience... or we become knowing accomplices to genocide.

Stop Contra aid. Stop aid to Israel. It's time for "democracy" to stand on the side of truth, freedom and peace. Stop paying taxes to support unjust wars. Write your representatives today.

Katherine Knowles
Eugene

Wimpy thief

I wish to thank the anonymous individual who left my wallet in an area where it could eventually get back to me. Dear Good Samaritan:

I would have been happy to offer you a reward for doing the noble deed of returning my wallet, but you seemed to have beaten me to the punch.

Not only did you remove \$20 from my wallet and strip my activity card of its sticker, you also reached into my bank account with my cash card and left me a balance of \$6.37. To top it off, you had the decency to slip the transaction receipt into my wallet before you dropped it off. Why? So I could balance my checkbook?

You are, without doubt, the most sensitive, thoughtful thief I have ever been taken by.

I mean, you really could have taken the bull by the horns, if you weren't such a wimp. There was Canadian currency that could have been exchanged at an international bank for at least another few dollars. You could have mutilated the pictures of my dearest friends, drawing mustaches and such. You could have made some long-distance calls with my FON card. I had a sorority pin in there, ten carat gold. Why not melt it down and sell it to dentists for teeth fillings?

Why return the wallet at all? Why didn't you just chuck it when you were through invading me? The crime is done; I

hope you find some way to balance the two worlds you are attempting to be a part of.

Wendy Kotila
Telecommunications

Slobs

I felt embarrassment and shame as I was walking out of the EMU at closing time tonight. The place didn't just "look" like trash — it was trash.

I can see the cleaning people saying, "Those students — they don't care about anything, always expecting someone to pick up after them." This is exactly what they see, exactly what they've been shown.

Sure it creates jobs — but, oh please! Granted, some trash cans were overflowing, but not all. I'd rather not be collectively looked at with you slobs. I've already had to deal with this at the Beanery. Clean up! Messes are stupid and destructive.

Andrea Mathison
Foreign languages

Ode to ODE

Congratulations on your reformed microbrewery story, Emerald (ODE, Feb. 2).

Imagine my surprise to learn that the brewery had not hit financial despair or moral woe, then clawed its way up from the depths to its former status and glory.

No, the brewery had not "reformed" itself as the headline read, but had "re-formed," as in begin again, start anew.

Meanwhile, the corrections box continues to grow, as factual errors keep pace with the glaring grammatical ones. This paper used to win awards; now I'm ashamed to read it.

That is unless of course they have enough integrity left to admit their mistakes and print this letter.

Tim Chauran
Journalism

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff

Advertising Director: Susan Thelen
Production Manager: Michele Ross
Classified Manager: Kelli Mason
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Rick Martz/Sales Manager
James Betzer, Teri Boring, David Cheonis, Mike Clark, Tom Leech, Catherine Lilja, Laura McKinney, Joann Nelson, Julie Paul, Vicki Reed, Barbara Rogers, Scott Thorkildson, Kathy Smith - Classified

News and Editorial: 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business: 686-3712
Classified Advertising: 686-4343
Letter Perfect Graphics: 686-5511
Production: 686-4381
Circulation: 686-5511

Editor

Managing Editor

News Editor

Editorial Editors

Sports Editor

Photo Editor

Graphic Design Editor

Special Issues Editor

Entertainment/Sports Segment Editor

Night Editor

Associate Editors

Community

Higher Education/Administration

Student Government/Activities

Features

Reporters

Christopher Blair, Betsy Clayton, Paula Green,

Frane de Guzman, Craig Harris, Gary Henley, Will Holbert,

Bryan Houston, Jeff Morgan, Ingrid Petersen, Cami Swanson

Photographers

Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Christophe

Chabaudie, Jeremy Choo, Andy Cripe, Nikki Dadaian, Bill

Haines, Maia Highsmith, Rachel Kirby, Bobbie Lo, Jim

Marks, Jim Mason, Gregor Okorn, Andre Ranieri, David

Shaw, Ted Shepler, Trevor Solander, Philip Thorne

Production

Sandra Daller / Ad Coordinator

Kelly Alexandre, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga,

Alice Cannon, Laura Carhart, Eva Cohen, Ellen Cross,

Stephanie Drynan, Dolores Ferrero, Lisa Haggerty,

Stephanie Holland, Elliot Knight, Jung Lee, Bobbie Lo, Jim

Marks, Ross Martin, James Mason, Angela Muniz,

Ted Shepler, Ingrid White, Kelly Williams, X. Kang Xie

Stanley Nelson

Scott Maben

Carolyn Lamberson

Steven Hoenisch/Thomas Prowell

Aaron Knox

Shu-Shing Chen

Lorraine Rath

Kelly Kortekaas

H.C. Hutto

Angela Muniz

Andrew LaMar

Michael Drummond

Kelvin Wee

Angela Muniz