

## Peaceful weekend shows possibilities

Happily, the worst fears of police officers, community leaders and University administrators failed to materialize this weekend. On the one-year anniversary of last May's first confrontation between students and police over parties, things were pretty quiet in Eugene.

Many people expected trouble this holiday weekend. A palpable resentment lingers on campus over the March 31 police-student run-in, where tear gas was used. Good weather was expected, going into Friday, and Saturday was Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican day of independence.

To corral the trouble, Eugene police planned extra patrols. ASUO President Andy Clark and student response teams were ready to intervene, as was University President Myles Brand. Other student and University groups planned special events to decrease the chance of restless crowds forming off-campus.

Most of these efforts were successful, especially in the way they were handled, and so are deserving of attention and commendation. The police and student response teams worked great. The campus events were less successful.

On Friday, police did have to roll in to disperse a party crowd at 14th Avenue and Patterson Street. The police appeared to have gained some sensitivity to earlier complaints: they showed up without the intimidating riot gear that had been used in previous encounters. After watching the scene for a while, they contacted Clark and Brand. Through their combined, peaceful efforts, the 200 to 300 people were moved on with no troubles.

That's an encouraging sign that police and students don't have to rumble. Less encouraging is the fact that at the same time police were called in to Patterson Street, about 400-500 people were enjoying the on-campus events sponsored by MEChA, the Chicano/Latino student union.

MEChA put on a weekend celebration of non-alcoholic feasting and dancing to redeem the good name of Cinco de Mayo, which was unfairly sullied by association with last year's disturbance. For MEChA it was a successful event, but for all the community members, families and students in attendance, off-campus parties still occurred.

More telling is that University Housing's planned non-alcoholic alternative, Springfest, drew much smaller crowds. The University can get involved with preventing off-campus party violence by sponsoring alternative events, but it seems likely that if the people causing the problems are going to be attracted to these controlled events, alcohol will have to be involved in some reasonable way.

All this is not to take away from University Housing or MEChA for trying, or from the completely commendable work of the police, community, Clark and Brand. The weekend ended on a positive note, and so should the public assessment of it.



## Letters

### Cut out

Once again the budget ax falls at the University, cutting yet another liberal arts program. Administrators have decided that the American Studies program is not worthy of the \$128,000 budget allotted to it, and will therefore be cut or "phased out."

Director Sam Girgus has taken a position at another University, not surprising considering the lack of support the AMS program has received fiscally and otherwise. It has been determined Girgus will not be replaced, even though it would take half of a first year biology instructor's salary to fill the position.

The future of the AMS program is unclear, even decision making administrators seem confused about what will become the 55 majors, 7 GTFs and program secretary. Not to mention the 500-plus students enrolled in the 101.102.103 series who need to complete the sequence. I guess they can just find a new cluster. Perhaps they can squeeze into an overcrowded English class.

What about the majors? It's been suggested that it would be easiest for us to find a new major. Oh ... OK, it's just our life and future.

The University is held up as a liberal arts school, yet liberal arts programs are continually experiencing cuts in staff and budgets. Where is the obligation and commitment to students? I tried to ask Myles Brand, but he was in Japan. The Dean of Arts and Letters might have had an answer, but he is in Europe. Hmmm.

Karen Stenard  
American studies

### For Bell

I know we've been occupying our time and energies with campus elections, but now it's time to focus our attention on the primary elections coming May 15.

I recently had the opportunity to listen in on what Marie Bell, candidate for state repre-

sentative, District 41, was telling a group of senior citizens. She expressed some of her concerns and then took the time to listen to them as they revealed their needs.

I was impressed. We need more "public servants" representing us in Salem, and fewer politicians. She expressed great concern that the 1989 Legislature failed to follow its own priority agenda (funding education, reducing burdensome property taxation and fixing workers' compensation) by not considering the funding of these important issues until it would require a break in the spending limitations we the people voted on.

Bell is committed to greater honesty, the issues of primary importance to the members of District 41 and makes only one campaign promise: to listen, represent, work hard and report back to her constituents.

The University campus is in District 41 and so is Bell. She has lived here for the last 22 years, going back to the days when she was a student (and a graduate) here. She has gone through what we are going through, and today is prepared to assist and represent us in Salem. After watching her in action, I'm convinced she should be given that opportunity and David Dix be sent somewhere else to be a politician.

Tamara Mortensen  
Eugene

### For Girgus

The recent dissembling of the American Studies program by the University is an insult to students and faculty. We have lost Religious Studies and the restructuring of Speech and Communication is imminent. I feel betrayed and violated by the administration of this so-called institute of higher education.

I have worked 30 hours a week while attending classes full time at the University. My education is not something I take lightly, nor is the time and money that I have put into it. All I ask for in return is a diverse, multi-channelled, learn-

ing experience. What I have been given is a mass of graduate students teaching basic liberal arts and sciences. The quality of instruction is often undesirable and my options are dramatically dwindling.

I have, however, had the extreme pleasure of attending a provocative and highly intelligent class taught by a published, full-time professor, Dr. Sam Girgus. For the last three terms, 500 people have sat with me in this class and witnessed a man who loves his discipline, his job, and his students.

Girgus sings to us, makes us laugh, calls us by name, and most importantly, teaches us. The destruction of the American Studies department is a grave insult to this man, his countless hours of dedication, and every student who has been lucky to benefit from the passion with which this program has evolved.

Even those students who are not involved in the program should be outraged by the consistent mistreatment and betrayal practiced by the administration of this University. I urge all students to make yourself heard and to demand our rights to a multi-cultural, diverse, and well-rounded education.

Kerrie Barr  
Business administration

### No talk

The American Studies program has been killed due to an administration that is blatantly uncommitted to education. While the Dean of Arts and Sciences lounges in Europe until the end of summer, and our president Myles Brand was off for a month to Japan, our American Studies program has been dropped with no discussion.

Never mind that the AMS program is the only major which integrates courses in the true liberal arts tradition and that this integration is the so-called "platform" behind Brand's presidency. Action speaks louder than words and the administration refuses to even talk.

Jobi Cooper  
American studies

## Oregon Daily Emerald

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