

Gaffney/Hoyt ran as invisible leaders

ASUO President Karen Gaffney and Vice President Steve Hoyt leave office today to make room for Andy Clark and Scott Wyckoff — the Executive leaders for the next academic year.

We expect Gaffney and Hoyt's leaving will be as uneventful as the year they spent in office.

About this time last year, Gaffney promised students "an active student government that would work of their behalf." And, indeed, Gaffney and Hoyt did manage to follow through on some of the more pressing issues.

Increased campus lighting was an issue Gaffney and Hoyt "felt strongly" about from the beginning. Unfortunately, it took the ASUO several months to get around to sponsoring that promised night tour for University administrators — so they, too, could see the campus was lacking in the area of lighting and safety.

And now, as Gaffney and Hoyt leave office, word is that the administration is just now taking steps to increase campus lighting. It's hard to believe the University administrators haven't taken the campus lighting issue seriously; it's just possible that Gaffney and Hoyt didn't push the issue hard enough to begin with.

Another project — for Gaffney in particular — was to get students the best insurance program possible. Gaffney strove, very diligently we might add, to obtain spousal equivalency as part of the package.

But while the Prudential Insurance Company refused to cooperate with the ASUO in the area of spousal equivalency, Gaffney fought the issue to the end.

This was, no doubt, the most visible and active portion of the Gaffney/Hoyt administration.

Hoyt, too, had a personal project of his own — to set up a campus radio station. This was something Hoyt was "really committed to ... not only as a person in student government but also as a student."

However, it wasn't until spring registration that an organizational group attempting to start a campus radio station surveyed University students about the idea. We haven't heard the results to the survey, and we don't have a campus radio station. Need we say more?

Finally, Gaffney came out against student use of LTD, because she was wary of negotiating a deal between LTD and students. Well, the LTD deal has worked beautifully and serviced many, despite Gaffney's leery attitude.

Going over it, it just doesn't look as though Gaffney and Hoyt lived up to the potential Hoyt promised last year: "to be one of the best student governments."

What we had instead was an invisible administration. Nobody ever heard much, or saw much of Gaffney and Hoyt throughout the year. They may have responded quickly to issues of urgency, but where were they the rest of the time?



Sports face extinction without funding

The school year is finally winding down, and with it comes the end of a very successful spring for the University's intercollegiate athletics.

The softball team, led by the strong pitching arm of freshman Katie Wiese, made its first-ever appearance in the Softball World Series Wednesday in Sunnyvale, Calif. The Ducks, who ended the season ranked fourth in the nation, earned their berth by beating Connecticut to win the Northeast Regional tournament.

The men's and women's track teams also had excellent years, both remaining undefeated on the Hayward Field oval until falling to the number one team in the country, UCLA, at last weekend's Pac-10 track championships.

To sum it up, this year's spring sports teams have been outstanding.

Now it's time for the rest of our teams to join the fun.

There were some shining moments earlier in the year for Oregon athletics. The women's basketball team traveled to Texas to capture the National Invitational Tournament, and the wrestling team finished second to Arizona State in the Pac-10.

Unfortunately, the other teams didn't fare quite as well.

The football team raised hopes and ex-

pectations last fall by racing out to a 6-1 record and a Top 20 national ranking. Visions of bowl bids and Pac-10 championships danced in fans' heads, but quarterback Bill Musgrave's broken collarbone against Arizona State started a five-game losing streak, capped off with a loss to rival Oregon State for the first time in fifteen years.

Fans of men's basketball also suffered, sitting through a dismal 8-21 season. With four starters graduating, and coach Don Monson losing top state high school prospect Antoine Stoudamire to Georgetown for want of a scholarship, the future doesn't look exceptionally bright.

The problem: no money. Oregon and Oregon State rank at the bottom of state funding among Pac-10 schools. Dire threats of both schools dropping athletics programs have gone unheeded. Voters last fall scrapped a beer and wine tax for athletics, and the Legislature has been, to this point, unresponsive.

Even without funding, the spring sports teams have been impressive. But if the teams don't get money — and soon — intercollegiate athletics at the University could soon follow the dodo bird and passenger pigeon into extinction.

Letters

Frustrating

Here are a few things to be aware of if you're thinking of writing a letter for the Emerald. I'm told the policy of the paper is to print all letters they receive, and that they are swamped with letters.

This means your letter could take 10 days to appear in print, so whatever you're responding to is likely to be old news. The length limit is 250 words, though you won't find that number listed in the "letters policy" box, and many longer letters make it in.

I recently wrote a letter in defense of graffiti on campus. I was told my letter was too long. I rewrote it so as to contain a mere shadow of its former bulk (and message) — still too long. On May 19, I picked up the ODE to find a letter virtually the same length as my rejected rewrite — frustrating.

If the Emerald is truly interested in providing the University community with an open

forum, and if demand for that forum is so great, how about more room for letters? (It's the only part of the ODE I read anyway.)

It's no wonder there's so much graffiti on campus. Maybe the frustrated "artists" tried first to write letters to the Emerald's column.

This letter is 250 words, but by the time it's printed, school will be out anyway.

I have 24 words to use up, and I nearly forgot to mention, that "long" letter in May 19's ODE was written by a prof.

Steve Hanson
Landscape architecture

Inexcusable

A disturbing matter was recently brought to my attention. Oprah Winfrey, a talk show host, aired a program May 1 in which a guest identified as mentally disturbed and under psychiatric care said she wit-

nessed the ritual slaughter of a Jewish child, and that such practices take place in other Jewish families. Sadly, these comments were not challenged by Winfrey.

As a Jewish-American, I am deeply troubled that an age-old myth used to massacre Jews in pre-World War II Europe could resurface so matter-of-factly on American television.

The absurdity of these canards must be challenged. I urge you to write to Winfrey's syndication company, Harpo Productions, and Channel 9, KEZI, demanding that the company take more responsibility for such inexcusable conduct.

Jonah Bookstein
Director, Jewish Student Union

Parting shot

Well, here it is, springtime once again at the University. It looks as if I am actually going to graduate, so I thought it'd

only be just to leave a parting shot.

What makes this campus great? Screaming liberals, bigger-than-life-near-riot parties, the Commentator, frisbee golf, the graveyard, probably Parr Tower, mystic instructors, Zeus and a course on fly-fishing.

To name a few drawbacks: PLC (it would be much more aesthetically pleasing with a 40 foot by 40 foot hole in the middle), lectures with more than 75 students, cheaters, tests, grades, toilet paper that feels like sandpaper (with all the money we pay, we could at least have the pleasure of Charmin in the stalls), graffiti-less stalls (tasteful graffiti does the campus make), and shirts with Greek letters.

(I have a hard time thinking any of these people have a com-

mand over the Greek language or Greek thought, hence y'all ain't Greek, just a money club. Your choice — I hope you're still happy 20 years down the road to live this ethic.)

Enough of that. Give me right, give me left, the good, the bad, the ugly; overall, it doesn't matter what clothes the emperor wears. Be it title of doctor, bachelor, student, janitor and yes, even a member of a fraternity or sorority, people are who they are, so don't judge a book by its cover; everyone is prone to change.

Be cool fools, see you down the highway of life.

Sean Daniels
Romance languages

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified.